

AFST 4200/6200: Critical Issues in Contemporary Africa
Fall 2009: Traditional Cultures and Globalization
3:30 – 4:45 PM room 508 Journalism Building

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African Studies Institute 321 Holmes-Hunter Academic Building

This course will focus on the interactions of several traditional African Cultures and the increasing impact of globalization. The course will prepare students to understand some of the many and varied traditional cultures in Africa and the results (good and bad) of contact with the modern industrial culture which surrounds them.

The class will be a combination of lectures and class discussions (based on assigned readings) in a seminar format. We will read and discuss a variety of ethnographies of traditional cultures from different parts of Africa. We will have several lectures on the influence of European languages on the people and cultures in their colonies. The students also will research the impact of globalization on some of these cultures, including the effects of the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, microfinance, human rights initiatives, and multinational corporations. The traditional cultures and modern influences will partly be determined by student interest.

The specific cultures we discuss will depend on where student interest lies. I have several classical cultures to start with, but hopefully the class will provide additional ideas. Among the cultures we will be studying are the San, Hadza, Maasai, Turkana, Ashanti, Mandinko, Nuer, Dinka, Mbuti, Bunyoro, Swazi, Zulu and others suggested by the students.

The students will write two short summaries (each three pages, plus references) on the cultures they read about so that they can share them with the rest of the class. They will also write short summaries (each three pages, plus references) for at least two different globalization issues. There will be a final paper relating one or more of the traditional cultures and the effects of globalization on them, based on cultures and issues of interest to each student. Grades will be based on participation and the papers submitted by the students (one fourth based on the ethnographic summaries, one fourth based on the globalization summaries, and half based on the final paper).

For more information contact the African Studies Institute:

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706-542-5314 or 706-542-7916

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.