

POPULAR UNIVERSITY OF NIAMEY

For the sharing of knowledge and the development of critical thought



Niamey - Niger

The Project

Reasons:

The desire for knowledge is significant: The debates, forums, meetings, seminars, summer schools, the success of the classical Latin bookshops or essays, the increase of the publisher's collection of ideas, all show a genuine and urgent demand for knowledge. The offer wavers between the elitists of the University and the improvisation of "Café philo", one that imitates the social system and often reduces the philosophical practice to single conversation.

The Principle

The popular University holds on to the quality of exchanged information from the Traditional University, the principle cycle which envisages personal progress, the necessity of content handed down from all discussions. Critical use of knowledge, interactivity and dialogue practices as a means of access to the contents.

OPERATION

The basic principles of the popular University of Niamey are: free education, no age requirements, no requisite qualifications demanded, no registration, no student assessment and no examinations. Classes take place once a week for a session of two hours. The operating activities of popular university of Niamey are identical to a training and research group of university staff. This university will be developed under the frame of the traditional association not lucrative named "BUNKASSA BEYREY -APPS" arrêté n° 172 / MI/ 13/04/2006. the main guidelines were made by a scientific comity. Each course in under the supervision of a member of scientist team. The list of the participants (there academic function) are available in the website of popular university of Niamey.

PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with the Popular University in Caen set up in 2002 by Michel Onfray, and other popular university in Europe. The Popular University of Niamey will be a new location of learning and intellectual opening for all inhabitants of Niger, this university which is entirely free is meant to be a place of sharing knowledge, easy access, no preliminary registration and no demand for qualifications, the Popular University of Niamey will be a nomadic university which seeks to show the way of knowledge from the following programs: philosophy, sociology, history, art and literature, musicology. The subjects, academic cycle and the venue of these courses will be specified subsequently.

The basic activities of (PUN) are financed through self funding. The PUN receive others supports (computer accessories, etc.).

Any other kind of support that will contribute to the best functioning of the popular university are accepted.

TEACHING PROGRAMMES

LANGUAGES

Language courses: French, English, Spanish and African language (Hausa, Sonrai, Tamajek, Fulfuldé) for beginners. These courses are intended for adults desiring to acquire some basic knowledge of these languages or to increase their knowledge. Learning of basic vocabularies and pronunciations, orals, phonetics, grammar and comprehension texts are all put in place. Help is given to students with difficulty and evening French classes are organized by volunteers for adults in small groups.

ARTS, LITERATURE AND HUMANITIES

It is a university which intends to examine man across the study of arts, literary works, the developments of history and human relations. This theme explores innovations in cultural life in Africa societies. There are long traditions of innovation in several aspects of religious, political and social life across Africa as peoples and communities have encountered new ideas and other people, and selectively adapted aspects of their practices and usages to suit their changing circumstances.

LAW, GENDER, CULTURES AND SOCIETIES

It is about giving methodological and pluridisciplinary knowledge to students. The department endeavours to cut across the historical angle of law, political philosophy, sociology and social sciences. This theme explores the linkages between livelihoods, persons, resources and the politics of belonging or exclusion. Production involves utilization of new resources, often leading to commodification of and the scramble for resources, new social relations, and the movement of people within and across countries and regions. In the process, those with power get to define customary sets of values and laws which then give them control of resources, often around some notion of place, outsiders, citizens and migrants with different and unequal rights. The results of this politics of belonging are increasing contestations and disputes over rights and obligations, different notions of ethnicity and citizenship, cultural, human and women's rights, xenophobia, and the rights to a livelihood.

PHILOSOPHY

The subject revolves around an inaugural unit: humanism and the values of respect and dignity which goes with materialism, evolutionism, internationalism, human fraternity, atheism, human perfectibility. Self knowledge, rationalism, spiritualism (the spirit envisaged as an entity emerging from the psyche or the mind and not as a reality pre-existing or transcendent to human beings), anti-metaphysical approach, the splendour of the world, human rights and freedom, the sharing of ideas, altruism, brotherhood, tolerance, free will and free thinking, democracy, secularism, progress, respect of life under all forms, the search of the truth, love, justice and freedom, the need for internal development for our blooming, seeking new challenges, harmony between man and cosmos, access to our greatest human fulfillment.

LASTING ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

The objective of this course is to offer knowledge in the field of economy and in the management of natural resources of the environment. Emphasis is placed on the links with technological and economical development. This department, in the same way, intends to put together the economic theories concerning management method (water, energy, transport, agriculture) revolving around social perceptions about the problems linked to the life span of development.

SCIENCES

Courses on the history and the philosophy of fundamental sciences. (Public Health, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology).

THEATRE, CINEMA, MUSIC

Courses in this department sets out to provide structured and parallel knowledge on artistic, musical, cinematographical and literary development than improving the techniques and favouring cultural intermixture across showbiz management.

For further information contact:

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