

GEOG 2030A: Africa South of the Sahara

Course Outline: Section 001 – Fall 2018

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am, SSC 3026

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Lucia Kafui Hussey

Office: SSC 2221

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30pm

Email: lhuss3@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Kilian Nasung Atuoye

Office: SSC 1422

Office Hours: Fridays, 1:30-2:30pm

Email: katuoye@uwo.ca

2. Calendar Description

2.1. Course Description

Sub-Saharan Africa is an immense and diverse region that sits south of Africa's Sahara Desert. Formerly labelled 'the dark continent', the sub-region is presently flaunted as a potential global giant, representing one of the fastest growing regions in the world. Despite the enormous progress achieved in economic growth, technology, infrastructure among others, the sub-region still faces some challenges. This course aims to offer a critical introduction to the geography of sub-Saharan Africa by providing an overview that echoes a realistic portrait of the sub-region to enhance critical reflections on its development trajectory. The region will be examined through multiple lenses- history, economics, politics, gender, health, education, migration, climate change- to highlight its rich diversity as well as challenges. In achieving this, some critical questions would be explored in this course, such as: How is sub-Saharan Africa typically depicted in the media and why? What are the historical roots of (under) development in sub-Saharan Africa? Why is the sub-region underdeveloped despite it being the hub of many mineral and energy resources? What are the current health challenges within the region? What are the spatial patterns of disease burden within the sub-region? With current disease burdens, what is the future of the sub-region in relation to climate change induced health implications? Case studies would be used to understand the complexity and diversity of each topic.

Antirequisite(s): none

Prerequisite(s): none

(Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility)

2.2. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, “unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

3. Textbook

Required text: Grant, R. (2015). *Africa: Geographies of Change*. New, York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 978-0-19-992056-3)

Other key readings and maps will be posted on OWL.

4. Course Objectives

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

- 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.
- Assess how geographical concepts such as ‘place’, ‘scale’ and ‘human-environment relations’ could be applied to specific issues in sub-Saharan African.
- Describe and critique the dominant approaches to development in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Understand the fundamental roots of opportunities and problems faced by sub-Saharan African countries.
- Strengthen skills of critical and reflective writing, cartography/map reading, data analysis, and how to use evidence to support an argument.

5. Format

The course consists of two lecture hours per week. The class would be organized using lectures, readings, documentaries, and in-class discussions. Geography 2030A encourages critical learning with the full participation of students. Thus, students are also encouraged to share relevant experiences from work or visit to Africa with the class, as well as news items or information related to a specific topic or illustrates one of the concepts being discussed in class that merits discussion or raises questions. Class discussions are salient aspect of the course, and students are expected to have done all assigned readings before coming to class. Occasionally, the class will benefit from guest lectures delivered by scholars within the University community with varied research backgrounds. The course will be web-assisted using OWL (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). You should check this website regularly.

6. Evaluation

Your course grade will be composed of the following:

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Participation	10%	Entire Semester
Country Updates (4 in total)	15%	See course schedule
Map Quiz	10%	October 2, 2018
Assignments (3 in total)	20%	See course schedule
Mid-Term Exams	20%	October 30, 2018
Final Exams	25%	TBA

Participation (10%)

Class participation is one of the most central aspects of this course. We will devote considerable class time per week to discussing salient issues related to the topics discussed for that lecture. Students are expected to have done all assigned readings before coming to class. You can expect to be called upon during each class to provide your thoughts and reflections on the course materials. Please note that class attendance is not the same as class participation. For this course, there will be lots of emphasis on critical thinking and as such, I will be looking at how students offer thoughtful comments which pose good questions for the class or advance the discussions. Marks would be awarded based on these criteria and not about just offering frequent contributions but thoughtful ones. Students should strive to show a high degree of maturity and respect during class discussions as a wide range of views would emerge.

Country Updates (15%)

During the first day of class, each student will be asked to select one country in sub-Saharan Africa. Students would be required to submit updates on any major event in the chosen country during the stipulated timelines assigned throughout the semester (see course schedules for dates). The country update is to help students develop critical thinking and analysis skills, as they would be required to contextualize their selected events within the larger framework of major themes in the class. Your essay will be graded based upon how you contextualize the news and show its relevance to the course materials. Country updates are **due by 9:35am** on the due day during class. More details would be provided during the first day of 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 2, 2018, 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. 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%)

Three homework exercises will be assigned during the semester. Students should assign considerable time and some seriousness to completing them. More details will be provided in class. Assignments should be handed in by **9:35am on the due date in class (see course schedule for dates)**. There would be no extensions, and late assignments would 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 October 30, 2018**. The format will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be cumulative and closed book. The date will be set by the registrar's office. The format will include objectives, short answer questions and an essay. You cannot take the final examination earlier than the scheduled date. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of verifiable medical emergencies. Refer to, [Western's Policy on Accommodation for Illness](#).

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Student are required to:

- Be active in their own learning. Attend all classes and contribute to course discussions.
- Read ahead; take the assignments seriously by paying attention to instructions and expectations, and completing them on time.
- Make use of office hours if they need extra help.

All country updates and assignments must be handed in on the due date. There will be no extensions. Students who miss a quiz, mid-term or the final exams will need to acquire the necessary medical or other accommodation services and can learn more by reading [Western's Policy on Accommodation for Illness](#). 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.

For Western's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC please refer to the [Academic Handbook](#).

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

7. Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
1	Sep 11	Introduction, Course Organization and Expectations	Course Syllabus	Selection of countries for Country updates
2	Sep 18	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) Adichie, C. (2009). <u>The danger of a single story.</u> Grant (Chapter 3) <u>UNDP Human Development Report (2016)</u>	Introduce Assignment #1 Introduce Map Quiz
3	Sep 25	Lecture 4: Africa in Historical Perspective <i>Map Quiz Review Session</i>	Grant (Chapter 4) Ojo, E. O. (2015). The Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism: Reasons for Africa's Underdevelopment? <i>European Scientific Journal, ESJ</i> , 11(17).	Country Update #1 Due
4	Oct 2	Lecture 5: Gender and Development in Africa In-class MAP QUIZ (9:30am to 10:30am)	Grant (Chapter 5) *other key readings would be posted on OWL	Assignment #1 Due
5	Oct 9	Reading Week – NO CLASS		
6	Oct 16	Lecture 6: Land, Agriculture and Food Security <i>Mid-Term Review Session</i>	Grant (Chapters 5 and 10) <u>Global Hunger Index 2017</u> Go through the page and familiarize yourself with the map and the information on the page. Take a critical look at the sub-Saharan Africa countries. *other key readings would be posted on OWL	Country Update #2 Due
7	Oct 23	Lecture 7: Health and Disease Burden Case Study 1: HIV/AIDS Case Study 2: Malaria Case Study 3: Ebola	Grant (Chapter 9) <u>Mojola, S. (2014). Love, Money, and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in</u>	Introduce Assignment #2

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
			<p>the Age of AIDS. University of California Press *other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	
8	Oct 30	MID-TERM EXAM (9:30am-11:30am)	Personal Notes and Course Materials	
9	Nov 6	Lecture 8: Population, Migration and Remittances	Grant (Chapter 7) *other key readings would be posted on OWL	Country Update #3 Due
10	Nov 13	Lecture 9: Climate Change	Grant (Chapter 11) IPCC (2014): Read the Executive Summary - pp. 1202-1204 Familiarize yourself with the Chapter on Vulnerability and Impacts-pp 1211-1224 *other key readings would be posted on OWL	
11	Nov 20	Lecture 10: Resource Extraction and Local Development - Case Study: Oil in the Niger Delta, Nigeria Lecture 11: China and Africa	<p>Watts and Kashi (2008). Curse of the Black Gold: 50 Years of Oil in the Niger Delta. -Browse the pictures -“Sweet & Sour” Read pp 36-47 Listen to Interview with Michael J. Watts.</p> <p>Watch: The Battle in Nigeria Over Control of Oil</p> <p>Grant (Chapter 12)</p> <p>Koumou, R.F.M., & Manyi, M. (2016). Effects of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Africa. Journal of Finance and Accounting. Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 131-139. doi: 10.11648/j.jfa.20160403.15</p>	Assignment #2 Due Introduce Assignment #3
12	Nov 27	Lecture 12: The Informal Economy in Urban Africa Lecture 13:	Grant (Chapter 6) *Other key readings would be posted on OWL	Country update #4 Due

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
		Information and Communication Technology		
13	Dec 4	Lecture 14: Politics and Governance Lecture 15: African Futures	*Key readings would be posted on OWL Grant (Chapter 13)	Assignment #3 Due

***All country updates and assignments (hard copy) must be handed in latest by 9:35am on the due date.

8. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided the Academic Counselling Office and Instructor within 48 hours of the scheduled exam. For missed exams, you must take your documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the exam. Otherwise, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

9. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off or put on silent mode during class. Laptop computers used in class should be strictly restricted to course related activities such as note taking and not for surfing the internet, playing games or watching movies.

10. 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.

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>).

11. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

12. Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. The Student Services website provides greater detail about the University's policy on [medical accommodation](#). This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the [Academic Counsellor](#) and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

13. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

14. Support Services

[Student Support Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

15. Important Dates

September 6: Classes resume

September 14: Last day to add a full course or a second term half course

October 8: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

October 9-13: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty

December 7: Classes end

December 8 and 9: Study days

December 10-21: Examination Period

December 21: Fall term ends