

# **University of Ghana**

## **Department of History**

### **Sample Fall Courses**

#### **HIST 301 History of Ghana up to 1800**

This is a basic course on the early history of Ghana. It studies the people of Ghana; their origins; migration; cultures; the geographical background the early states of Ghana; the rise and spread of Islam; traditional economy; pre-European trade; the decline of the trans Saharan trade; the arrival of the Europeans; the rise and development of the Trans Atlantic slave trade; expansion of Denkyera, Akwamu, Akyem, Fante and Asante and the social and economic developments in the 17th and the 18th centuries.

#### **HIST 303 History of Africa up to 1500**

This course is a sweeping survey of the cultural, religious and commercial developments in ancient Africa. It deals with the cultures of pre-dynastic Pharonic Egypt; the legacy of Egypt, Kush and Meroe; Axum: monophysite Christianity; the ivory, gold and slave trade in East Africa; Arab conquest of North Africa and the Berber reaction; the Almoravid and Almohad states; the Great Zimbabwe Culture, the Mwena Mutapa empire and the Rosvi States of East Central Africa; religion, trade and state in the Western Central Sudan: Ghana, Mali and Kanem.

#### **HIST 305 The Black Diaspora**

This course looks at all aspects of the history of Black peoples; it attempts to trace the origins of the Black race, leading to the present distribution of Black peoples in the world; the causes for migration and routes along which they travelled; Blacks in South America, in the Caribbean and in other parts of the world; Blacks and Africa in the 19th and the 20th Centuries and Black Renaissance.

#### **HIST 307 Economic History of West Africa: 1700 to 1890**

This course stays at the surface of economic history but offers a new, purely historian's view: Historians' approaches to the subject, including approaches by the "market" and "Africanist" and "neo-Marxist" schools; natural and human resources; technology; economic activities and interpretations; production and distribution; trade within West Africa; trans-Saharan and trans-Oceanic trades; social organization of economic life and material basis of political power; organization of labour and of trade and the sources of state revenue and trade.

#### **HIST 309 Aspects of Early Modern European History**

This course highlights some aspects of the vast subject of early modern European history, without pretending to give a complete overview. It deals with the significance of the fall of Constantinople: shift from Mediterranean to the Atlantic World; its effect on the Italian Renaissance; humanism in the North; new learning and criticism of the church and Europe and a Wider World.

**HIST 401      Aspects of Intellectual History from 1500 to the Enlightenment**

This course looks at the political and philosophical ideas of Machiavelli during the Italian Renaissance; Thomas More; the Social Contract Theories of Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau; and the pre-Enlightenment scientific philosophers and scholars: Newton and Vico.

**HIST 403      History of science and technology up to the Industrial Revolution**

This course does more than to give a general survey of man's scientific and technical achievements, without too much technical detail. It deals with science and technology in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome; collapse and revival of Western Civilisation; Humanism and Renaissance; discovery of the heavenly bodies; of the earth and its creatures; the Age of Reason, the academies; enlightenment, classification and order and the popularisation of science and experiments.

**HIST 405      History of Political thought up to St. Augustine**

This course looks at political thought from the earliest times up to St Augustine. It deals with accounts of the main political ideologies and of the main views on the evolution and nature of society, law and government current in the Ancient world and Medieval Christendom; Greek speculation on the Greek polis: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; ancient thought after Aristotle; Stoicism and Epicureanism and theories of church-state relations up to AD. 450.

**HIST 407      Colonial rule and African Response: Partition or Pacification**

This course looks at the scramble for Africa; the Berlin Conference and the Partition of Africa: causes, results etc.; establishment of colonial rule: North, West, East, Central and Southern Africa; wars of conquest; resistance and pacification; systems of colonial rule: Assimilation, "Indirect Rule" etc.

**HIST 409      History of Latin America**

This course offers a survey of the history of the South American continent from the pre-Columbian empires (Maya, Aztec and Inca) to the early 20th century. It deals with the imposition of Spanish and Portuguese colonial governments; settlement patterns, power of the church; mineral and agricultural exploitation; slavery and the slave trade; the era of the revolutions: Haiti, Venezuela, Buenos Aires; military achievements and political failures of St. Martin and Bolivar; independence of Mexico; conservatism of the Latin American Independence movement; 19th century Mexican dictators; the revolution of 1910; British economic domination; the interference of the United States of America; the banana republics of Middle Americas; the Venezuelan oil industry; socialist and capitalist industrialization; monarchic government in independent Brazil; the rise of coffee industry; growth of industrial cities; Argentina: the agricultural basis of prosperity; land-owners and wage-earners and the significance of Peron.

**HIST 411 History of Modern China and Japan**

This course is a comparative study of the history of China and Japan since the 19th Century, at a time that both opened up to western science and technology. It deals with Ch'ing China and the West in the 19th century; the opium and the arrow wars; the Treaty Port system; unrest within China: Taipei, Muslim and other rebellions; self-strengthening movements; industrialization; the Tokugawa state and the Meji restoration; the 1857-8 Treaties and their repercussions; the new order; the first phase of Japanese modernization 1870-1900; the implications of military, educational and technical reforms; analysis of the Meji constitution; China under foreign pressure; the 1880-90 wars and reforms; the Boxer Uprising; abdication of the Manchus; the second phase of Japanese modernization, 1900-30; the establishment of heavy industries; the Zaibatsu; Anglo-Japanese friendship and the Russo-Japanese war; the annexation of Korea; Japanese imperialism 1930-45; the politics of violence; China between revolutions, 1911-45; the war lords: Kuomintang versus Communists; China and Japan since 1946; the Cold War in the far East; the Korean War; the Vietnam war; United States of America versus Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Asia; "Ping-pong diplomacy" and its repercussions on Africa.

**HIST 413 History of Modern Russia & United States of America: 1700-1860**

This course covers the history of Russia from the accession of Peter the Great (1682) and the history of the United States of America from 1763 to 1860; the Enlightenment in Russia and the United States of America; the ideas of Catherine II and those of Thomas Jefferson; the role of personality and leadership in the respective growths of Russia and America; territorial expansion; Russian eastward expansion into Assis, the Baltic and the Balkan coasts as against American westward expansion to the Pacific Coast.

**HIST 417 Aspects of World History: 1914-1945**

This course is a brief introduction to the causes and effects of the First World War from around 1907; topical events in World history 1919-1950; the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations – its structure, aims, achievements and failures; Russian communism 1917-1939; Hitler and Nazism; Mussolini and Fascism; World Economic Depression 1929-1933; the Commonwealth of Nations; The Statute of Westminster (1930); the world situation in 1939: causes of tension in Europe and outbreak of the Second World War; the role of the United States of America and Japan in the War; colonisation of Africa to 1950; the role of Africa in the Second World War and the United Nations: its structure and aims.