

88-89/21

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM
University Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Number _____/_____
Action _____
Date _____

I. TITLE/AUTHOR OF CHANGE

COURSE/PROGRAM TITLE: Cultures of Africa

DEPARTMENT: Sociology and Anthropology

CONTACT PERSON: Dr. Miriam Chaiken or Dr. Laurence Kruckman

II. APPROVALS

Laurence Kruckman
Department Curriculum Committee

College Curriculum Committee

Director of Liberal Studies

Jay Snyder
Department Chairperson
Mark Szymanski
College Dean

Dean

IV. DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULUM CHANGE

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION - Cultures of Africa

3 Semester Hours Credit

This course will explore the cultural diversity of the continent of Africa. The first unit will examine the historical processes which shaped modern society, including the formation of indigenous African empires, the evidence for trade routes, slave raiding and colonialism. The second unit will examine

the nature of African traditional societies, including analyses of forager and agricultural groups. The last unit will cover issues of contemporary development in Africa, such as famine and agricultural policy, the status of women in economic development, and apartheid. Reading will include ethnographic and historical accounts of African society as well as selections by African writers on the issues of contemporary society.

UNIVERSITY WIDE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

COURSE ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE

A1 - This course will be an addition to a series of cultural area studies courses within the anthropology curriculum. Other cultural area studies courses such as Japan, and the Caribbean are already taught in our department. The addition of this course on Africa is an attempt to diversify department offerings and reflects the ease of acquisition of research funds

the continent is so large and culturally varied, and is an area of growing interest given the socio-political events of the past decades.

A8 - The course is not required for certification or accreditation by any external authority.

SECTION B - INTERDISCIPLINARY IMPLICATIONS

B1 - This course is to be taught by one instructor.

B2 - No additional corollary courses will be required.

B3 - This course is unique in that it embodies an anthropological perspective and relies on the large body of ethnographic data on Africa. One course in the department of Geography (GE 255 - Geography of Africa) is complementary to the Anthropology of Africa. Discussions with the instructor and comparisons of syllabi and reading lists indicate that the two

courses will not be redundant, but complementary. The geography course does include some cultural geography, but also includes substantial emphasis

C3 - This course will be offered no more than once per year and usually only once every two years. This course will be offered only in the Fall Semester so as to avoid conflict with the Geography of Africa which is offered in Spring. Students with an interest in Africa will be able to take both of these courses in a sequence.

C4 - Initially one course every other Fall semester will be offered on Cultures of Africa. If demand for this course increases as the Liberal Studies package and Non-Western course requirement is implemented, then more frequent course offerings will be considered.

C5 - This course should be limited to 25 students per section and 20 would

be an optimum number. Student participation and interaction is discouraged in a course with higher enrollment.

C6 - No professional society in Anthropology establishes parameters for undergraduate courses.

C7 - This course is not required. It will have no effect on the number of free electives available to majors. It will not necessitate any changes in the

program requirements.