

— ♦ GST 112 ♦ —

NIGERIAN PEOPLE AND CULTURE

— ♦ —

*Understanding Our People, Valuing Our Heritage,
— ♦ Building Our Nation ♦ —*



— TEAM OF CONTRIBUTORS/LECTURERS: —

- Eke Udochu, PhD, Fcaars
- Dr Ikenna Unya Ukpabi
- Dr Chiedozie Ifeanyichukwu Atuonwu
- Dr Walter Emerole

— ♦ —
© 2025 School of General Studies, MOUAU

GST 112

Nigerian peoples and Culture

Team of contributors/Lecturers:

1. Eke Udochu, PhD, Fcaars
2. Dr Ikenna Unya Ukpabi
3. Dr Chiedozie Ifeanyichukwu Atuonwu
4. Dr Walter Emerole

© 2025 School of General Studies, MOUAAU

E-mail: sgs@mouau.edu.ng

All rights reserved. No part of this publication should be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by a means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written and signed permission of the author.

**A publication of the School of General Studies
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike**

First Edition

ISBN:

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The production of this course book represents a landmark step in the academic life of the School of General Studies (SGS) at Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. It is the outcome of sustained deliberations, careful planning and the institutional will to standardize and strengthen the General Studies curriculum in line with national and global best practices.

At its 240th Academic Board meeting of 4th February 2025, the Board, after extensive deliberation, resolved that the proliferation of individually authored books by lecturers was neither sustainable nor consistent with the integrity of SGS. It was therefore approved that henceforth, every unit in SGS would produce only one standardized course book, to take effect from the 2025/2026 academic session. This decision was further consolidated in the 242nd meeting of 8th April 2025, where the Board set July 2025 as the deadline for units to conclude their drafts. At the 244th meeting of 21st August 2025, the Board refined the process by stipulating clear timelines and ground norms for internal quality assurance. These included that every book must be:

Authored collectively by the team of lecturers in the course.

Uniform in structure and presentation

Cost-effective and student-friendly

Inclusive of index, preface and a foreword by an external professor

Produced in A4 size, not exceeding 100 pages

The Board also resolved that draft copies must be presented for review and quality control before final printing.

This course book, therefore, is not the product of arbitrary effort but the fruit of team authorship, collective scholarship and due process. It reflects the seriousness with which SGS approaches its mandate of nurturing well-rounded graduates through the compulsory General Studies programme prescribed by the Core Curriculum Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) and MOUUAU as a University.

I am convinced that this course book stands as a model of institutional authorship and academic integrity. It not only meets the standards set by the SGS Academic Board but also represents a commendable benchmark in the history of General Studies at MOUUAU. It is, therefore, highly recommended for the guidance of all students and lecturers alike.

Signed:

Eke Udochu, PhD, Fcaars

Ag. Director, School of General Studies

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike

FORWARD:

Like a tsunami, a deeply rooted craft of intellectual inquiry anchored on patriotic and nationalistic investigation, the authors of this volume have, in a ground breaking manner reminiscent of strong scholarship devoid of bias and subjectivity, unearthed the deeply hidden, and largely unmentioned aspects of the cultures, traditions and the ethical underpinnings of the Nigerian peoples with a view to infusing essence of true citizenship and cultural pride in the reader.

As a remarkable scholarly work that is casted on the marble of ground intellectualism, the book, in its attempt to showcase that which is culturally salient and evidently essential, traced the historical origins of the variegated, but ultimately united ethnic groups of Nigeria, and pushed on with remarkable success as it explores Nigeria's political evolution with a mindset of striking a balance between the old and the new political order, while revealing aspects of continuity in the face of socio-political and cultural upheavals/challenges through which Nigeria has evolved.

As a mainstream study dedicated to introducing students and freelance readers to the socio-cultural, ethical, political and civic realities that define and determine Nigerian peoples essence and sustainability, the contributors to this intellectual piece, have in a rare and uncommon mannerism reminiscent of profound and deeply engrained understanding of the cultures and peoples of Nigeria, provoked salient and silent questions about Nigerian peoples' cultural, nationalistic ethos and patriotic nationalism premised on leadership resolve to save Nigeria from toxic external influences, as it thus, challenges all and sundry to partake from the fountain of knowledge this study guarantees.

Convinced therefore about the rich content of this volume and it's alignment with the curriculum on Nigerian peoples and cultures, I, therefore, make bold to recommend it for both specific and general studies.

Johncliff Nwadike, Former Commissioner of Education, Imo State.

Professor of African History, Department of History and International Studies, Imo State University, Owerri.

PREFACE:

The unique identity of a people is, a reflection of their arts, beliefs, institutions and all products of work and thoughts. The centrality of this group identification, aptly described as culture, is laced by its ability to foster deep-rooted sense of belonging, confidence and pride.

Conceived as a multi-dimensional area of study, which embraces tradition, politics, commerce, technology, etc., the study of culture which this volume espouses, touches on the very fabric of the heterogenic stock of beings that inhabit the Nigeria land scape.

In so far as Nigerian cultural study is germane, the high sense of pedantry and artful application of scholastic professionalism expressed in witticism, with which the authors of this volume, four in number- Associate Professor Eke Udochu; Fcaars, Associate Professor Ikenna Unya Ukpabi, Associate Professor Chiedozi Atuonwu and Dr. Emerole Walter G. have approached the study, underscores investigative and objective excursion into the realm of Nigerian cultural evolution, values and identity that have long defied comprehensive scholastic attention.

In no small measure therefore, the findings of this painstaking endeavour- the inaugural volume, though selective in its topics of interest, hopefully reminds the reader of the erosions and suppressions which Nigerian cultures and its people have endured over the years.

Yet with resilience and focused citizenship orientation, the peoples of Nigeria are re-assured of the hope which the light of cultural awareness and historical facts that brightens the pathways for sustained nationalism through patriotic citizenship brings.

Consequently, the study is a re-assurance of who we are as a people, a beacon of hope, a conscience of fraternal nationalism devoid of ethnic, religious and tribal bigotry, and a peep into that which we hope to become as a nation.

.....

Emerole, Walter G.,
Doctor of Economic and Social History,
Senior Lecturer,
School of General Studies,
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preliminary Pages

Title Page

Copyright Notice

Publication Information

From the Director's Desk

Foreword

Preface

Module 1: History, Memory and Cultural Identity

Module 2: Conceptual Foundations of Culture and Society

Module 3: Foundations of Nigerian Culture and Civilization in Precolonial Times

Module 4: The Triple Pillars - Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo Peoples and Cultures

Module 5: Beyond the Tripod: The Ethnic Minorities and Array of Nigeria's Culture

Module 6: Nigeria under Colonial Rule and the Road to Nationhood

Module 7: From Amalgamation to Independence

Module 8: Nigeria Nationhood in Crisis

Module 9: Trade, Craftsmanship and Skill Acquisition in Cultural Context

Module 10: Social Justice, Judiciary, And the Protection of human Rights In Nigeria.

Module 11: Norms, Values And Civil Responsibilities In Nigeria Society.

Module 12: Moral Reorientation and the Quest for National Values

Module 13: Nigeria in the 21st Century-Socio-Political and Cultural Developments

Module 14: Towards a Culturally Conscious and Unified Nigeria