Reflections on Society: Africa Societies

Optional English Course
Lecturer: Gavin Peter Willémse

Introduction

Students are learning the theories of Sociology and what is effecting society, in their major subject classes. These theories are the very backbone of Sociology and this course intends to introduce how certain mediums have reflected these theories/concepts/issues to, us in everyday perspectives. This course will compliment issues already dealt with in other classes, ...but will illustrate how “real” these issues are in society and give them perspective and how the rest of the world is being effected by these issues.

This course is more than a “win-win” option for students. Not only will the class use vivid audio visual material to stimulate the students with the content, ...but they will also give them a sense of rejuvenating desire to study their course intensely. This all, instructed in English will give them a “multi-win” experience.

Every semester focuses on a different society or part there of, and is intricately unfolded crease by crease to bring forth the essence of the themed society’s aspects and how it has been crafted [or socially engineered] to today’s current situation. Students can continue to take the course each semester as they will endeavor into a new societal sphere each time, ...broadening their horizons on the very societies they have only read about in their Sociology classes, ...now they can experience it.
**Topics covered will include:**

- The development of Society [Classes/Religion effects/Ethnicity Relations]
- Equality [All aspects: Gender/Disability/Orientation/Age/Race/Income/Education...]
- Criminology [Types, Deviances/Social Control/Importance of Law]
- Medium’s Influences [Electronic Mass Medias/Internet/Print/Manipulation of Info]
- Collective Behaviour [Groupthink/Dispersed/Mass Hysteria/Crowds/Contagion theory]
- Social Change [In/External/Globalization/Modernization/Urbanization/Migrations]
- Societal Forecasting [Cloning/Mars Community/loss of innocence/Space/Third kind]
- Niche Societies ["the unprotected endangered species” Traditional groups /sects]

**Evaluation**

For those who think a bowl of popcorn is all preparation required for this course will sadly find that they will come short. Although a lot of multi media will be used,...it will be expected for students to have done subject related research before the appropriate class. Also only parts of mediums will be shown in class,...but it is expected that students know the full product and it’s history. Extensive “Vocabulary Worksheets” will be provided by the lecturer, listing words of interest, useful, and of importance to understand the context of the story. These are to be filled in before each class, hence preparing you more to understand what is happening in class.

Marks will be allocated for the following things:

1) One test covering the terminology used in class as well as to ascertain if comprehension of concepts in class was achieved. [40%]

2) One assignment of students presenting and conveying an idea across to the class. [30%]

3) In-class participation and attendance is important in this class as it will depend on your contributions in class,...willingness to discuss and have opinions on these societies. Discussions and debates will form a large part of this class and hence presence in class is important as well as participation. Completed Vocab sheets[30%]