

88-89/21

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

UWUCC USE ONLY

Number _____/____
Action _____
Date _____

I. TITLE/AUTHOR OF CHANGE

COURSE/PROGRAM TITLE: Cultures of Africa

DEPARTMENT: Sociology and Anthropology

CONTACT PERSON Dr. Miriam Chaiken or Dr. Laurence Kruckman.

II. APPROVALS

Laurence Kruckman
Department Curriculum Committee

Jay Snyder
Department Chairperson

College Curriculum Committee

Mark Sanger
College Dean

Director of Liberal Studies
(where applicable)

Provost
(where applicable)

*COLLEGE DEAN MUST CONSULT WITH PROVOST BEFORE APPROVING CURRICULUM CHANGES. APPROVAL BY COLLEGE DEAN INDICATES THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE IS CONSISTENT WITH LONG RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENTS, THAT ALL REQUESTS FOR RESOURCES, MADE AS PART OF THE PROPOSAL, CAN BE MET, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.

III. TIMETABLE

Date submitted
to UWUCC 11-1-88

Semester/Year to be
implemented: Fall 1989

Date to be published
in catalog: 1990

IV. DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULUM CHANGE

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION - Cultures of Africa

3 Semester Hours Credit

This course will explore the cultural diversity of the continent of Africa. The first unit will examine the historical processes which shaped modern society, including the formation of indigenous African empires, the evidence for trade routes, slave raiding, and colonialism. The second unit will examine the nature of African traditional societies, including analyses of forager and agricultural groups. The last unit will cover issues of contemporary development in Africa, such as famine and agricultural policy, the status of women in economic development, and apartheid. Reading will include ethnographic and historical accounts of African society as well as selections by African writers on the issues of contemporary society.

UNIVERSITY WIDE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
COURSE ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION A - DETAILS OF THE COURSE

A1 - This course will be an addition to a series of cultural area studies courses within the anthropology curriculum. Other cultural area studies courses such as Japan, and the Caribbean are already taught in our department. The addition of this course on Africa is an attempt to diversify department offerings and reflects the area of expertise of recently hired faculty. Each anthropology major is required to take one cultural area studies course, and Africa will be one option for them. The course is also open to non-majors with an interest in African cultures, and the previous course offering demonstrated that students in International Studies, History, and Geography are also interested in taking this course.

This course will be proposed for inclusion in the Liberal Studies course list as a Non-Western course option.

A2 - Addition of this course will not require changes in the course descriptions for any other course or program.

A3 - This type of course is common in departments of Anthropology. Culture area survey courses generally describe and discuss the common cultural institutions and behaviors of the various ethnic and cultural groups within a given geographic area. The elements of this particular course which are somewhat novel are the addition of a unit on economic development and change, and the inclusion of indigenous African writers on the required reading list.

A4 - This course was offered as a Special Topics course in the Spring of 1988. It had a small enrollment (12 students) but we anticipate more interest in the future, especially as the Liberal Studies requirement for a Non-Western course is implemented.

A5 - This course will not be a dual-level course.

A6 - This course will not be offered for variable credit.

A7 - Many colleges and universities offer series of culture area studies courses, usually reflecting the research experience of their faculty. African cultural areas studies is a popular topic at many universities, both because

the continent is so large and culturally varied, and is an area of growing interest given the socio-political events of the past decades.

A8 - The course is not required for certification or accreditation by any external authority.

SECTION B - INTERDISCIPLINARY IMPLICATIONS

B1 - This course is to be taught by one instructor.

B2 - No additional corollary courses will be required.

B3 - This course is unique in that it embodies an anthropological perspective and relies on the large body of ethnographic data on Africa. One course in the department of Geography (GE 255 - Geography of Africa) is complementary to the Anthropology of Africa. Discussions with the instructor and comparisons of syllabi and reading lists indicate that the two courses will not be redundant, but complementary. The geography course does include some cultural geography, but also includes substantial emphasis on physical geography and environmental conditions of Africa which are not discussed in Cultures of Africa. Future plans are to teach the Anthropology of Africa only in the Fall Semester, as Geography of Africa will be offered in Spring semesters. This will minimize conflict and will permit students interested in taking both courses to do so.

B4 - One or two seats in this course could be made available to students in the School of Continuing Education if there was sufficient interest.

SECTION C - IMPLEMENTATION

C1 - The Department of Sociology/Anthropology has faculty prepared to teach this course and adequate space and equipment for including this course in the regular curriculum. No unusual materials, laboratory equipment, or travel allowances will be required. Current library holdings are minimally adequate to support this class, and we are working to improve library holdings in this field by making specific recommendations for future acquisitions.

C2 - No portion of this course is funded by a grant or any external monies.

C3 - This course will be offered no more than once per year and usually only once every two years. This course will be offered only in the Fall Semester so as to avoid conflict with the Geography of Africa which is offered in Spring. Students with an interest in Africa will be able to take both of these courses in a sequence.

C4 - Initially one course every other Fall semester will be offered on Cultures of Africa. If demand for this course increases as the Liberal Studies package and Non-Western course requirement is implemented, then more frequent course offerings will be considered.

C5 - This course should be limited to 25 students per section, and 20 would be an optimum number. Student participation and interaction is discouraged in a course with higher enrollment.

C6 - No professional society in Anthropology establishes parameters for undergraduate courses.

C7 - This course is not required. It will have no effect on the number of free electives available to majors. It will not necessitate any changes in the program requirements.