PEOPLE & CULTURES OF AFRICA

Fall 2015 MWF 9-9:50 AM HIRC 2
CRN 1384 ALS 202 01
CRN 175 ANTH 202 01

Course Attributes: HO2, OW3, and (LA)

Dr. Donald R. Hill  hilldr@oneonta.edu

Office:Fitzelle 267 Hrs: TTh10-11:15AM by apt. only. tel. 2018 (only during office hours)

(Dr. Hill communicates to students through BLACKBOARD COURSE MESSAGES. Make sure your personal, class-related messages go to Dr. Hill only and not to the whole class. It is the student’s responsibility to check BLACKBOARD CALENDAR before each class.)

FORMAT: lectures; student papers and presentations; discussion; video; audio music.

TYPES OF EXAMS: essay questions (some answered as short papers), short paper on basic holism in cultural anthropology, class presentation and paper, term ids, quizzes.

TEXTS READING AND LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS:
All required articles and audio/videos are listed in CONTENTS in BLACKBOARD.

TEACHING STRATEGIES AND UNIQUE QUALITIES OF THIS COURSE: Lecture, paperless exclusive use of BLACKBOARD, student questions and presentations, quizzes, exams, papers.

Nana Kwame Akyen II, Chief of Coromantese, Ghana
REQUIREMENTS, TEST DATES, AND MAKE-UP POLICY: Communication for this course between the instructor and students takes place during the assigned class schedule, office hours, or in BLACKBOARD COURSE MESSAGES. No digital communication will be accommodated outside of BLACKBOARD MESSAGES. Paper on holism: Mon 14 Sept. (10%); Exam I: Wed 7 Oct (15% of grade); Abstract: (3%) & Paper and Presentation (24%); Final: Fri 18 Dec 8AM (28%). There will also be pop quizzes (20%). Make-up exams will be given for official absences only. Many quizzes will be given at random times; several missed quizzes will be thrown out. No late Abstract will be accepted. The paper will be counted down 10% if not properly sent in COURSE MESSAGES and will also be counted down 10% if turned in late. Attending the Final Exam is mandatory, except for documented illness.

ATTENDANCE: Required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Course will briefly examine human evolution, 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 will be on traditional and especially rural, sub-Saharan African cultures as they existed in the first half of the twentieth century. Music and arts of west, central, and southern Africa will be stressed.

COURSE OUTCOMES: Students will learn how to organize and creatively use the information from class sessions, BLACKBOARD, 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: basic concepts in cultural anthropology as applied to African cultures; 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.

### ADA (AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT) STATEMENT

Students Diagnosed with a Disability—All individuals who are diagnosed with a disability are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, you may be entitled to certain accommodations within this class. If you are diagnosed with a disability, please make an appointment to meet with Student Disability Services (SDS), 209 Alumni Hall, ext. 2137. All students with the necessary supporting documentation will be provided appropriate accommodations as determined by the SDS Office. It is entirely your responsibility to contact SDS and concurrently supply me with your accommodation plan, which will inform me exactly what accommodations you are entitled to. You will only receive accommodations once you provide me with an SDS accommodation plan. Any previously recorded grades will not be changed.
TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to the approach and themes of the course: anthropology, ethnomusicology and art.
2. A cultural anthropological view of biological anthropology: First Peoples
3. Africa in cultural perspective: language, geography, and early culture history
4. Slavery and the secondary empires, and modern Africa
5. Colonial and post colonial Africa
6. Traditional cultures (economic and political systems, kinship and family)
7. African religions
8. Begin student papers and presentations
9. An introduction to music and dance in Africa; traditional music.
14. Final Exam: Wed 12 Dec 830-1030 AM

Check your BLACKBOARD COURSE MESSAGES for urgent class announcements the night before and the morning of class, especially for weather-related or other emergencies. Please arrive in class on time. 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.

Familiarize yourself with the information on this web page for the College’s Emergency Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place Procedures: [http://www.oneonta.edu/security/](http://www.oneonta.edu/security/) Evacuate to the quad and then to the Fine Arts Theater if instructed to the designated Shelter-in-Place.

Shrine to Komer, Coromantse Village, Ghana