



PEOPLE & CULTURES OF AFRICA

Fall 2009 HIRC 6 TTh 8:30-9:45 AM

CRN 278
CRN 383

ALS 202 01
ANTH 202 01

Course Attributes: LA , CPA, and HO 2

Dr. Donald R. Hill hilldr@oneonta.edu tel. 2018

Office: Fitz 403a Hrs.: TTh 9:50-11:15 AM
(Dr. Hill communicates to students through Angel email or Angel "My Announcements." Make sure your personal, class-related emails go to Dr. Hill only and not to the whole class. It is the student's responsibility to check their Angel Announcements and email just before each class.)

FORMAT: lectures; discussion; video; audio music

TYPES OF EXAMS: essay questions (some answered as short papers), class presentation and paper, term ids, quizzes

REQUIREMENTS:

Exam 1: Th 1 Oct (25% of grade)

Paper and presentation: to be arranged (33% of grade)

Final: Th 17 Dec 8:00-10:30 AM (37% of grade)

Quizzes (5% of grade)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Course will briefly examine the geography, prehistory, history (including the slave trade and colonialism), and contemporary cultures in Africa. There will be special emphasis on West Africa and southern Africa. Utilizing a holistic, anthropological approach, the focus in the course will be on traditional and especially rural, sub-Saharan African cultures as they existed in the first half of the twentieth century. The music and arts of west, central and southern Africa will be stressed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn how to organize and creatively use the information from class sessions, Angel, and the internet to gain an understanding of essential characteristics about various African cultures, as mentioned in the tentative course outline below. The following topics are especially important: the role of plant domestication and iron in the prehistory of Africa; the cultures of rural, traditional Africa; the effects of the slave trade on Africa; the rise and fall of African kingdoms and empires; religion in Africa; plastic art in West Africa; and traditional and popular music and dance in Africa. These course objectives (outcomes) will be assessed in exams, quizzes, and in a student presentation and paper. The exams will have essay questions (sometimes as take-home assignments) and identification of terms.

READING AND LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS:

Check Angel for weekly assignments.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to the approach and themes of the course: anthropology, ethnomusicology and art.
2. Africa in cultural perspective: geography and early culture history
3. Slavery and the secondary empires, and modern Africa
4. Colonial and post colonial Africa
5. Traditional economic and political systems
6. Kinship and the family
7. African religion
8. An introduction to music and dance in Africa; traditional music.
9. Popular Music in Southern Africa.
10. Popular Music in West Africa.
11. Popular Music in the Congos.
12. Conclusion: western Africa, creole culture, and the Atlantic basin.
13. Final Exam: Th 17 Dec 800-1030 AM

Note: Check your email for urgent class announcements the night before and the morning of class for weather-related or other emergencies. Please arrive in class on time. Please do not leave class during the assigned period except for emergency. Exams will be given only at time assigned except for illness (no request for early exams will be allowed). Class attendance is required.

If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the class is requested to go across the Quad to the Theater in the Fine Arts building. For more important emergency procedures, please familiarize yourself with the information on this web page:

<http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>