

## **Outline #1**

### **Native North America and West Africa before the 16<sup>th</sup> Century**

Overview: One way to think about the development of the United States is to see it as the product of interaction between peoples from the Americas, Africa, and Europe. To that end, we will examine selected societies in Native North America, Africa, and Europe prior to 1492. (This handout covers North American and Africa; future handouts will address Europe.)

#### I. American Indian Diversity (clip: *The West*, pt. 1: “When Dogs Could Talk”)

A. Case Study. Please divide into groups. Each group will receive a brief history of a particular Indian society – Cherokee, Iroquois, Nez Perce, Isleta Pueblo -- emphasizing that group’s way of life prior to contact with Europeans. Please read the history and answer as many of the questions as you can.

1. Where did your group live in pre-contact times? Where is the group today?
2. What were the major economic activities (hunting, farming, herding, etc.)?
3. What sort of government did they have? Was there a central government or did each village, town, band, etc. have autonomy?
4. What were some key cultural and/or religious beliefs and practices?
5. What were some of the results of contact with Europeans and Euro-Americans

#### II. African Diversity

A. Case Study: Please divide into groups. Each group will receive a brief history of a particular African society – Ghana, Mali, and Songhay and Igbo -- emphasizing that group’s way of life before the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Please read your document and answer as many of the following as best you can.

1. Where did your group live?
2. What was the economic basis of the society you read about? What were the major economic activities (hunting, farming, trade, herding, etc.)?
3. What sort of government existed? Was there a central government or did each village, town, band, etc. have autonomy?
4. What were some key cultural and/or religious beliefs and practices?
5. How did the African society you read about seem similar to the American Indian societies we discussed? In what ways did they seem different?