**EHR 2104 African Indigenous Ethical Systems**

**Course Description**

African indigenous ethical systems is a course that examines the different ethical theories, values in traditional African societies with the intention of identifying that that still impact on the ethical behavior of the Africans of today. It also examines the foundation and the implications of these values for practical application today.

**Course Objectives**

The aim of the course is to help the student identify critical African ethical issues, values and principles, so that he/she may be able to compare them with western ethics. This will help them differentiate the influence of these values and principles on the behavior of an African of today. To understand those values and principles that would still be relevant for them today.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course the student should be able to learn the following:

* The students should be able to identify the foundation of African ethics
* The student should be able to identify the basic principles of African indigenous ethics
* The student should be able to outline the basic ethical values of indigenous African ethics.
* The student should be able to compare and contrast indigenous African ethics with the western ethics.
* Student should be able to identify the strength and weaknesses of these indigenous ethical principles and values for contemporary relevance.

**Course Outline**

1. Introduction
2. The foundation of African ethics
3. The basic principles of African indigenous ethics
4. Basic ethical values of indigenous African ethics.
5. Similarities between Indigenous African Ethics and Western Ethics
6. Differences between Indigenous African Ethics and Western Ethics
7. The strengths and weaknesses of indigenous African ethical principles and values
8. Conclusion

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; interactive lectures, seminars, expert talks, individual presentations, group work, etc.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading list**

Ekei, J.C. (2002) *Justice in Communalism: A Foundation of Ethics in African Philosophy*,

Lagos: Realm communication, Ltd.

Ilawole, O.J., ‘The Golden Rule Principle in Aristotles Nicomachean Ethics and Orunmila’s Ifa Morality: A Comparative Analysis’, University of Lagos, Ph.D Thesis, 2006.

Mbiti, J.S. (1982) *Introduction to African Religion*, London: Heinemann.

Mbiti, J.S., (1990, [1969]) *African religions and philosophy*, Nairobi: Heinemann Educational Books Ltd.

Momoh, C.S. (1995) *Philosophy of New Past and Old Future*, Auchi: African Philosophy projects Publication.

Okojie, C.G. (1994) *Ishan Native Laws and Customs, with Ethnographic Studies of Esan People*, 2nd edition, Benin City, Ilupeju press.

Oluwole, S.B. (1982) ‘The Rational Basis of Yoruba Ethical Thinking’ in *The Nigerian Journal of Philosophy* vol. 4.

Popper, Karl (1969) *Conjectures and Refutation: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Tempels, P. (1963) *Bantu Philosophy* Paris: Presence Africaine.

Wiredu, K. (1995) ‘Custom and Morality: A Comparative Analysis of some African and Western concept of Moral,’ in Albert G. Mosley (ed) *African Philosophy:* *Selected Readings*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs.

Wiredu K. (1998) ‘The Moral Foundations of an African Culture’ in P.H Coetzee and A.P.J. Roux (eds.) *The African Philosophy Reader* London: Rutledge, New Fetter Lane.