Course Title: Geography of Ethiopia and the Horn

Course Code: GeES 1011

Course Description

The course Geography of Ethiopia and the Horn is intended to familiarize students with the basic geographic concepts particularly in relation to Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. It is also meant to provide students a sense of place and time (geographic literacy) that are pivotal in producing knowledgeable and competent citizens who are able to comprehend and analyze spatial problems and contribute to their solutions. To be geographically illiterate is to deny oneself not only the ability to comprehend spatial problems but also the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of policies for dealing with them. As such, the course provides an opportunity for the reader to understand the implications of the location, shape and size of Ethiopia, as well as the country's physical and human resources diversity and abundance on its socioeconomic development.

Course content

The course consists of four parts and organized in eight chapters.

- 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 and the Horn 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 and the Horn which include agriculture, manufacturing and the 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.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Comprehend the meaning, scope and themes of Geography.

- Explicate the implications of location, shape and size of Ethiopia and the Horn on the physical environment, socioeconomic and political aspects.
- Analyze the geologic processes and the resultant land forms of Ethiopia and the Horn.
- Describe the topography of Ethiopia and the Horn.
- Describe the major drainage systems in Ethiopia and the Horn,
- Analyze climate and weather and their implications on biophysical and socioeconomic aspects
- Identify soils, natural vegetation and wildlife resources of Ethiopia and the horn Develop an understanding of the population characteristics and dynamics of Ethiopia and the Horn
- Identify economic activities of Ethiopia and the horn

Method of delivery

Lecture, discussion, group and individual work and presentation, personal readings

Method of evaluation

- Class attendance and participation (10%)
- Test and Quiz (20%)
- Group assignment (15%)
- Individual assignment (15%)
- Final exam (40%)

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