HIS 321: Economic History of West Africa Since 1800

Course Description: The course examines resources and productivity in the domestic economy of West Africa in relation to the development of the export sector, the establishment of the colonial economy and the formulation of national and regional strategies for modernization. Special attention will be placed on the relationship between economic development and social change.

Objectives: At the end of the course students are expected to be familiar with the economic systems in pre-colonial West Africa, the factors of production in pre-colonial West Africa. The course is also expected to discuss the establishment of colonial economy and the formulation of national and regional strategies for modernization as well as look at the relationship between economic development and social change.

Course Outline

1. Introduction.

2. The Pre-colonial West African Economic System.

3. External trade: The Atlantic Trade and the Abolition Debate

4. The colonial economy.
   
a. Economic Rationale behind Imperialism
   
b. Economic model of colonialism: Open and Closed economy
   
c. Challenges of the Open economy.

5. Economic Integration in West Africa: The formation of ECOWAS.
References:


.G.O. Ogunremi, Counting the Camels: The Economics of Transportation in Pre-Industrial Nigeria (New York: B.W. Hodder, 1982.)


