

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN STUDIES
COURSE OUTLINE – FIRST SEMESTER (2013/2014 ACADEMIC YEAR)

AFS 413: ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE GOLD COAST

Lecturer: MR. BENEDICT AFFUL JR.

Credit hours: 3

A. Course Description

Gold Coast was a British colony on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa that became the independent nation of Ghana in 1957. This course traces the foundation of the economic development of Gold Coast, now Ghana. It focuses on the predominant economic activities in both colonial and pre-colonial era. It emphasizes the dynamic role of trade in linking the economy of the Gold Coast to the rest of the world. Finally, the course looks at some of the economic policies formulated by colonial government towards the economic development of the Gold Coast.

The course begins with an introduction to the basic theoretical concepts that will help students understand topics to be treated.

B. Course Content

1. Fundamental concepts
 - i. The concept of an economy
 - ii. Economic systems
 - iii. The Doctrine of Mercantilism
 - iv. Theories of International trade
2. Economic activities in the Gold Coast
 - i. From the earliest times to 1700
 - ii. Primary and secondary occupations (1700 -1850)
 - iii. Primary and secondary occupations (1850-1936)
 - iv. The Ashanti power and expansion of economic activities
3. Trade and distribution in the Gold Coast
 - i. Trade before the arrival of the Europeans
 - ii. The arrival of the Europeans and trade
 - iii. Trade routes
 - iv. Trade in the regions of gold coast
4. Economic policy in the Gold Coast
 - i. Stabilization strategy
 - ii. Trading conditions
 - iii. Agriculture
 - iv. Finance
 - v. Transportation
5. Structure of the economy
 - i. Structural changes in the economy of Gold Coast
 - ii. Comparing the structure of Ghana and the Gold Coast economies

C. Course Delivery Method & Assessment

The course applies a combination of lectures, class discussions, case studies and presentations. Student participation is a key component of the course. Final grades will be determined by taking into consideration the grade obtained from continuous assessment [Presentation (40%) – more details on these assessment methods will be discussed in class] and final examination which carry 60%.

D. Course Website

<http://wikieducator.org/Benafful/AFS413>

E. Course Rules:

- i. You are responsible for regularly attending lectures.
- ii. While in class you are responsible for being courteous and attentive.
- iii. DO NOT bring food, eat, or talk out of turn while in class.
- iv. Cell phones MUST be put on vibration while in class.
- v. Classroom involvement is important to your success. Therefore, particular class periods will be devoted to in-class problems and discussions of the readings.
- vi. Form study groups to prepare for exams.
- vii. You are responsible for taking quizzes/tests/assignments/exams at scheduled times and for not missing them.

F. Reading list

- ◆ International Monetary Fund (2007). *World Economic Outlook*. Washington D.C: IMF
- ◆ Aryeetey, E.,J. Harrigan and M. Nissanke (Ed), (2000). *Economic Reforms in Ghana: The Miracle and the Mirage*, Woeli Publishing Services, Accra
- ◆ Hug, M. M. (1989). *The Economy of Ghana*, Macmillian Publishing Company, London
- ◆ Kay, G.B. (1992). *The Political Economy of Colonialism in Ghana: A Collection of Documents and Statistics, 1900 –1960*. England: Gregg Revivals
- ◆ Hopkins, A. G. (1973). *Economic History of West Africa*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- ◆ Dickson, K.B.(1969). *The Historical Geography of Ghana*. London: Cambridge University Press.
- ◆ Dumett Raymond E. (2000). El Dorado in West Africa: The Gold-Mining Frontier, African Labor, and Colonial Capitalism in the Gold Coast, 1875-1900. *The Journal of Economic History*. Vol. 60(1): 260-263.