Thinking Anthropologically

Banner code: 09 18770  
School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  
Credits: 20  
Semester: 1

Description:  
The module is a broad introduction to anthropological approaches to society and culture. It focuses on ethnography, the practice of 'doing anthropology' both in Africa and elsewhere. We use written texts and film to open up and discuss central ideas and debates in anthropology.

Assessment:  
2 x 1000 word essays from a list of titles and a 3000 word essay focusing on any appropriate ethnographic debate (to be discussed with the tutor)

Timetable:  
Thurs 9-10  
Seminars: 1 hour  
between 10-12 Thurs

Entrance requirements:  
None

Staff contact: m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk

Introduction to African Culture

Banner code: 09 24292  
School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  
Credits: 20  
Semester: 1 and 2

Description:  
The course aims to introduce students to the study and appreciation of African cultures. It will stress the diversity, complexity and dynamism of culture across the continent. The course will focus on 'the word' as an agent of those diverse cultures: the written word, the spoken or sung word, the many languages of the continent, the relationships between those languages and the kinds of societies that have emerged at different times and in different places across the continent. The course will raise basic questions about orality and literacy and examine the range of oral and written cultures across Africa. A selection of contemporary texts by African writers will be read and studied. The course will also raise basic questions about African visual arts and African music and examine them in a range of cultures across Africa in the 20th Century. The extent and variety of creative art and music will be considered and problems of classification, aesthetics, function and audience will be explored.

Assessment:  
2 x 1500 word essays, one at the end of the Semester 1 relating to the material studied in IAC I (25%), one at the end of Semester 2, relating to material studied in IAC II (25%). Jointly assessed with Introduction to African Culture B, one project (equivalent to 3000 word essay) in the summer term (50%).

Timetable:  
Thurs 12-2  
Seminars, Tuesday, 1 hour between 2-4pm.

Entrance requirements:  
None

Staff contact: m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk
Introduction to African Development

Banner code: 09 16275  School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  Credits: 10  Semester: 2

Description:
This module provides a broad but basic introduction to development principles, concepts and terminology as tools for a) studying Africa’s integration into a global political-economy and assessing its changing place within a globalising world, b) explaining disparities in material conditions in Africa, and between Africa and other parts of the world, particularly the Global South, and c) examining regional and local examples of planned socio-economic change.

Assessment:
One 1,000 word evaluation of a development debate (40%); one 1,000 word review of a development-related document (plan, proposal, report etc.) (40%); one 1,000 word assessment of a log/record/folder of the reporting/representation/treatment of a development-related issue in an African country in the international media (20%)

Timetable: Fri 10-12  Entrance requirements: None
Staff contact: m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk

Introduction to African Societies

Banner code: 09 24817  School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  Credits: 10  Semester: 2

Description:
Introduction to African Societies examines the social, economic, and political organisation of a number of African societies and their recent historical transformations. Although examples from all of Africa are considered, the module focuses on the West Africa region. Its main aim is to familiarise students with some of the main societies present in this region, their interactions, and the main dynamics of social, political, and economic change. Students are introduced to different systems of production (e.g. hunting-and-gathering; pastoralism; agriculture; industrial production); different modes of reckoning kinship and their consequences for social organisation (e.g. unilineal or cognatic systems); and different political formations, from less to more centralised systems. They are encouraged to think critically about the use of sociological models, ethnic labels, and kinship diagrams. Each session focuses on a particular area and the societies which have been living there. Students taking this module become acquainted with examples of African societies, their recent history, and the conceptual frameworks that have been developed to make sense of them.

Assessment:
2-hour exam paper in the Summer session (100%).

Timetable: Wednesday 9-11  Entrance requirements: None
Staff contact: m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk
African Societies

Banner code: 09 24818  
School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  
Credits: 20  
Semester: 2

Description:
African Societies examines the social, economic, and political organisation of a number of African societies and their recent historical transformations. Although examples from all of Africa are considered, the module focuses on the West Africa region. Its main aim is to familiarise students with some of the main societies present in this region, their interactions, and the main dynamics of social, political, and economic change. Students are introduced to different systems of production (e.g. hunting-and-gathering; pastoralism; agriculture; industrial production); different modes of reckoning kinship and their consequences for social organisation (e.g. unilineal or cognatic systems); and different political formations, from less to more centralised systems. They are encouraged to think critically about the use of sociological models, ethnic labels, and kinship diagrams. Each session focuses on a particular area and the societies which have been living there. Students taking this module become acquainted with examples of African societies, their recent history, and the conceptual frameworks that have been developed to make sense of them.

Assessment:
2-hour exam paper in the Summer session (50%).
1 x 2000 word essay (50%)

Timetable: Wednesday 9-11  
Entrance requirements: None

Staff contact: m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk

Introduction to African History

Banner code: 09 20711  
School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  
Credits: 20  
Semester: 2

Description:
This module provides an introduction to the history of Sub-Saharan Africa, up to and including the point of formal colonization by European powers. We will identify the sources and methods that historians can use to investigate the African past. Broad themes in social, economic, cultural and political history will be explored through case studies of selected African peoples.

Assessment:
2 x 2000 word essays 50% each

Timetable: Wednesday 11-1  
Entrance requirements: None

Staff contact: m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk
Introduction to African Politics

Banner code: 09 05864  
School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  
Credits: 10  
Semester: 2

Description:  
This module surveys the continuities and changes in African politics and society from the pre-colonial period to the present, and introduces key conceptual approaches to understanding contemporary African issues. The emphasis falls equally on popular and elite, and domestic and international, concerns and agenda.

Assessment:  
2 x 1500 word essays

Timetable: Thursday 3-5  
Enterprise requirements: None

Staff contact:  m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk

Introduction to Geography and Africa

Banner code: 09 08800  
School/Dept: Dept of African Studies and Anthropology  
Credits: 10  
Semester: 1

Description:  
What exactly does Geography contribute to our understanding of a rapidly changing world? How do geographers go about studying Africa and its place in the wider world? How and what are our everyday lives intricately linked to those of distant people, places and times? This module provides you with opportunity for tackling these and similar questions, by introducing you to a selection of geographical ways of ‘seeing’ and ‘knowing’ the world and Africa’s place in it, before discussing a selection of nature-society interactions in and with Africa.

Assessment:  
2 x 1500-2000 word essays

Timetable: Wednesday 9-11  
Enterprise requirements: None

Staff contact:  m.j.egginton@bham.ac.uk