

Africa The Rising Giant



GEOG 2030A AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA FALL 2017 COURSE OUTLINE

Lectures: Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am

Location: SSC 3026

Instructor: Lydia Osei

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Course Overview

“Africa has been rising for a long time. I hope we will eventually get to a point where we have risen”.

- Marieme Jamme, SpotOne Global Solutions

Sub-Saharan Africa, formerly labelled ‘the dark continent’ is presently touted as a potential global giant. The sub-region, has witnessed considerable progress in areas such as technology, education, infrastructure, health, etc. Despite this advancement, the sub-region faces some challenges which calls for critical attention. This course therefore delves into some of the salient issues pertaining to the sub-region. Overall, the course intends to provide an overview that reflects a realistic portrait of the sub-region to enhance critical reflections on its development trajectory.

To achieve this aim, some critical questions are explored: What are the historical roots of (under)development in sub-Saharan Africa? How is sub-Saharan Africa typically depicted in the media and why? What explains Niger Delta’s underdevelopment despite it being the hub of oil production? And Is climate change the major cause of persistent food insecurity in the drylands of Ethiopia and Burkina Faso?

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be expected to

1. Develop an understanding of the geographic contexts of sub-Saharan Africa, including an overview of the physical, bioclimatic, cultural, political, demographic, health and economic geographies of the region.
2. Assess how geographical concepts such as ‘place’, ‘scale’ and ‘human-environment relations’ could be applied to specific issues in sub-Saharan Africa.
3. Describe and critique the dominant approaches to development in sub-Saharan Africa.
4. Understand the fundamental roots of opportunities and problems faced by sub-Saharan Africa.

Course Format

This course is based mainly upon lectures, readings, documentaries, in-class discussions, assignments and exams. Occasionally, the class will benefit from guest lectures delivered by scholars within the University community with varied research backgrounds. Students are also encouraged to share relevant experiences from work or visit to Africa with the class. The course will be web-assisted using [OWL](#).

Expectations and Criteria for Success

Follow the strategies below if you intend to complete this class with a strong and stress-free grade:

1. Be active in your own learning by attending all classes and contribute to in-class discussions.
2. Although class begins early, do not attend a class if you plan to sleep, text or surf the internet. Exit and re-enter the lecture room quietly if you **need** to make a phone call or use the washroom. Enter the room quietly and quickly find a seat if you are late and avoid every form of distraction to the instructor and your colleagues.
3. Read ahead and complete all assignments on time. Assignments submitted late will not be graded.
4. Ask relevant questions and make use of office hours if you need extra help. The instructor and TA will not be able to help you with your course requirements unless you inform us of your circumstances.
5. Do not plagiarize.

Required Readings

You will find it helpful, and get more out of each lecture, if you keep up with the reading assignments for each lecture. We will work our way through two books on African issues written by leading authors in the field.

- Grant, R. (2015). *Africa: Geographies of Change*. New, York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 978-019-992056-3)
- Moseley, W.G. (2012), *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on African Issues* (4th Edition). McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 978-0078050084)
- Other key readings and maps will be posted on OWL.

Course Evaluation Component

Your final course grade composes of the following:

Component	Percentage of final grade	Dates
Attendance and Participation	10%	Entire Semester
Monthly Country updates (3 in total)	15%	Last class day of the month September 26 October 31 November 28
Map Quiz	10%	October 03
Assignments (2 in total) Assignment #1 (10%) Assignment #2 (10%)	20%	October 17 November 28
Mid-term	20%	November 14
Final Exam	25%	TBA

Participation (10%)

Class participation is one of the most crucial aspects of this course. Students are expected to have done all assigned readings before coming to class as we will devote considerable time to discussing the issues in the textbook by William Moseley. Students are expected to have done all assigned readings before coming to class and occasionally a student will be given the opportunity to lead discussions. You can expect to be called upon during each class to provide your thoughts and reflections on the course materials. That is how participation marks are awarded to students and not mere attendance. Participation is also not just about offering frequent contributions but the ability to offer thoughtful comments which pose good questions for the class.

Country Updates (15%)

During the first day of class, each student will be asked to select one country in sub-Saharan Africa and will be required to submit monthly updates on any major event in the chosen country. The monthly updates should be between 400 and 500 words, and should be formatted as follows: **Times New Roman, 12 point font, single - spaced**. Your essay will be graded based upon how you contextualize the news and show its relevance to the course materials. As such, it will be appropriate if you divide your response into two short paragraphs. The first paragraph (~150 words) should summarize the news, its source, and the date published. Please do not simply cut and paste. Note also that news items must not be older than a month (the news should have happened within the month you are to submit the update). The second and most salient paragraph (~350 words) should provide a critical commentary that places the news within the larger context of major themes in the class. Country updates are due by 9:33am on the last class day (Tuesday) of the month. ***Please do not e-mail your monthly country update to the instructor or the TA. The Geography**

Department does not print assignments for students. Kindly print your work and bring it to class.

The following sites provide an excellent coverage, on a day-by-day basis, of news from Africa:

All Africa News: <http://allafrica.com/>

BBC World Services: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/africa>

One World Africa: <http://africa.oneworld.net/>

USA Africa online: <http://usafricaonline.com/>

The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/section/world/africa>

The UK Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/africa>

*Students should desist from citing Wikipedia, blogposts and other social media sources.

Map Quiz (10%)

One Map Quiz will be given on **October 03, 2017, 9:30am-10:30am**. The quiz will be based on maps and materials covered in the course. Students are required to know major physical landscapes (e.g. lakes, rivers, mountains, etc.), the location of each country, as well as all capital cities in sub-Saharan Africa. At the very least, you should be able to locate Antananarivo! Students are encouraged to find personal ways of studying for the map quiz.

The following website might be useful in preparing for the Map Quiz:

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/African_Geography.htm

Assignments (20%)

Two assignments will be given during the semester. Students should assign considerable time and some seriousness to completing this task. More details will be provided in class. The assignment should be **submitted in class by 9:33 am on the due date**. There will be **no extensions** and **late submissions will not be graded**. *Please do not e-mail your assignment to the instructor or the TA. The Geography Department does not print assignments for students. Kindly print your work and bring it to class.

Mid-Term Exam (20%)

The mid-term exam will be cumulative and closed book. It is scheduled for **9:30am-11:30am** on **November 14, 2017**. The exam format will be short answer questions. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of verifiable emergencies.

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be cumulative and closed book as well. The date will be set by the registrar's office. The format will include objectives and short answer questions. You cannot take the final examination earlier than the scheduled date. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of verifiable emergencies. Refer to the University Policy on exams accommodations.

Communication with the Instructor and TA

The instructor and TA will hold office hours each week and are happy to discuss topics from class but also talk about graduate school in general. We prefer to speak with you and answer questions in person rather than e-mail. If you choose to send an e-mail to book an appointment, we will endeavor to reply to you as expediently as possible but please note that the subject line MUST include the phrase "GEOG 2030A". Please use your Western e-mail account to send us messages as mails from Gmail, Yahoo and Hotmail are spam bound.

Please adhere to the following protocols in your e-mail communications with the instructor and TA:

- Emails should only be sent when you are unable to make it for the scheduled office hours and need to make a special appointment. Students are strongly advised to seek face-to-face help always.
- Please avoid asking questions pertaining to the course, assignment or text via emails.
- Emails will be checked frequently but please allow up to ~36 hours for a response.

Course Schedule

The course will follow the thematic outline below, but the schedule is subject to some flexibility.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment & Deadlines
1	Sept 12	Introduction, Course Organization and Expectations	The course outline	Selection of countries for monthly updates
2	Sept 19	LECTURE 1: Reframing and Representing African Affairs LECTURE 2: The Map of Africa and the Physical Environment LECTURE 3: What is the Current State of Development in Africa?	Grant (Chapters 1 & 2) Moseley (pp. xxi-xxv) Adichie, C. (2009). The danger of a single story. Grant (Chapter 3) UNDP Human Development Report (2016)	Introduce map quiz
3	Sept 26	LECTURE 4: Africa in Historical Perspective Map Quiz Review Session	Grant (Chapter 4) Moseley, Issue 4: pp. 53-68	Country Update #1 due
4	Oct 03	LECTURE 5: Gender and Development in Africa MAP QUIZ (In class 9:30-10:30am)	Grant (Chapter 5) Moseley, Issue 14: pp. 282-295	Map Quiz Introduction of Assignment#1 Moseley Issue 9 & 11

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment & Deadlines
5	Oct 10	NO CLASS!! (FALL READING WEEK)	Use this time to do the readings and assignment before the next class!	
6	Oct 17	LECTURE 6: Land, Agriculture and Food Security *Guest Lecture (TBC)	Grant (Chapters 5 and 10) Moseley, Issue 11: pp. 217-228 The Global Hunger Index (2016)	Assignment#1 Due
7	Oct 24	LECTURE 7: Health and Disease Burden - Case Study 1: HIV/AIDS - Case Study 2: Malaria - Case Study 3: Ebola *Guest Lecture (TBC)	Grant (Chapter 9) Moseley, Issue 15: pp. 296-326 Mojola, S. (2014). Love, Money, and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in the Age of AIDS. University of California Press.	

8	Oct 31	MID-TERM EXAM (9:30am-11:30am)	Your Own Notes and Course Materials	Country Update #2 Due
9	Nov 07	<p>LECTURE 8: “Africa is rich Underground and not above ground”. Resource Extraction and Local Development</p> <p>- Case Study: Oil in the Niger Delta, Nigeria</p> <p>LECTURE 9: China and Africa</p>	<p>- Watts and Kashi (2008). Curse of the Black Gold: 50 Years of Oil in the Niger Delta. “Sweet & Sour” Read pp 36-47</p> <p>-Listen to Interview with Michael J. Watts.</p> <p>Grant (Chapter 12) Moseley, Issue 7: pp. 128-156 Moseley, Issue 8: pp. 157-172</p>	
10	Nov 14	<p>LECTURE 10: Climate Change</p> <p>*Guest Lecture</p>	<p>Grant (Chapt 11) IPCC (2014): Read the Executive Summary - pp. 1202-1204 Moseley, Issue 9: pp. 176-193</p>	Introduction to Assignment#2

11	Nov 28	LECTURE 11: The Informal Economy in Urban Africa LECTURE 12: Information and Communication Technology	Grant (Chapter 6) Moseley, Issue 6: pp. 103-127	Assignment# 2 Due Country Update # 3 Due
12	Dec 05	LECTURE 13: Politics and Governance LECTURE 14: African Futures Final Exam Review Session	Moseley, Issue 17: pp.352-375 Moseley, Issue 18: pp. 376-395 Grant (Chapter 13)	

Important dates for this course

- Tue Sept 12: First day of classes
- October 9-11: Reading Week
- Dec 5: Last day of classes
- Dec 10 - 21: *Exam period

Other Important Policies

Cell phones and Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones and the sending/receiving of text messages during lectures is forbidden –anyone violating this rule will be asked to leave. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Statement on Academic Offences

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 Web site:

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

Western's Special Examination Policy

A special examination is any examination other than the regularly scheduled exam. Special exams will be allowed only on receipt of medical documentation verifying a serious illness that kept the student from writing the exam as originally scheduled. Such documentation is strictly confidential and kept in the student's file. In the case of missing a final exam for documented medical reasons, a special exam will be set within 30 days. Special exams will not be granted for occasions such as employment interviews, weddings, bar mitzvahs, family reunions, vacations, misreading an exam timetable, or oversleeping. Neither will special exams be granted to facilitate transportation arrangements, such as booking flights for home or holidays. It is the policy to discourage informal arrangements by faculty which circumvent this regulation. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for missed exams must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see: <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

Final Marks

The mark awarded by an instructor in a course at Western is only final when students receive it from the Registrar, and even then they can be changed on receipt by the Registrar of a Marks Revision Form. Marks are not finalized until the department chair has signed off.

Mental Health

The University treats mental health as a crucial issue. 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://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Western Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://registrar.uwo.ca/>

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

Geography Counseling Services

Students in need of counselling about the geography program and related matters should contact Undergraduate Assistant and Program Advisor Ms. Angelica Lucaci in the Department of Geography. **Angelica Lucaci: alucaci@uwo.ca (x. 86052)**

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. Students with Special Needs Any student with documented special needs should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss any necessary accommodations to make this course a positive learning environment.