

Western Social Science

Geography 2030A Africa South of the Sahara Course Outline Fall 2013

Location:	Social Science Centre, 3028
Lecture:	Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Instructor:	Jenna Dixon
Office:	Social Science Centre 1430
Office Hours:	Thursdays, 10 – 11AM, or by appointment
Contact:	Please contact me via <u>OWL internal messages</u> <u>ONLY</u> (not uwo email). This ensures messages may stay organized and you get a timely manner
Teaching Assistants:	TBA

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility:

There are no listed antirequisites, prerequisites or corequisites in the Western 2013 Academic Calendar. See: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg915.html#34783>

Course Description (0.5 course)

This course provides an introduction to the geography of sub-Saharan Africa. It takes a systematic approach, by examining key historical experiences, environmental, political, social and economic processes of the region. Attention will also be paid to the cultural, political, environmental and economic diversity and specific historical experiences of different regions within sub-Saharan Africa. Major themes explored during the course include: pre-colonial and colonial and post-colonial authoritarian history, structural adjustment, issues of gender and development, the spatial organization of economic activity, recent demographic shifts and urbanization trends, and the health geography of the region, including the geographies of HIV/AIDS and new prospects for health care within the continent.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the course, the students are expected to be able to:

- ✓ Understand both the diversity and some commonalities (social, environmental, political, historical, economic) of sub-Saharan Africa
- ✓ Understand some crucial roots of common social, environmental and economic issues faced by people in sub-Saharan Africa
- ✓ Critically assess how sub-Saharan Africa is depicted more broadly in relation to the course material

Course materials:

Course Textbook – *Aryeetey Attoh, S. (2010). Geography of sub-Saharan Africa, Third Edition. New York: Prentice Hall.* → Available through many sources, so you most likely will not have to buy it new. Check for used copies, or at the library.

Readings – All online readings can be accessed through OWL. Please check the lecture schedule to find out what is to be read prior to each class (i.e., the readings are the basis for in-class discussion).

Evaluation:

Participation	10%
Quiz	10%
Mid-term exam	25%
Assignment	15%
Final exam	40%

Notes:

- Participation is based on both your presence and engagement in class discussions.
- The quiz will cover all information to date, essential for progress in the course. This will be discussed further in class.
- Both the midterm and the final exam will test your in-depth understanding of events, more general processes and concepts, and your ability to synthesize and think critically regarding the information covered in from both lectures and course readings.

Communication with the Instructor

I am happy to help you with any problems you might have with the course, by OWL internal email (messages), during my office hours, or by appointment. I am also open to suggestions for improving the course. I am always willing to provide feedback, preferably in person. For organizational purposes I ask that you only email through OWL MESSAGES, and not the regular UWO email accounts.

Course Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

#	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading
1	Tues Sept 10 th	Course overview & introduction to sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Where do our images and ideas of SSA come from?	AA Chapter 2
2	Tues Sept 17 th	The Map and Physical Geography of Africa	AA Chapters 1 & 3
3	Tues Sept 24 th	The Historical Geography of Africa	AA Chapter 5 Sherwood (2004)
4	Tues Oct 1 st	Quiz: 1 hour in class After quiz: Guest Lecture	--
5	Tues Oct 8 th	Post-Colonial State Building, the Cold War & Authoritarian Rule in SSA. Debt and Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP)	AA Chapter 6 SAPRI Report (2004)
6	Tues Oct 15 th	Geography, Gender and Development in SSA	AA Chapter 12
7	Tues Oct 22 nd	Midterm exam: 2 hours in class	--
8	Tues Oct 29 th	Spatial organization of economic Activity: Industrialization and Urban Geography in SSA	AA Chapters 11 & 15
9	Tues Nov 5 th	Population Geography: population change, demographic transitions, international migration	AA Chapter 8
	*note, last day to drop first term half or full courses		
10	Tues Nov 12 th	Medical Geography I: Disease Ecologies in SSA	AA Chapter 13
11	Tues Nov 19 th	Medical Geography II: New Frontiers in Accessing Healthcare Assignment 1 due in class	WHO (2010) Chapter 1 Where are we now? <i>Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage</i>
12	Tues Nov 26 th	Globalization and SSA	AA Chapter 16
13	Tues Dec 3 rd	Revisions and Review	
Final Exam, TBA			

Statement on Accommodation for Medical Illness

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Statement on Academic Offences

Members of the University Community accept a commitment to maintain and uphold the purposes of the University and, in particular, its standards of scholarship. It follows, therefore, that acts of a nature which prejudice the academic standards of the University are offences subject to discipline. Any form of academic dishonesty that undermines the evaluation process, also undermines the integrity of the University's degrees. The University will take all appropriate measures to promote academic integrity and deal appropriately with scholastic offences. Please see this website for more information:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Additionally, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also

wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

UWO Geography Undergraduate Advisor: Angelica Lucaci alucaci@uwo.ca