

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN STUDIES
COURSE OUTLINE – FIRST SEMESTER (2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR)

AFS 413: ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE GOLD COAST

Credit hours: 3

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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.

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 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 and final examination.

Grading policy

1. A quiz (15%), to be held on 19th October 2014 at 5:00 pm in FELT 3. The quiz will cover the fundamental concepts, the Guggisberg development theory and some of the additional readings. The specific additional readings that will be required for the quiz will be announced well ahead of the exam date.
2. In-class group presentations (25%). The class will be divided into small groups of 5-8 students to work on Gold Coast related projects. Each group is expected to make a 40-minute presentation and answer questions on an assigned topic, as well as turn in short write-ups. Group members will be assessed individually base on their contribution in both the presentation and the write-up. The presentations will take place during lecture hours and all AFS 413 students MUST be present.
3. Final exam (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. You are responsible for taking quizzes/tests/assignments/exams at scheduled times and for not missing them.

F. Reading list

- ◆ Yang, B. (2011). *The Rise and Fall of Cowrie Shells: The Asian Story*. Journal of World History, Vol. 22, No. 1.
- ◆ Walter, R. (2009). *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Washington D.C
- ◆ International Monetary Fund (2007). *World Economic Outlook*. Washington D.C: IMF
- ◆ Aryeetey, E., Harrigan, J. & Nisanke, M. (Ed), (2000). *Economic Reforms in Ghana: The Miracle and the Mirage*, Woeli Publishing Services, Accra
- ◆ Dumett, R. 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.
- ◆ Amenumey D.E.K. (1998), *A Concise History of Ghana from Pre Colonial Times to The Twentieth Century*, Woeli Publishing