**Philosophy of History**

Course Code: PHI 2105

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course Description:***

The course undertakes a critical analysis of the work and methods of historians investigating into some of the approaches to the writing, interpretation and criticism of history, and various historical theories arising therefrom, the nature and status of historical inquiry and historical explanation as compared to scientific explanation. Other areas of consideration are determinism in history, historicism, holism and individualism, historical objectivity, the problem of selection, historical inevitability, problems of historiography, sources and evidence, oral history, the question of moral judgments in history, historical methodology; truth and fact in history; the ideal of a value-free historiography; selectivity and subjectivity in history.

***Course Objective:***

The course aims at enabling participants understand the dynamics of historical development. It helps students investigate the philosophical undercurrents that are shaping history.

***Learning Objectives***

Students are expected to:

1. Know the major views in philosophy of history
2. Understand the dynamics of the development of history in human society
3. Understand the nature of historical rhythms and themes and how they emerge
4. Be able to analyze and critique various views of history

***Course Outline***

1. What is philosophy of history?
2. The importance of history
3. Major philosophical questions in history studies
4. History and its representation
5. Continental philosophy of history
6. Universal or historical human nature
7. Does history possess directionality?
8. Traditional African understanding of history
9. Hegel's philosophy of history
10. Marx and history
11. Human agency and history development
12. Hermeneutic approaches to history
13. Anglo-American philosophy of history
14. On laws in history
15. Historical objectivity
16. Causation in history
17. Recent topics in the philosophy of history
18. The Judeo-Christian tradition and philosophy of history
19. Oriental philosophy of history
20. Rethinking the philosophy of history

***Methodology***

Lectures, tutorials, guest lecturers, group work, individual presentations

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. Ankersmit, F. R. 1995. *Language and historical experience*. Bielefeld: ZiF.
2. Ankersmit, F. R., and Hans Kellner, eds. 1995. *A new philosophy of history*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
3. Avineri, Shlomo. 1972. *Hegel's theory of the modern state*, *Cambridge studies in the history and theory of politics*. London: CambridgeUniversity Press.
4. Berkhofer, Robert F. 1995. *Beyond the great story: history as text and discourse*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of HarvardUniversity Press
5. Collingwood, R. G. 1946. *The idea of history*. Oxford, Clarendon Press.
6. Condorcet, Jean-Antoine-Nicolas de Caritat. 1795. *Sketch for a historical picture of the progress of the human mind*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1979.
7. Danto, Arthur Coleman. 1965. *Analytical philosophy of history*. Cambridge [Eng.]: CambridgeUniversity Press.
8. Darnton, Robert. 1984. *The great cat massacre and other episodes in French cultural history*. New York: Basic Books.