Subject: The course introduces the student to the art, ideas and literature which reflect fundamental notions of African civilization. Our purpose is to investigate these creative works to discover the values which characterize and define what may be distinctively African. We will range from the splendors of ancient Egypt to the creativity of modern West Africa. We examine art, literature, architecture and music.

Required Book Purchases:
- Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
- Cutter, *African Civilization* (Readings: Aztec Shops)
- Gillon, *A Short History of African Art*
- Niane, *Sundiata*
- Piqué, *Palace Sculptures of Abomey*
- Shillington, *History of Africa* (Revised Edition)

Readings: Readings emphasize the general historical background, developments in the various arts and the primary materials which provide a sense of the cultures we examine. Readings may be extensive at times and are absolutely essential to understand lectures and participate in class discussions. Always try to relate each of the assigned readings to one another, to the general historical background and, as we progress, to things you have read earlier in the class. Be prepared to look up words you do not know in a handy dictionary.

Reading Quizzes: Given the importance of the readings, periodic unannounced ("pop") quizzes will be administered to keep students on track with their assignments.

Listening: A cassette of African music will be available for students to make copies of or to listen to in the Media and Curriculum Center of the Library (basement level).

Research paper: Each student will write an eight-page comparative essay contrasting the observations of West Africa by the Arab Historians with those of the African traditionalist in *Sundiata*.

Exams: There will be two exams in the class. Each will summarize a section of the course. Each exam will consist of two parts: 1) identification, analysis and discussion of art works (sculpture, architecture); 2) brief essays on the people, places, and ideas that characterize the times and places examined. These two sections will be written in class in traditional blue books. Exam #2 will also have a "Map-Awareness" section.

Student Evaluation: Student grades will be based on the two exams and the research paper. Each exam is worth 25% of the student's grade. The research paper is worth 40% of the student's grade. Reading quizzes and class discussion will account for 10%.

Course Outline

2 September  Introduction

9 September  Ancient Egypt

16 September  Egypt and Africa; Africa and the West
   Required Reading: Shillington, *History*, pp. 36-48
   Gillon, *A Short History of African Art*, 55-74