AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

BROADCAST TITLE: Africa

COURSE NUMBER: ICS 548VA

REFERENCE NUMBER: 107338

CREDIT HOURS: 3 Undergraduate or Graduate Credit Hours

DESCRIPTION: Examines the African legacy and its contributions to the world, as well as the slave trade, colonial domination and issues facing the continent today.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lisa Brock

TELEPHONE: Home: (773) 881-1656 Monday and Friday

TUITION AND FEES:
Undergraduate: $306.00
Graduate: $324.00

ORIENTATIONS/LECTURE
GSU Friday, September 10, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday, September 11, 1999 at 11:00 a.m.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE:
Friday, December 10, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 11, 1999 at 11:00 a.m.

For students taking this class at a distance, please refer to the page, "Special Instructions for Distance Learners" contained in this packet.

TEXT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE:
African Civilizations Course Packet, Governors State University Printshop


OR


OR


OR


**OPTIONAL TEXT:**  

**VIDEO TAPES:**  
Eight one-hour tapes.

**VIEWING:**  
- GSU Library
- Orland Park Public Library
- Kankakee Community College
- Joliet Junior College North Campus
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lisa Brock

OFFICE HOURS: No set hours, however, can email at lbrock@igc.apc.org or call (773) 881-1656

COURSE DESCRIPTION

If archaeologists are correct, we are all African by heritage. Why do they say that? Some of the oldest human remains known to us today have been found in Africa.

This television course, called, Africa, examines all of our history. Renowned historian Basil Davidson narrates this wonderful journey through Africa's ancient, feudal and recent past by giving the viewer both a sense of history and a critical analysis of that history. Since the era of modern slavery, Africa has been seen as the "dark" continent. This series illustrates that the African peoples - past and present - are vibrant and have made many contributions to global culture.

There are three parts to this course. Students are required to participate in all three: 1) watch the series, 2) read four books and turn in book reports and 3) write a research paper. The goal of this course is to give the students different ways of knowing Africa while at the same time sharpening their analytical skills. The hope is that they will not only gain a deeper understanding of the African past but a better ability to understand contemporary African issues.

STUDENT EVALUATION

1) Four Book Reports 50% of grade
2) Research Paper 50% of grade
PART I: "AFRICA" VIDEO SERIES

This video series consist of eight 60-minute video tapes. It and all books can be gotten through GSU.

Program 1. DIFFERENT BUT EQUAL. For over four centuries, Africa was ravished by the slave trade. This has permanently distorted views of the continent and its people. Davidson goes back to Africa's origins to show that far from having no great art or technology, Africa gave rise to some of the world's greatest early civilizations.

Program 2. MASTERING A CONTINENT closely looks at the way three communities carve out an existence in an often hostile environment. A group of Pokot cattle herders in Kenya tell how they use the natural environment to their advantage. Two very different farming villages show how, in Africa, spiritual development goes hand in hand with technological advance.

Program 3. CARAVANS OF GOLD trace the routes of the medieval gold trade, which reached from Africa to India and China in the east, and westward to the city-states of Italy. African rulers grew rich and powerful- the king of Ghana was described by an Arab traveler in AD 951 as the wealthiest of all kings on earth.

Program 4. KINGS AND CITIES explores the ways in which the many African kingdoms functioned. Davidson visits Kano in Nigeria, where a king still holds court in his 15th century palace, presiding with his council over "traditional" rituals which continue to command the respect of the people.

Program 5. THE BIBLE AND THE GUN touches upon the slave trade which wreaked havoc over the population and fabric of many African societies before it moves on to discuss the coming of new kinds of interlopers into African history. First, the explorers; among them Stanley and Livingston; and then the missionaries. Next came those interested not in souls but in wealth-gold and diamonds men like Cecil Rhodes, who envisioned an empire stretching from Cape to Cairo. Davidson also examines the brave resistance put up by African nations and villagers.

Program 6. THIS MAGNIFICENT AFRICAN CAKE introduces the viewer to what was known as the "Scramble for Africa" which began in the 1880s. All of Africa, except for Liberia and Ethiopia became subject to colonial rule, a condition unchanged until the outbreak of the WWII. Davidson details the various forms of colonial rule.

Program 7. THE RISE OF NATIONALISM examines the major struggles for African Independence-in Ghana, Kenya, Algeria, the Congo. Davidson looks closely at the situations in Guinea-Bissau and talks to the first president of Mozambique. He also focuses on the final collapse off white minority rule in Zimbabwe and gives us a view of South Africa from the 1980s.
Program 8. THE LEGACY FACES AFRICA in the aftermath of colonial rule, as the continent seeks ways to come to terms with its diverse inheritance. Interviews with statesmen, including Mugabe in Zimbabwe, Shagari in Nigeria and Senghor in Senegal, illuminate the problems and successes of Africa today.

PART II. BOOKS AND BOOK REPORTS

There are four sets (of 2 books each) listed below. Each student is to select one from each set. Each book was chosen for its merit as an important work on Africa and its raising of key debates in African history. Each set has an historical and/or analytical focus.

The combination of books were selected in order to give students a variety of ways of viewing Africa. If students desire to read another book, not listed below, they can discuss it with the instructor. Also, students have the option of substituting Nelson Mandela's autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom for any book in any set.

Students must write four book reports - one for each book. Book reports should be between 2-3 pages long. Each should address the question posed for that book.

First book report is due on Thursday, September 30, 1999 at 5:00p.m.
Second book report is due on Thursday, October 21, 1999 at 5:00p.m.
Third book report is due on Thursday, November 4, 1999 at 5:00p.m.
Fourth book report is due on Thursday, November 25, 1999 at 5:00p.m.

All Book Reports should be sent to:

Governors State University
Division of Extended Learning
University Park, IL 60466-9982
ATTENTION: Luke Helm
1. ISSUES IN THE ANCIENT AND FEUDAL PAST

Cheikh Anta Diop, The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality

or

Martin Bernal, Black Athena

Question: What is the author trying to prove, who/what is he speaking to and why is it important to discourse on Africa and history? In your opinion, does he do a good job?

Due: September 30, 1999

2. NARRATIVES FROM THE SLAVE TRADE

Olidah Equiano, Equiano's Travels

or

Alexander Falkconbridge, An Account of the Slave Trade on the Coast of Africa

Question: What did you learn about the slave trade (that you did not previously know) from this book?

Due October 21, 1999

3. AFRICAN NOVELS ON COLONIALISM

Fernando Oyono, Houseboy

or

Buchi Emecheta, The Joys of Motherhood

Question: Describe the problematic confrontation of African culture with European colonialism? Be specific. What does this book tell you about both African culture and European colonial attitudes and processes?

Due November 4, 1999
PART III. THE RESEARCH PAPER

1) Each student is required to write a research paper. The papers should be between 7-10 pages long. They should have at least 2 primary sources and 5 secondary sources listed in the footnotes or endnotes. The paper must be typed and double spaced on computer or typewriter.

2) Papers can be focused on one of the following topics or on a separate topic developed by the student in consultation with the instructor.

1. Ancient Egypt
2. The Slave Trade in Africa
3. Colonialism in Africa
4. African Writers Today
5. Nationalism and Independence
6. AIDS in Africa Today
7. The World Bank and Africa Today
8. Women in Africa
9. Swahili Culture
10. Great Zimbabwe
11. The Transharran Trade
12. The Kongo Kingdom

The research paper is due December 10, 1999. Students will meet and present papers to class.
AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

BROADCAST TITLE: Africa

COURSE NUMBER: ICS 548VA

REFERENCE NUMBER: 107524

CREDIT HOURS: 3 Undergraduate or Graduate Credit Hours

DESCRIPTION: Examines the African legacy and its contributions to the world, as well as the slave trade, colonial domination and issues facing the continent today.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lisa Brock

TELEPHONE: Home: (773) 881-1656 Monday and Friday

E-Mail: lbrock@igc.org

TUITION AND FEES: Undergraduate: $315.00

Graduate: $333.00

ORIENTATIONS/ LECTURE

GSU Friday, September 8, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. OR

Saturday, September 9, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE: Friday, December 1, 2000 at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.

For students taking this class at a distance, please refer to the page, "Special Instructions for Distance Learners" contained in this packet.

TEXT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE: African Civilizations Course Packet, Governors State University Printshop


OR


708/534-5000


OR


OR


**OPTIONAL TEXT:**


**VIDEOTAPES:**

Eight one-hour tapes.

**VIEWING:**

• GSU Library