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Ministry of Science and Higher Education - Ethiopia



THE GEOGRAPHY OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN

Syllabus Development Committee Members

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**Bishoftu
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I. Instructor Information

Address:

Department:

Email:

Mobile number:

Office hour:

Block and room number:

II. Course Information

Course name: Geography of Ethiopia and the Horn

Course code:

Credit hour/ ECTS: 3/5

Target group: All first year undergraduate students

III. Course Description

This course attempts to familiarize students with the basic geographic concepts particularly in relation to Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. It is also intended to provide students a sense of place and time (geographic literacy) that are pivotal in producing knowledgeable and competent citizens that are able to comprehend and analyze problems so that they act locally and globally to contribute to their solutions. The course consists of four parts. The first part provides a brief description on the location, shape and size of Ethiopia as well as basic skills of reading maps. Part two introduces the physical background and natural resource endowment of Ethiopia which includes its geology and mineral resources, topography, climate, drainage and water resources, soil, fauna and flora. The third part of the course focuses on the demographic characteristics of the country and its implications on economic development. The fourth component of the course offers treatment of the various economic activities of Ethiopia which include agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. Moreover, Ethiopia in a globalizing world is treated in the perspectives of the pros and cons of globalization on its natural resources, population and socio-economic conditions.

IV. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to:

- Describe the location, shape and size of Ethiopia and explain their implications on the physical environment, socioeconomic and political aspects.
- Elaborate the major geological events; the resultant landforms and mineral resources of Ethiopia and the Horn.

- Identify the major drainage systems and water resources of Ethiopia and their implications for regional development and integration.
- Develop an understanding of the climate of Ethiopia, its dynamics and implications on the livelihoods of its inhabitants.
- Examine the spatio-temporal distribution and abundance of natural vegetation, wildlife and Soil resources of Ethiopia.
- Discuss the demographic attributes and dynamics as well as the ethnic diversity of Ethiopia.
- Explicate the major types of economic activities in Ethiopia; discern their spatiotemporal distributions and their contributions to the overall development of the country.
- Evaluate the effects of globalization on the socioeconomic development of Ethiopian and the Horn.

V. Expected Learning Outcomes

- Acquire basic knowledge on the geographic attributes of Ethiopia and Horn
- Develop a sense of tolerance and appreciation of cultural diversities and their interactions
- Acquire general understanding of physical geographic processes, and human-environment relationships
- Develop ethical aptitudes and dispositions necessary to live in harmony with the natural environment
- Develop an understanding of national population distributional patterns and dynamics
- Conceptualize the comparative advantages of economic regimes; and understand the impacts of globalization.
- Understand their country's overall geographic conditions and opportunities; and be proud of the natural endowments and cultural richness that help them develop a sense of being an Ethiopian.

Course Contents

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION (4 hrs)

- 1.1. Definition and Concepts of Geography
- 1.2. Location, Shape and Size of Ethiopia
 - 1.2.1. Location and its effect
 - 1.2.2. The shape of Ethiopia and its implication
 - 1.2.3. The size of Ethiopia and its implications
 - 1.2.4. Reading and interpreting maps

CHAPTER TWO: THE GEOLOGY OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN (6hrs)

- 2.1. Introduction

- 2.2.The Geological Time scale and Age Dating Techniques
- 2.3.The Geologic Processes: Endogenic and Exogenic Forces
- 2.4.Geological Processes and the Resulting Landforms and Mineral Resources
 - 2.4.1. The Precambrian Era geologic processes and resultant features
 - 2.4.2. The Paleozoic Era geologic processes and resultant features
 - 2.4.3. The Mesozoic Era geologic processes and resultant features
 - 2.4.4. The Cenozoic Era geologic processes and resultant features
- 2.5.Rock Formations and Mineral Resources of Ethiopia

CHAPTER THREE: THE TOPOGRAPHY OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN (3hrs)

- 3.1.Introduction
- 3.2.Physiographic Divisions
 - 3.2.1. The Western Highlands and Lowlands
 - 3.2.2. The Southeastern Highlands and Lowlands
 - 3.2.3. The Rift Valley
- 3.3.The Impacts of Relief on Biophysical and Socioeconomic Conditions

CHAPTER FOUR: DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND WATER RESOURCES OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN (5hrs)

- 4.1. Introduction
- 4.2. Drainage Types and Patterns
- 4.3. Major Drainage Systems of Ethiopia
- 4.4. General Characteristics of Ethiopian Rivers
- 4.5. Water Resources: Rivers, Lakes, and Subsurface Water
- 4.6. Water Resources Potentials and Development in Ethiopia

CHAPTER FIVE: THE CLIMATE OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN (7hrs)

- 5.1. Introduction
- 5.2. Elements and Controls of Weather and Climate
- 5.3.Spatiotemporal Patterns and Distribution of Temperature in Ethiopia
- 5.4.Spatiotemporal Patterns and Distribution of Rainfall in Ethiopia
- 5.5.Agro-ecological Zones of Ethiopia
- 5.6.Climate and its Implications on Biophysical and Socioeconomic Aspects
- 5.7.Climate Change/Global Warming: Causes, Consequences and Adaptation Mechanisms

CHAPTER SIX: NATURAL VEGETATION, WILDLIFE AND SOILS OF ETHIOPIA AND THE HORN (6hrs)

6.1. Introduction

6.2.Types and Distribution of Natural Vegetations in Ethiopia

6.3.Natural vegetation: Uses, Degradation and Conservation Strategies

6.4.Wildlife Resources of Ethiopia: Types, Importance, and Conservation Strategies

6.5. Ethiopian Soils: Types, Degradation and Conservation

CHAPTER SEVEN: POPULATION OF ETHIOPIA (8hrs)

7.1. Introduction

7.2. Population Data: Uses and Sources

7.3. Population Dynamics: Fertility, Mortality and Migration

7.4. Population Distribution and Composition

7.5. Sociocultural Aspects of Ethiopian Population: Education, Health and Languages

7.6. Settlement Types and Patterns

CHAPTER EIGHT: ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA (9hrs)

8.1. Introduction

8.2. Ethiopian Agriculture

8.2.1. Contributions, potentials and characteristics of agriculture in Ethiopia

8.2.2. Agricultural systems in Ethiopia

8.2.3. Major problems of Ethiopian agriculture

8.3. Manufacturing in Ethiopia

8.3.1. Manufacturing: essence and contributions

8.3.2. Types, characteristics and distribution of manufacturing

8.3.3. Problems of industrial development in Ethiopia

8.4. The Service Sector in Ethiopia

8.4.1. Transportation in Ethiopia: types, roles and characteristics

8.4.2. Trade in Ethiopia: types, contributions and characteristics

8.4.3. Tourism in Ethiopia: Types, major tourist attraction sites, and challenges

➤ Teaching Methodology:

- Lecture, Peer/ group Discussion and Reflection, Reading Assignment.

➤ Assessment Techniques

- Paper & presentation (20 %); Mid exam (30 %); Final examination (50 %)

➤ Course Policy

As a student of this university, you are expected to abide by the code of conduct of students enshrined in the university's legislation. Academic dishonesty including cheating (exam or attendance), fabrication and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to concerned bodies for appropriate action. Moreover, you are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions through asking and answering questions, raising issues, giving constructive feedbacks, accomplishing and submitting assignments according to the program schedule. You are also expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken regularly and any absenteeism without tangible reasons will severely affect your performance and grade. Side talks, moving chairs and creating all sorts of disturbance are intolerable. If you miss 20% of the class attendance, you will be cancelled from the course. You should come to the class in time. You are not permitted to enter the class if you are late by more than 10 minutes. You are also supposed to come to class with your appropriate learning materials like note book, handouts and other reference materials.

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