NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
HIS 203 – HISTORY OF AFRICAN CIVILIZATION (3 CR.)

Course Description

Examines major African social, economic, political, and religious developments from earliest times to the present. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

African civilizations in the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan regions have shaped world history. This course is intended to introduce the student to African civilizations; students will critically examine how major African civilizations developed and interacted, as well as Africa’s global connections from prehistoric societies to the present day. Students will approach African history from a variety of perspectives that critically explore scholarly debates over African identities and contemporary development.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

a) Explain the development of African history and civilizations within a global context
b) Describe the diverse cultures and states of Africa from the ancient period to present day
c) Identify the diversity of African peoples and African experiences
d) Analyze historical documents, images and evidence to answer historical questions
e) Identify the nature of current African concerns and achievements in the modern day
f) Describe the global interactions that tie African history to larger historical trends in other parts of the world – some of these include the spread of major religions of the book, the impact of European colonialism, and the politics of development and production

Major Topics to be Included

a) African geographies and Linguistic trends
b) Classical African civilizations of the Mediterranean World
c) Networks of Trade – Trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean Trade
d) Empires of West Africa and their Islamic foundations
e) East African dynasties and States
f) Trajectories of Christianity and Islam in Africa –
g) The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and African Diaspora
h) Kinship Systems in African societies
i) European Imperialism in Africa
j) African states and Independence movements
k) Challenges and Politics in contemporary Africa