

GEOG 2030A: Geography of Africa South of the Sahara

Course Outline: Fall 2019

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

Tuesdays: 9:30-11:30am, SSC 2020

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Roger Antabe
Office: SSC 2221
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-1:00pm
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2. Course Description

Arguably, Africa, South of the Sahara remains one of the most misrepresented places globally. Despite its rich history and enormous progress made over time, little is known about this highly diverse region. This may have resulted in the persistence of a 'single story' about this region as one of misery and poverty. In this course, we will examine the region through multiple lenses— history, economics, politics, health, gender, education and migration to highlight its rich diversity. For instance, what are the drivers of food insecurity in the sub-region? Why does HIV persist in some areas, and what makes women in the region more vulnerable to infection? We will begin by exploring how "the Africa story" is told by the media, scholars and policymakers. Further, we will delve into the key historical processes that shape (under)development in the region and examine its future development prospects. Given the vast spectrum of these topics, we will occasionally draw on specific cases studies and guest lectures.

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): None

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

2.1. 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 materials will be posted to owl.

4. Course Objectives and Format

Geography 2030A consists of two hours of lecture each week. There is an opportunity to meet the instructor and the teaching assistant during office hours for discussions related to the course. The class will be organized using lectures, documentary films, occasional guest speakers and in class discussions. If you have any experiences that relate to the course content or any of the topics to be discussed, students are welcome to share with the rest of the class. If students come across interesting news items or readings that are relevant to the course, they can share with their colleagues during class. The course encourages critical learning with the full participation of students. Class discussions are the most salient aspect of the course. Students are expected to have done all assigned readings before coming to class. The course will be web-assisted using OWL. You should check this website regularly.

Course Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of the geographic contexts of sub-Saharan Africa, including an overview of the physical, bio-climatic, 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 and narratives of development in sub-Saharan Africa.
4. Understand the fundamental sources of opportunities for and challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa.
5. Strengthen skills of critical and reflective writing and using evidence to support an argument.

5. Evaluation

The final grades for this course will be awarded based on the following

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Participation	10%	Entire term
Country Updates (4 in total)	20%	See course schedule

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Map Quiz	10%	October 1
Assignments (2 in total)	10%	See course schedule
Mid-Term Exams	20%	October 29
Final Exam	30%	TBA

To maximize their final grades, students are encouraged to attend all lectures. Students will sign an attendance sheet in every class.

Participation (10%)

Class participation is highly encouraged and serve as a major component of this course. Considerable class time will be devoted each week to discuss salient issues arising out of the topic/s covered in the lecturer. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings for the week before coming to class. Occasionally, you will be called upon during class to provide your thoughts, reflections and critiques on the prescribed course material/s for the week. Please note that class attendance is not the same as class participation. Furthermore, I am interested in critical and in-depth comments and questions from students that advances class discussions. Marks would be awarded based on these criteria and not just the number of times students contribute to class discussions. Students should also strive to show a high level of maturity and respect for the wide range of views that are anticipated to emerge in class discussions.

Country Updates (20%)

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 major events in the chosen country. This exercise seeks to keep students abreast with current issues in their selected countries while applying critical analytical skills from the course in discussing these issues. Grading will be based on how the selected issues are contextualized within the larger context of the course content. The monthly updates should be between 400 and 500 words and should be formatted as follows: **Times New Roman, 12-point font, single - spaced**. Country updates should be handed in by **9:30am** on their due dates during class. This will be discussed in detail on the first day of class.

For an excellent up to date brief on issues in the region, the following news portals will be very useful to students:

BBC Focus on Africa: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00gbjvb>

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

US Africa online: <https://usafricaonline.com/>

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

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

***Students are discouraged from citing from Wikipedia, blogposts, and other social media sources**

Map Quiz (10%)

There will be one Map Quiz which will be based on materials covered in the course. Students are required to know major physical landscapes (e.g. lakes, rivers, mountains, etc.). Students are also expected to be comfortable with the location of countries and their respective capital cities on a map of the region. The Map Quiz will be given on **October 1, 2019, 9:30am-10:30am**.

Students are also encouraged to find their own sources in preparing for this quiz. The following website may however be useful in preparing for the Map Quiz:

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

Assignments (10%)

Two homework exercises will be given during the semester. Students should assign considerable time to completing them. Details will be provided in class. Assignments should be handed in by **9:30am on the due date in class** (see course schedule for dates). There would be no extensions, and late assignments would attract a penalty. Please **DO NOT** e-mail your assignment to the instructor or the TA unless otherwise requested. 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 29, 2019**. The format will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Final Exam (30%)

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 Illnesses](#)

Other recommendations

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Students 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 in class. 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 revised 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.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
1	Sept 10	Introduction, Course Organization and Expectations	Course outline	Selection of countries for updates
2	Sept 17	<p>Lecture 1: Reframing and Representing African Affairs</p> <p>Lecture 2: The map of Africa and the Physical Environment</p> <p>Lecture 3: What is the Current State of Development in Africa?</p>	<p>Grant (Chapters 1 & 2) Adichie, C. (2009). <u>The danger of a single story</u></p> <p>Grant (Chapter 3) <u>UNDP Human Development Report (2018)</u></p>	<p>Introduce Assignment #1</p> <p>Introduce Map Quiz</p>
3	Sept 24	<p>Lecture 4: Africa in Historical Perspective</p> <p>Map Quiz Review Session</p>	<p>Grant (Chapter 4)</p> <p>Ojo, E. O. (2015). The Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism: Reasons for Africa's Underdevelopment? European Scientific Journal, ESJ, 11(17).</p>	Country Update #1 Due
4	Oct 1	<p>Lecture 5: Gender and Development in Africa In-class</p> <p>MAP QUIZ (9:30am to 10:30am)</p>	<p>Grant (Chapter 5)</p> <p>*other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	Assignment #1 Due
5	Oct 8	<p>Lecture 6: Land, Agriculture and Food Security</p>	<p>Grant (Chapters 5 and 10)</p> <p><u>Global Hunger Index 2018</u> Go through the page and familiarize</p>	Country Update #2 Due

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
			<p>yourself with the map and the information on the page. Take a critical look at the sub-Saharan Africa countries.</p> <p>*other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	
6	Oct 15	<p>Lecture 7:</p> <p>Health and Disease Burden Case Study 1: HIV/AIDS Case Study 2: Malaria Case Study 3: Ebola</p>	<p>Grant (Chapter 9)</p> <p>Mojola, S. (2014). <u>Love, Money, and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in the Age of AIDS</u>. University of California Press</p> <p>*other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	Introduce Assignment# 2
7	Oct 22	<p>Lecture 8:</p> <p>Population, Migration and Remittances</p> <p><i>Mid-Term Review Session</i></p>	<p>Grant (Chapter 7)</p> <p>*other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	Country Update #3 Due
8	Oct 29	MID-TERM EXAM (9:30am-11:30am)	Personal Notes and Materials	
9	Nov 5	No Class-Fall Reading Week		
10	Nov 12	<p>Lecture 9:</p> <p>Climate Change</p>	<p>Grant (Chapter 11)</p> <p>*other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	Assignment# 2 Due
11	Nov 19	<p>Lecture 10:</p> <p>Resource Extraction and Local Development - Case Study: Oil in the Niger Delta, Nigeria</p>	<p>Watts and Kashi (2008). <u>Curse of the Black Gold: 50 years of Oil in the Niger Delta</u> -Browse the pictures</p>	Country Update #4 Due

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
		Lecture 11: China and Africa	<p>-“Sweet & Sour” Read pp 36- 47</p> <p>Watch the Interview with Michael J. Watts</p> <p>Watch: Battle in Nigeria Over Control of Oil</p> <p>Grant (Chapter 12) 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</p>	
12	Nov 26	<p>Lecture 12:</p> <p>The Informal Economy in Urban Africa</p> <p>Lecture 13:</p> <p>Information and Communication Technology</p>	<p>Grant (Chapter 6)</p> <p>*Other key readings would be posted on OWL</p>	
13	Dec 3	<p>Lecture 14:</p> <p>Politics and Governance</p> <p>Lecture 15:</p> <p>African Futures</p> <p><i>Mid-Term Review Session</i></p>	<p>*Key readings would be posted on OWL</p> <p>Grant (Chapter 13)</p>	

Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

6. Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled 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.

7. Use of Electronic Devices

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

8. 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>).

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

12. Important Dates

September 5: Classes resume

September 13: Last day to add a first term half course

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 4 to November 10: 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 penalty

December 5: Classes end

December 6 and 7: Study days

December 8-19: Examination Period