



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social & Management Sciences
Department of Sociology

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: SOC 112

Course Title: Introduction to African Societies and Cultures

Number of Units: 2units

Status: Compulsory

LECTURER DETAILS

Name: Mrs. EMMANUEL Oluwaseun

Qualification: M.Sc. Sociology

Phone: 08127380551

Email: oluseun_a2w@yahoo.com

Area of Specialization: Medical Sociology & Anthropology

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course offers an Ethnographic description of African Societies and Cultures. It exposes the diverse ways by which Africans behave and organize themselves towards the continuance of their societies. The course involves an ethnographic and cross cultural analysis of the social institutions in African societies and the changes that have occurred within the context of rapid industrialization and globalization.

Course Objective(s):

At the end of the course, students should be able to identify and critically analyze the different social institutions across Africa, in the understanding of human behavior.

ASSESSMENT : 100%

- Class attendant: 5marks
- Test and assignments 25marks
- Final Examination 70 marks

LECTURE PLAN

Week	Topic
1	General introduction & Brief description of Physical Geography of Africa
2	Understanding significance Social Institutions
3	Family, Kinship and Marriage (definitions, functions and types)
4	Marriage processes (Types of exchange) & Social Changes in the Institutions
5	Forms of economic activities in Indigenous African
6	Roles of age-grades and kinship in indigenous economy
7	Markets in Africa & their significance and Economic & non- economic exchanges

8	Types of belief system (belief in Supreme God, deities, witchcraft , sorcery & magic)
9	Ancestral worship & significance of sacrifice
10	Political Institution (Stateless societies-Nuer of Sudan, Talensi of Ghana) (State societies - the Zulu, Bini, Yoruba, Bemba (Rhodesia)
11	(Rituals of kinship, Functions of sanctions and rituals (sources of conflict & African Indigenous conflict Resolution
12	African Oral Traditions and music and Impacts of Colonialism and Social Changes in the various Institutions

READING LIST

1. Dalton, George .1969. Tribal and peasant Economic: issues in Economic Anthropology. *Current Anthropology*, 10(1): 63-102.
2. Godfrey, Lienhardt 1964. *Social Anthropology* . London: Oxford University 216 pp. 10s.
3. Jegede, A., Olutayo, O., Omololu and Owumi, B. (eds) 2012 *People and Cultures of Nigeria* Department of Sociology University of Ibadan: Samlad Press Ibadan
4. Shoremi, O. M. & Oyekunle, A. 2002 (eds). *The social structure of contemporary African Societies*. Ibadan: Kraft books Limited

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. a) With appropriate examples and illustrations explain what you understand by the concepts “culture and society” b) Discuss at least two functions each for any five institutions of the society
2. Identify ten African tribes, their geographic locations and discuss the uniqueness of any aspect of their culture
3. a) Discuss the concept of Kinship
b) Using appropriate examples and illustrations, describe the different types of kinship
c) Discuss the significance of Kinship system in indigenous African societies
4. a) Describe the Types of Marriages and the “forms of exchange” that characterized the “Marriage Process” using different examples across communities of Africa
b) Discuss the significance of bride wealth in Africa
5. a) Elaborate on the concepts of “Kinship”, “marriage” and “family” in relation to the African Social Setting. b) How has modernity and industrialization Impacted these Institutions?
6. Discuss extensively on the significance of the following concepts in traditional African societies
a) Belief in deities b) veneration of the dead c) Reincarnation d) Sacrifice
7. Discuss extensively on the following issues and concepts in Indigenous economies
a) Reciprocity of exchange b) Indigenous markets in Africa and their Significance
c) Redistributive system c) Roles of Age-grades and kinsmen in the traditional economy

8. a) Distinguish between the state and stateless societies of Africa
b) Discuss the various mechanisms of social control in traditional African societies
9. a) Describe the various forms of Indigenous economies
b) Discuss the major features of the traditional economies
10. A) Identify some of the Pre-colonial African kingdoms and discuss their political Organizations
B) Explain the rituals of kinship in any selected African Society
C) Discuss the relationship between Kinship and Politics in Indigenous Africa
11. a) Discuss the concepts of polygyny and polyandry using various examples across societies in Africa
b) what arguments have been put forward for the prevalence of polygyny and polyandry
12. Discuss the impact of colonialism and Missionary activities on African cultures and traditions