**GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE STUDIES**

**MODULE AGCH111 INTRODUCTION TO ZIMBABWEAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

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**MODULE OUTLINE**

The module exposes the learners to the country’s cultural property, thus the tangible and intangible attributes of society, inherited from the past, maintained in the present and bestowed for social, economic and political advancement. Learners are introduced to the identification, preservation and safeguarding of Zimbabwean values (ubuntu/hunhu) and heritage in its diverse forms.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of the module is to equip students with an understanding of theoretical and practical approaches to key issues in the field of culture and heritage studies in Zimbabwe. Practical examples of tangible and intangible are used for debates on key theoretical and practical issues.

**TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

**Theories of Culture**

The topic is aimed at providing students with different perspectives of what culture is. Various definitions and theories of culture, including theories that explain spatial and temporal transformations of culture will be discussed. Examples will be drawn from Zimbabwe and other countries in Africa and beyond to enable students to understand culture from a global perspective.

1. Definitions

2. Introduction to different Zimbabwean ethnic groups and their culture

3. Different theories of culture

The topic is designed to enable students to gain an appreciation of the meaning of heritage studies as it relates to the Zimbabwean context. The topic takes a critical look at the way Zimbabweans preserve and present heritage.

1. Definitions

2. Types of heritage (Tangible vs intangible, Cultural vs natural, Movable vs Immovable )

3. Colonial heritage

4. Liberation Heritage

* Historic buildnings
* Archaeological heritage
* Natural heritage

**Heritage Conservation and Management in Zimbabwe**

1. Definition of Heritage conservation and Management.

2. The different forms/types of heritage.

3. The history and development of heritage management in Zimbabwe.

4. Protective legislation-Conventions, Charters, Acts in protecting archaeological heritage.

5. Formal and informal management systems (Traditional and State laws).

6. The management of Intangible heritage in light of the UNESCO 2003 Convention.

7. New concept of cultural heritage in Africa-Community involvement in the management of heritage with particular reference to Zimbabwe.

**Zimbabwean Traditional and Cultural Values**

The topic examines the traditional cultural values that for centuries moulded and shaped the Zimbabwean culture.

1. Marriage systems

2. Rainmaking ceremonies

3. Traditional dance

4. African Traditional Medicines

**Colonialism and Zimbabwean Cultural values**

The topic analyses how colonialism eroded the African cultural values. It further looks at the place of African cultural values in building an African identity.

Heritage Conservation

This topic involves analysis of the values of heritage sites. It further looks at international conventions and local laws concerning the protection of archaeological heritage; methods of research, restoration and presentation.

**Modernity, Globalisation and Zimbabwean Cultural Values**

The topic looks at the impact of modernity and globalisation on Zimbabwean cultural values such as lobola, language, dressing, circumcision etc.

**ESSENTIAL READING**

Kynan Gentry, ‘Introduction: Place, heritage and identity,’ in Kynan Gentry and Gavin McLean (eds), Heartlands: New Zealand historians write about where history happened, Auckland: Penguin, pp1326.

Strinati, Dominic. 2004, An Introduction to Theories of Popular Culture, 2nd edition, Routledge, London.

Ndoro W. 2001, Your Monument, Our Shrine: The Preservation and Management of Great Zimbabwe. Uppsala, Sweden.

Ndoro, W. 2003 Traditional and Customary Heritage Systems: Nostalgia or Reality? The Implications of Managing Heritage Sites in Africa in Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing s Sustainable Future for World Heritage. UNESCO

Pearson, M and Sullivan, S. 1995 Looking After Heritage Places: The basics of Heritage Planning for Managers, landowners and Administrators. Melbourne University Press, Victoria.

Rooster, M. 2003 Managing World Heritage Cultural Landscapes and Sacred Sites. In Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing a Sustainable Future for World Heritage, UNESCO.

Ranger, T. 1989. Whose Heritage? The case of Matobo National Park, Journal of Southern African Studies, Vol. 15, No.2 January 189, 217-249.

Sullivan, S. 2003. Local Involvement and Traditional Practices in the World Heritage System. In Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing a sustainable Future for the World Heritage, UNESCO