

Western University
Department of Geography
GEOGRAPHY 2030A: Africa South of the Sahara
Fall 2014

Instructor Information:

Name: Riley Dillon, ABD (Geography)
Office: Room 2223, Social Sciences Building
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00pm-2:00pm (or by appointment)
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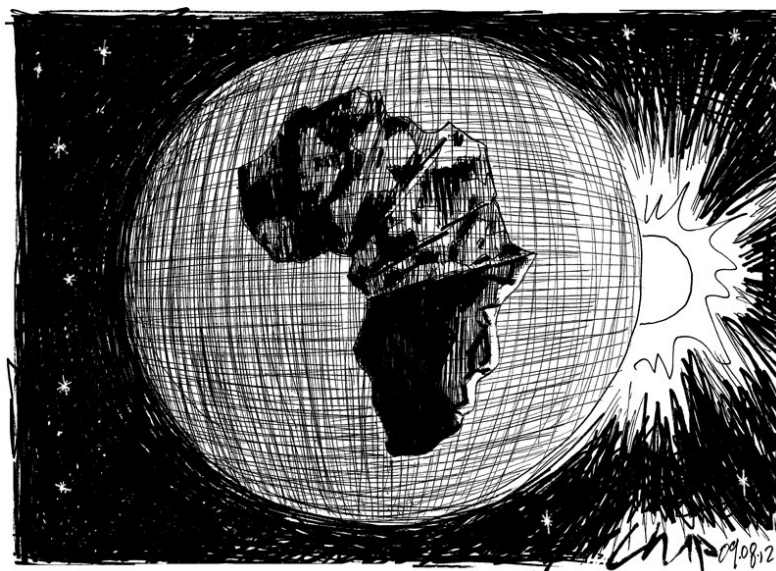
Teaching Assistants:

Name: Vincent Kuuire – Responsible for students with surnames A-K
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Name: Joseph Kangmennaang – Responsible for students with surnames L-Z
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Lecture Information:

Lecture Date/Time: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am
Location: Social Sciences Building, Room 3022
Prerequisites: There are no listed prerequisites, anti-requisites or co-requisites in the 2014 Western Academic Calendar. See
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg915.html#34783>



http://africartoons.com/sites/default/files/images/20120809w_Chip_CArgus.jpg

Course Description (0.5 course)

This course provides an introduction to the geography of Africa south of the Sahara. The course will take a systematic approach. Economic, political, social and environmental issues will be examined with a focus on contemporary patterns of change within the context of the global economy. The diversity and specific historical experiences of different regions within the continent will also be considered. Major themes include: people and space; daily lives in Africa south of the Sahara; rural and urban development; political violence; poverty & hunger.

Course Rationale

By the end of this course, students will have specific knowledge of people and places in Africa south of the Sahara and a broad knowledge of key concepts needed to understand the geography of this region. Attention will be given to the proper introduction of selected key concepts including poverty, gender, development, colonialism, globalization, sustainability and culture at the beginning of the course. These concepts will be used as conceptual tools in subsequent sections of the course to understand key issues in the region.

Course Format

The course consists of two lecture hours per week. Lectures will consist of a mixture of traditional lecture format and discussion with an emphasis on active learning activities during the second half of selected lectures. These activities will involve a combination of discussion, skill development workshops and multimedia presentations. To be successful these activities require students not only to attend class but also to come prepared (having completed required readings) to discuss prominent issues and engage in dialogue with their classmates.

Course Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of competing viewpoints on economic, political, social and environmental issues in Africa south of the Sahara.
- To foster critical insights into development issues affecting the region.
- To expose students to a range of case study material from a variety of geographical contexts.
- To demonstrate the utility of geographical analysis in understanding patterns of development across scales from the local to the global.

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course you should be able to:

- Identify and demonstrate awareness of diverse cultures, ethnicities and other social groups within the region.
- Use a geographical perspective to draw explanatory connections between social, political and economic processes operating at various scales within the region.
- Demonstrate informed and critical awareness of the challenges, constraints and opportunities facing people in Africa south of the Sahara.

Attendance

Attendance at lectures is optional, but **strongly recommended**. Students are responsible for keeping up with course material from missed lectures i.e. find someone in class to rely on should you be absent from a class. **Do not** ask the lecturer or TAs for notes, we will not provide them.

Preparation for lectures

Students are required to complete all assigned readings **prior to class** so that you may participate fully in planned and impromptu discussions about related content throughout the lecture. I will provide a scaled down electronic version of all PowerPoint lectures on the OWL site by 9pm on the day prior (Monday) to lectures. This basic version of the lecture presentation provides students with an additional platform for note taking and is by no means a replacement for attending class and taking detailed notes. Please note that the full version of the PowerPoint lecture **will not** be provided to students, you are expected to attend and take additional notes and seek notes from your peers for absences.

Communication with the Instructor and TAs

We are happy to help you with any questions or concerns you might have with the course by email, in-person during offices hours or by appointment but ask you to do the following:

- Contact your assigned TA first (see page 1 for details)
- Use appropriate format and tone
- If you have not received a response from the TA within 72 hours or have a question regarding the organizational structure of the course or you are going to miss an assignment/quiz deadline due to an accommodated issue then please contact the instructor first.

Email Etiquette & Guidelines

While we are happy to respond to your queries by email please keep in mind that all course communication should be written in a format and tone appropriate for interacting with a course instructor. **You should allow up to 48 hours excluding weekend/holidays for a response to your email.** Please take this into consideration when asking questions about quizzes, exams, and assignments. Below are guidelines for constructing an appropriate email in this course.

1. Review the course outline and assignment instructions before sending emails: **the answer may already be provided.**
2. Begin your email with a proper salutation, "Hello/Hi Riley/Joseph/Vincent" is acceptable, "Heya" or the absence of a salutation is not acceptable.
3. **Do not BCC multiple TAs or the TA and instructor,** send your email to one individual
4. Include the course code and a description of your inquiry (GEOG2030A: Quiz question/Appointment request/Lecture question/Exam question) in the subject line
5. Review your composition for spelling and grammar errors before submitting.
6. Please avoid using acronyms (LOL, etc) and emoticons in your email.
7. Close the email with an appropriate signature including your full name and student number.

Student Assessment

Evaluation of your performance in the course will be based on the following components:

- In-class quizzes 35% (15% + 20%)
- Book Review 25%
- Final Exam 40%

Detailed information regarding each component is listed below. Please note that quizzes take place during class time, from 10:30-11:20am. As such attendance at all lectures is highly encouraged.

In-class Quizzes – 35% (Quiz 1=15% + Quiz 2=20%)

Date: September 30, October 28 10:30am-11:20am

Two quizzes will take place during lecture time and will be factually based and may incorporate map-based questions, multiple choice, fill-in the blank, short and long answer questions. The two quizzes will test student's knowledge of places (human and physical), events, spatial processes, groups and notable individuals in the region. The content will be drawn from the textbook, lecture materials and other sources as indicated in class. As quizzes will evaluate factual knowledge no electronic devices or written materials will be permitted during the quiz without prior requests for accommodation. **Washroom breaks will not be permitted during quiz time without prior notice given for a medical reason.** *The discovery of academic misconduct during a quiz will result in an immediate zero on the quiz and the incident will be reported to the Department of Geography Chair for further reprimand if applicable.*

If you miss a quiz for a justifiable reason please contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. Upon receiving confirmation of any approved absence the quiz may be rewritten during office hours or another mutually agreed upon time. University policy on this issue states **“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”**

Final Exam – 40%

Date/Location: TBD

The final exam will be scheduled according to the University examinations timetable between December 6-17. The exact date, time and location is yet to be determined. The exam will be 3 hours in duration. The exam is designed to allow students to apply knowledge and skills gained in class lectures, readings and activities to real-world problems in the region. The format will include both short answer and essay style questions. You are expected to provide your answers in appropriate essay format including an introduction, body paragraph(s) and a conclusion. A course overview and exam preparation session is scheduled for the final day of lectures on December 2nd.

Book Review – 25%

Due: November 18 Poor time management does not warrant a late submission

A hard copy of your 1500-2000 word review of your chosen book is due at the beginning of lecture on November 18. An electronic copy must be submitted via the course site on OWL by 9:30am of the same day. This assignment is an opportunity for you to use the analytical and conceptual tools developed in lectures to read and provide a critical assessment of a piece of literature written by or about people living in Africa south of the Sahara. The purpose of the assignment is to expose students to a diversity of literature being produced in and about the region while providing a practical opportunity to apply knowledge and skills developed in this course. A list of book titles will be provided on the first day of lecture. ***You are responsible for gaining approval of your chosen book in-person or via email from your assigned TA by September 16th.***

Weekly Topics & Assigned Readings

Dates	Assessments	Assigned Reading	Lecture Topics
September 9	none	Chapter 10: The African Past	Course Overview and Introduction of Key Concepts Pre-colonial Africa
September 16	You must notify your assigned TA of your book selection	Chapter 11: The Colonial Legacy	Mapping Africa South of the Sahara Colonial SSA
September 23		Chapter 12: Independent Africa: Politics and Development	Postcolonial Africa
September 30	Quiz 1 10:30-11:20am	Chapter 16: Africa in the World Economy	Guest Lecture: Cameroon
October 7		Chapter 13: Population Distribution	Daily lives in Africa south of the Sahara: Population Mobility
October 14		Chapter 29: Social Policy: The Health Sector	Geographies of Health in SSA
October 21		Chapter 19: Indigenous Food Production Systems Chapter 20: Agrarian Development and Change	Rural and Agricultural Development

October 28	Quiz 2 10:30-11:20am	Chapter 23: Urban economies	Urban development
November 4		Chapter 6: Gender Dynamics: Men and Women in African Societies	Guest Lecture: Practicing Gender
November 11	Liam Guest Lecture Gender Hates Men	Chapter 25: Mineral and Energy Resources	Conservation and Resources Guest Lecture: Ghana
November 18	Book Review Due at 9:30am	Chapter 21: Food Security	Guest Lecture: Food Security Case studies of Political Violence
November 25		Chapter 28: Living in Poverty Chapter 30: Children in Africa: Prospects for the Next Generation	Childhoods and Poverty
December 2		Revision & Review	Course review and exam preparation

The second half of lectures are designed to complement lecture material while emphasizing more active learning techniques. The form of these activities will vary from week to week but may include group discussion and debate, quantitative analysis, library and writing based exercises and viewing

film material. **These activities form an integral part of the course and their content is examinable.**

Compulsory Reading

There is a prescribed textbook for this course, available from the UWO bookstore. Ideally you should purchase your own copy. However, a copy is also available on reserve at Weldon library.

Textbook bibliographic details:

Stock, Robert. (2013) Africa South of the Sahara: A Geographical Interpretation 3rd Edition. The Guilford Press: New York.

Additional readings such as relevant newspaper articles, websites or journal articles may also be recommended during the course. You are encouraged to read independently regarding issues pertinent to the region from both online and print sources.

Additional Resources

Journals: Weldon Library subscribes to a number of national and international journals based on African research. You can access these online resources via the library catalogue. Below is a list of relevant journals:

Canadian Journal of African Studies

African Geographical Review

Journal of Southern African Studies

Third World Quarterly

Africa Development

African Studies Review

Books: There is a large academic and popular literature on historical and current Africa. One of the assignments for this course requires you to choose a non-academic book (e.g. novel, travel writing, autobiography) to review. Detailed instructions are provided in this course outline. A list of potential book titles will be provided during the first course lecture.

Think Tanks:

Africa Population and Health Research Center – <http://aphrc.org>

Africa Portal – <http://www.africaportal.org>

African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies -

Centre for Global Development - <http://international.cgdev.org>

Development Organization Websites: I suggest you browse the websites of major international development institutions and national government agencies for development.

- www.undp.org

- <http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/index.aspx?lang=eng>

- www.oxfam.org

News media: Print newspapers, documentaries, news broadcasts on television, radio or online streaming are also good sources of current information on countries and people in Africa. I've listed a few examples below to get you started.

- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.aljazeera.ca
- www.globalandmail.ca

Social media: Blogs, Facebook, Twitter and other social media often contain large amounts of information on current social, political and economic issues in the region. Not all of it is reliable but still a valuable source for you to consider (critically) as it provides unfiltered and often firsthand experiences. For an example see, *Africa is a Country* at www.africaisacountry.com. They also have a Facebook page.

Scholastic Offences and Plagiarism
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, which is a scholastic offence.

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 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.

Late Work

The deadline for your book review assignment will be strictly enforced. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, and a grade of 0% will be recorded if work is submitted more than a week late. If you have genuine extenuating circumstances and cannot submit an assignment on time, please consult the instructor as early as possible to request an extension, and if necessary provide documentation to the Academic Counseling Office. See http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html

Medical Accommodation

You may be unable to complete an assignment or other course requirement owing to medical reasons. Students seeking accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth more than 10% of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling Office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. ***The instructor or department cannot provide accommodation.***

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical see:

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

Mental Health Website:

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 alternative 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 ssd@uwo.ca or (519) 661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. See www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/ for more information.

Support Services

A number of support and information services are available on campus or online. These include:

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

Office of the Registrar (www.registrar.uwo.ca)

Social Science Academic Counseling (<http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/>)

Student Development Centre (www.sdc.uwo.ca – includes Writing Centre, Services for Students with Disabilities etc.)

Student Success Centre (www.success.uwo.ca – includes Career Services)

Social Science Career Services (www.ssc.uwo.ca/careers/)

Program-Specific Library Assistance (www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/humangeography/)

University Ombudsperson (www.uwo.ca/ombuds/)

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during quizzes and examinations. Electronic devices may be used in class for relevant educational purposes only.