**AHS 3104 People and Cultures of Africa**

**Objectives:** The am of this course is to introduce students to the concept of culture and how it can be understood from different peoples of Africa.

**Course description**

The African continent has varied people and cultural traditions. The north has Arabs, the Sahel and Nilo-Saharan stock of people. The horn of Africa has Cushites and the rest of Africa is made of myriad of agriculturalists, pastoralists, and foragers ranging from the Bantu speakers to Khoisan speakers. The course focuses on selected groups of people from different parts of Africa in order to understand their nature, cultural set-up and identity. It is appropriate course for students in all disciplines.

**Assessment:** 30% Course Work; 70% Examination

**Course Outline**

Topic1: The concept of culture

* 1. What is culture
  2. Socially transmitted and behavioral patterns
  3. Cultural knowledge (norms and values)
  4. Collective understandings
  5. World views
  6. Biology and culture

Topic 2: The peopling of Africa: Regional Unfolding

2.1 Northern Africa

2.2 Ethiopia and the Horn

2.3 Western Africa

2.4 Central Africa

2.5 Eastern Africa

2.6 Southern Africa

**Basic readings**

Lee, R. B. 1979. *The Kung San.*Cambridge: CambridgeUniversity Press

Lee, R. B. and I. De Vore (eds) 1973. *Kalahari Hunters and Gatherers.*Cambridge: CambridgeUniversity Press

Maylaw, P. 1986. *A History of the African People of South Africa*.London: Croon Helm.

Mazrui, A. A. 1986. *The African: A Triple Heritage.*Boston; Little Brown & Company

Skinner, E. P (ed) 1973) Peoples and cultures of Africa. New York: Natural History Press