

## **Sample Courses at the University of Cape Coast**

### **African Culture**

#### Ghanaian Culture (3 credits)

This course gives you a conceptual understanding of cultural universals within broader Ghanaian society. The goal is to help you appreciate the different Ghanaian cultures with a view to promotion of national unity and identity. The course will also address emergent trends on the Ghanaian cultural landscape.

#### Language and Ethnicity in Africa (3 credits)

This course throws light on Africa's linguistic and ethnic diversity and attempts to examine its effect on nation building and its areas of conflict.

#### Religion of Africa (3 credits)

This course investigates Africans' belief in ancestry and its relation to maintaining peace and harmony in societies. The location of the African ancestors and their roles in religious history will be looked at closely.

#### Traditional African Music in Contemporary Africa and New Trends in African Music (3 credits)

This course has 2 parts: the role of traditional African music in contemporary Africa and new trends in African music. You'll experience traditional and contemporary musical forms and examine traditional African musical practices and their influences on contemporary Africa and popular music. The course also looks at how African music has helped to shape and influence music making between African-Americans and other Africans of the Diaspora.

#### Women and Development in Africa (3 credits)

This course examines the historical and contemporary sociocultural, political, and economic experiences and development of women in Africa from an African perspective. It also examines the multiple roles and status of women in various African societies, with particular focus on cultural continuity and similarities. African women's relationships with their men, families, children, work, liberation, and spirituality will be discussed.

#### Culture, Democratization, and Development (3 credits)

This course critically examines the African conception of culture with a view to clarifying its implications for the social, economic, and political development of the continent. It also gives a comprehensive overview of democracy and development in contemporary Africa. Throughout the course, you will analyze the origins of the democratic waves that swept across sub-Saharan Africa in the early 1990s and identify measures that can be taken to nurture democratization and state rehabilitation in Africa.

#### The African Family (3 credits)

This course addresses itself to the conceptual framework of the family in the African environment and the changes that have engulfed the institution over the years. It addresses, in particular, the morphology of the family, which has given rise to much interest and controversy.

### **History and Politics**

#### **Africans in Dispersion**

This course deals with what happened to the African in the places of dispersion first as a slave, and then, as a free person. In addition, it examines the important contributions Africans have made to the overall development of the places of their exile. It ends by discussing the phenomenon of the returnees – those who returned from the Diaspora to the home continent. Their motives for returning, their efforts at surviving in what becomes, in many, alien places, and what they contributed to life in Africa after their return.

#### **The Slave Trade and Colonialism in Africa (3 credits)**

This course is in two sections. The first section will examine the origin and nature of slavery and the slave trade and its social, economic and political implications for Africa. It will also examine the contribution of the slave trade to the take off of the capitalist system. The second section will deal with the prelude to colonialism, the philosophical bases of colonization of Africa and the African response as well as the colonial impact.

#### **Africa in World Affairs (3 credits)**

The course conducts an in-depth analysis of political developments in Africa from the post-colonial era to the present. In general, the course provides the opportunity for students to have a comprehensive insight into how world events after independence have shaped political development in Africa as well as the continent's relations with the international community.

#### **Governance and Democracy in Traditional Africa (3 credits)**

This course attempts to project all the democratic elements associated with government in traditional Africa with the view to finding out the extent to which these elements can be integrated into modern political enterprise in the contemporary African state.

#### **African Cultures and Civilizations (3 credits)**

This course provides a definite introduction to the evolution of African cultures and civilizations. It provides a conceptual setting focused primarily on Africa's contribution to the development of human culture and civilizations.

#### **History of West Africa 1900-1970 (3 credits)**

This course engages the issue of the reduction of West Africans to the status of colonial subjects by various European nations. It fosters an understanding of the reasons for European colonization of West Africa and the ways in which West Africans responded to

colonization.

It enables students to analyze the nature and purpose of European colonial administrations in West Africa, and the shape of colonial economies, and the direction of economic and social developments in the European colonies of West Africa. The course also examines the contexts for the emergence of nationalist movements in West Africa.

### **Environmental Science**

#### Conservation Biology (3 credits)

The course introduces students to the fundamental principles of conservation biology (e.g. global species numbers, causes of extinction, genetic diversity, ecosystem diversity). Topics will include zoo versus field conservation, effects of global change on species extinction, quantitative methods to determine and predict the status of plant and animal populations, nature reserves and national parks, and biological and social underpinnings of conservation problems. Legal frameworks and values and ethics of conservation at the local and global levels will be discussed.

#### Habitat Ecology (3 credits)

This course focuses on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for organisms. For terrestrial habitats, the major biomes (e.g. tropical rain forest, taiga, savannah, and desert) will be discussed in relation to the influence of major environmental factors. Community development discussions will focus on concepts such as succession, climax, species diversity and productivity. The course also looks at major aquatic communities (i.e. neuston, plankton, nekton and benthos), environmental factors and their roles in aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological classification of aquatic organisms.

#### Introduction to Environmental Sociology (3 credits)

The major issues in the sociology of the environment are examined, enabling a critical analysis of the interactions between society and the environment.

It also offers opportunity to reflect on both individual and collective actions that impact the environment. Topics covered include the sociology of risk, science, technology, the social construction of environmental issues, ecofeminism, and sociology of environmental movements, environmental governance and the political economy of global capitalism. Rational choice, value rationality and instrumental rationality in addition to a number of human behavior models will be discussed.

#### Biostatistics (3 credits)

This course applies statistical methods to biological formulation. It deals with sampling techniques, data presentation, analysis and interpretation.

Types of distribution (e.g. normal, binomial, Poisson) are discussed.

Analytical procedures including t-test,  $\chi^2$ , F-ratio, correlation and regression will be used to analyze biological data. Students will be taken through some basic experimental designs as well (e.g. CRD, RCD, and factorial design).

### General Geography and Cartography (3 credits)

This course will provide knowledge on the physical, chemical and biological processes of landforms and distribution, theories of origin of continental shelves and submarine canyons, internal and external forces, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis, continental drift and plate tectonics, weather and climate, vegetation and soils. Also, the course will equip students with skills in map-making and include advanced map production techniques. The course will involve fields where necessary.

### Introduction to Environmental Geology (3 credits)

The course examines the relationships between ecology and short term human concerns. Emphasis is placed on application of geologic principles to common environmental problems. Topics include rocks and minerals, energy resources, topographic and geologic maps, slope stability and landslides, river processes and coastal erosion, floods, and groundwater exploitation and saltwater intrusion, geologic hazards and problems, geology and health, and land use. Application of principles to problems pertaining to urban planning, earthquake-resistant design, and waste site/landfill development will be discussed.

### Integrated Coastal Zone Management (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the basic concepts and practices of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The topics covered include introduction to ICZM; coastal ecosystems (e.g. mangrove swamps, coral reefs, sea grass beds, estuaries, lagoons, sandy and rocky shores, sand dunes and coastal savannah); natural coastal processes (e.g. geologic processes, tides, waves, tsunamis, currents, runoffs/floods, hurricanes and sediment transport/ long shore drifts); and uses and opportunities of the coastal zone. Traditional methods of management as well as sector versus integrated approaches for managing the coastal zone are discussed.

### Research Methods in Biology (3 credits)

The course exposes students to the processes involved in the scientific method of investigation. There will be exercise in observational skills, asking questions, formulating hypotheses, experimental designs, biological techniques, data acquisition, analysis and scientific presentation. Students will be required to do a literature review on specific topics presentation to seminars.

### Science and Formulation of Environmental Policy (3 credits)

The course examines the distribution of responsibility for the formulation and execution of environmental policy in Ghana. The different types of policy instruments and their theoretical underpinnings will be pointed out.

The role of science, the regulated community and lay public in environmental decision-making will be discussed in addition to participatory approaches to policy formulation. Top-down and bottom-up approaches to policy formulation will also be discussed.

Alternative regulatory and institutional frameworks will be evaluated with reference to

specific environmental issues.

#### Environmental Economics (3 credits)

This course provides analysis of some of the most important areas of environmental economics. It will cover the efficient and equitable use of scarce environmental resources as well as the measurement of environmental and natural resource values. Areas stressed include the economics of pollution control, the application of cost benefit analysis to the environment, and global environmental issues. Topics include benefits transfer, the travel cost method, the hedonic pricing method, and contingent valuation. Students will make presentations on the course.

#### Environmental Stewardship and Communication (3 credits)

This course examines the environmental impact of our daily decisions as consumers and residents of a community. It also examines the failures and successes of communicating environmental messages to the public, risk, public health information and community coalition building are among the specific types of communications analyzed.