

Mizan-Tepi University
College of Social Science and Humanities
Department of Sociology
Course Outline

Background Information

Module Name: **Sociology of Ethiopian Societies**

Module Code: **SocM1031**

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Course Code: **SOCI11031**

Module ECTS: **5 ECTS**

Total Module Study Hour: **135 Hours**

1. Course Description

This course discusses issues pertaining to the development of the sociological study of Ethiopian society; the social structure and changing aspects of family, kinship and marriage, religion; aspects of politics and society in contemporary Ethiopia – issues regarding nationalism, secularism, communalism and regionalism associated with the current topics of positive discrimination of the ethnic and sex based disadvantaged groups. The core aim of the course is to enable students to think sociologically with regard to the social institutions of Ethiopia. To this end, it imparts to students the basic analytical skills required in understanding the interactions and interdependence between the various social institutions in Ethiopian society.

2. Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- ☞ Understand the different approaches to study Ethiopian society;
- ☞ Identify the nature and development of different social institutions in Ethiopian society;
- ☞ Explain such cross-cutting issues as HIV/AIDS and Gender within an Ethiopian context; and
- ☞ Discuss the historical development of sociological training and research in Ethiopia.

3. Course Content

Section One: Introduction to Contemporary Ethiopia - Historical Background; Culture; Land and Resources; Economy

Section Two: Basic Analytical Frameworks for Ethiopian Studies - Conventional Images of Ethiopia; A Far-Off Place; Ethiopia the Pious; A Magnificent Kingdom; Savage Abyssinia; A Bastion of African Independence; Scholarly Images and Assumptions ; An Outpost of Semitic Civilization; An Ethnic Museum; An Underdeveloped Country ; A Complex Evolving System

Section Three: Education and Society in Ethiopia - Education Pre-1900: Historical Roots of Education in Ethiopia; Education Since 1900; Higher Education In Ethiopia; Challenges of Education in Ethiopia

Section Four: Ethiopian Economy - General Overview of Ethiopian Economy; Urbanization in Ethiopia; Alternative Development Policies: Imperial and Dergue Regimes

Section Five: Aspects of Politics and Society in Contemporary Ethiopia - The Political History of Ethiopia; Structure of the Ethiopian Government; Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopia

Section Six: Religion in Ethiopia - Religious Practices in Ethiopia

Section Seven: Marriage and Family in Ethiopia - Marriage and Family in Ethiopia; Marriage; Family Structure in Ethiopia

Section Eight: Cross-Cutting Issues: Gender and HIV/AIDS - The Situation of Ethiopian Women; Gender and HIV/ AIDS; Gender Based Violence; Gender Parity; HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia; Overview of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia; Knowledge and Behavior Concerning HIV/AIDS; Impact of HIV/AIDS; National Response to HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia

Section Nine: Sociological Training and Research in Ethiopia - A Brief Historical Overview; The Relevance of Sociological Training and Research for Development; The Role of the Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists (ESSWA); Challenges of Sociological Training and Research in Ethiopia

3. Mode of Assessment

Assignment: Students are expected to identify a topic of interest that shows the significance of the issue for the Ethiopian reality. They should write a well articulated report and present their findings to the class. This assignment will account for 20% (write up 15% and presentation 5%) of total course mark.

- **Test:** 20%
- **Quiz:** 10%
- **Written Final Examination:** 50%

4. Reading Materials

Abbink, Jon (1997) "Ethnicity and Constitutionalism in Contemporary Ethiopia," *Journal of African Law*, 41, pp 159-174

BahiruZewde (2002) A History of Modern Ethiopia: 1855-1991, 2nd Edition, Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press

BahiruZewde (2008) Society, State and History: Selected Essays, Addis Ababa: Addis Ababa University Press

Bratton, Michael (1994) "Civil Society and Political Transition in Africa," *IDR Reports*, 11(6)

Donald Levine (1976) Greater Ethiopia: The Evolution of a Multiethnic Society, Chicago: Chicago University Press

Feleke Tadele (_____) The Relevance of Sociological Studies and Training for Social Realities, Development Policy and Practice in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Anthropologists (ESSSWA), Addis Ababa.

Hoot, L James, et al (August 2004) 'Early Education in Ethiopia: Progress and Prospects' in *Early Childhood Education Journal*, Vol 32, No 1,

Keller, Edmond J. (2008). Ethiopia. Microsoft® Encarta® 2009 [DVD]. Redmond, WA: Microsoft Corporation.

Library of Congress– Federal Research Division. (2005). Country Profile: Ethiopia.
Washington D.C. : U.S.A.

Pankhurst, Alula (1999) “Caste in Africa: The Evidence from Southwestern Ethiopia Reconsidered,” *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*, 69(4), pp 485-509

Pero (1972) “Which Way Ethiopia? Problems of an African Educational System,” *Mansfield College Magazine*, Oxford, 175, pp 4-7

Quirin, James (1998) “Caste and Class in Historical North-West Ethiopia: The Beta Israel (Falasha) and Kemant, 1300-1900,” *The Journal of African History*, 39(2), pp 195-220

Yeraswork Admassie and Gebre Yntiso (2006) *Sociological and Anthropological Training in Ethiopia* ‘African Sociological Review (10.1.2006)’. A Bi-annual Publication of CODESRIA , Dakar , Senegal.