

# GEOG 2030A: Geography of Africa South of the Sahara

## Course outline: Fall 2020

### 1. Technical Requirements

To be able to access lectures posted online and to take exams online, students must have a reliable internet connection and computer or electronic device that is compatible with online learning and testing system requirements of Western University.

Computer requirements include:

Operating system: MAC: OSX Yosemite 10.10.5 or higher, PC: Windows 7, 8, or higher  
Processor/Ram: MAC: Intel / AMD Processor, 2 GB RAM, PC: Dual-core 2.4 Ghz CPU, 2 GB RAM or better

Web Browsers: Mozilla Firefox v20.0 or Higher Google Chrome v25.0 or higher

Plug-ins: Javascript Enabled & Third Party Cookies Enabled

Camera resolution: 800 x 600 resolution or better

Internet connection: Cable Modem, DSL or better (300 kbps download, 250 kbps upload)

### 2. Course information

2.1. Classroom Location: Online

Mode of instruction: Asynchronous Online: Lecture recording to be posted on Tuesdays between 9-11am.

2.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Daniel Kpienbaareh

Email: [dkpienba@uwo.ca](mailto:dkpienba@uwo.ca)

Office:

Phone:

Office Hrs: Tue 12-1pm

TA: Roger Antabe

Email: [rantabe@uwo.ca](mailto:rantabe@uwo.ca)

Office Hrs: Wednesday 1-2pm

### 3. Course Description:

Despite being widely represented in various ways, mostly negatively, Africa, South of the Sahara (sub-Saharan Africa [SSA]) has outlived the days of conflicts and civil wars and is emerging as a global power as well as influencing global economic dynamics. Besides, the rich history of SSA is gradually being portrayed more positively recently due to advances in technology and independent media coverage. However, more needs to be highlighted about the region in terms of economic opportunities, tourism potential and welcoming people. This course is designed to highlight various facets of life in the region including politics, gender, health, history, economics, education, migration and corruption to better situate its rich diversity and progress. Often, people ask questions such as: Why is corruption so high in Africa? Why is there chronic food insecurity in some countries within the sub-region? Why do diseases such as Ebola, Malaria and HIV take so many lives? These and many different issues will be dealt with to let the story of Africa be told through recorded lectures, activities, exercises, case studies, short documentary films and (hopefully) guest lectures.

Antirequisite(s): None

Prerequisite(s): None

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

### 3.1. Senate Regulations

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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 if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

### 4. Textbook

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

### 5. Format of lesson delivery and course objectives

In addition to these modes of instructions outlined above, students with experiences about any topics being discussed or personal experiences in SSA related to the course content or any of the topics to be discussed will have the opportunity to share with the class. Students are also encouraged to scan the media for interesting stories relating to the course and ask questions about them to the TA.

Also, each student is to select a country in SSA and present monthly updates on any happenings related to any of the topics being discussed in the course. Each update should be between 150 and 500 words. **Include links or sources of where stories were obtained from.**

Students are expected to have done all assigned readings before class. The course will be web-assisted using OWL. Please check [OWL](#) regularly for any course updates.

### Objectives

- i. Present a general overview of the physical, biogeographic, cultural, political, demographic, health economic and social geographies SSA;
- ii. Assess how geographical concepts such as 'place', 'scale' and 'human-environment relations' could be applied to specific issues in SSA;
- iii. Analyse the dominant approaches to and narratives of development in SSA countries;
- iv. Identify the sources of opportunities for and challenges faced by SSA countries;
- v. Enhance critical and reflective writing skills and arguing conceptually.

6. Course schedule				
Week#	Week	Topic	Reading	Assignments/Deadlines
1	September 8	Introduction, Course Organization and Expectations	Course outline	Selection of countries for updates
2	September 15	Lecture 1: Reframing and Representing African Affairs  Lecture 2: Physical Geography of Africa  Lecture 3: What is the Current State of Development in Africa?	Grant (Chapters 1 & 2) Adichie, C. (2009) <a href="#">Multiple Perspectives about Africa</a> Grant (Chapter 3) <a href="#">UNDP Human Development Report (2019)</a>	Assignment #1 introduction Map assignment introduction
3	September 22	Lecture 4: Africa in Historical Perspective	Grant (Chapter 4) <a href="#">Ojo, E.O. (2015) The Atlantic Slave Trade and Colonialism: Reasons for Africa's Underdevelopment? <i>European Scientific Journal, ESJ, 11(17)</i></a>	Map assignment due
4	September 29	Lecture 5: Gender and Development in Africa In-class	Grant (Chapter 5) **Additional key readings may be posted on OWL	Country Update #1 Due
5	October 6	Lecture 6: Land, Agriculture and Food Security	Grant (Chapters 5 and 10) <a href="#">State of World Food Security</a> (Read Executive Summary, pp. xvi – xxi). Look out for details on SSA. **Additional key readings may be posted on OWL	

6	October 13	Lecture 7: Health and Disease Burden Case Study 1: HIV/AIDS Case Study 2: Ebola Case Study 3: Malaria	Grant (Chapter 9) <a href="#">Ramjee, Gita, and Brodie Daniels. "Women and HIV in sub-Saharan Africa." <i>AIDS research and therapy</i> 10.1 (2013): 1-9.</a> <a href="#">Buseh, A. G., Stevens, P. E., Bromberg, M., &amp; Kelber, S. T. (2015). The Ebola epidemic in West Africa: Challenges, opportunities, and policy priority areas. <i>Nursing Outlook</i>, 63(1), 30-40.</a>	Assignment #1 Due  Introduce Assignment# 2 introduction
7	October 20	Lecture 8: Population, Migration and Remittances	Grant (Chapter 7) <a href="#">Gupta, S., Pattillo, C., &amp; Wagh, S. (2007). Making remittances work for Africa. <i>Finance and development</i>, 44(2), 1-8.</a>	Country Update #2 Due
8	October 27	Midterm test	Personal Notes and Materials	1 hr 15 mins
9	November 3	Lecture 9: Climate Change	Grant (Chapter 11)	Assignment# 2 Due
10	November 10	Lecture 10: Resource Extraction and Local Development - Case Study: Oil in the Niger Delta, Nigeria	<a href="#">Nigeria's "Resource Curse": Oil as Impediment to True</a>	
11	November 17	Lecture 11: China and Africa	Grant (Chapter 12) <a href="#">China in Africa</a> <a href="#">What China Is Really Up To In Africa</a> <a href="#">Why Is China Investing Billions in Africa?</a>	
12	November 24	Lecture 12: The Informal Economy in Urban Africa Lecture 13: Information and Communication Technology	Grant (Chapter 6) **Additional key readings may be posted on OWL	Country Update #3 Due
13	December 1	Lecture 14: Politics and Governance Lecture 15: African Futures	Grant (Chapter 13) <a href="#">Can Africa Overcome Its Corruption Problem?</a>	

## 7. Evaluation

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

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Country Updates (2 in total)	20%	See course schedule
Map Assignment	10%	Check OWL
Midterms	20%	October 27
Assignments (2 in total)	20%	See course schedule
Final Exam	30%	TBA

### 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 of 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 uploaded online by 9am (London, Ontario time) on the due date.

The following news sites provide current daily news of happenings in SSA:

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

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

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

CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/specials/africa/inside-africa>

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

Students are encouraged to look for other sources of getting information for country update, but never Wikipedia.

### Map Assignments (10%)

There will be ONE Map Assignment which will be based on materials covered in the course. Students are required to know major physical landscapes (e.g. lakes, rivers, mountains, etc.) and their importance to the economic, political and social dynamics of a country. 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 assignments will involve students picking a physical feature (natural e.g. Lake, Mountain etc. or man-made e.g. dam, building etc) and write between 300 and 500 words describing the history, economic, social, political significance of the feature to the country in which it is located. Student must include either a map with the location of the feature on it or a picture of the feature. Student are allowed to use pictures acquired online but **MUST** provide the source(s) of the map/picture. Maps or feature **MUST** be based on the topics treated in class. All written assignments must be submitted online to OWL and **NOT** emailed to the instructor or the TA. The following websites may, however, be useful in preparing for the Map assignment:

[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/African\\_Geography.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/African_Geography.htm)

<https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3163>

### **Midterm test (20%)**

There will be a midterm test with only multiple choice questions on October 27, 2020. The number of questions will be communicated as the time draws closer. The test will online on OWL. So get the appropriate electronic device that can enable login to take the test.

### **Assignments (20%)**

Two homework exercises will be given during the semester. Students should assign considerable time to complete them. Details will be provided in class. 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.

### **Final Exam (30%)**

The final exam will be cumulative. The date will be set by the registrar's office. The format will include short answer questions and an essay. You cannot take the final exam 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:

- 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 based on need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: You are responsible for your grades in this course.

### **8. 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 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 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 per 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](#) to deal with this stress proactively and constructively.

## 9. 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.

### 10. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a [Scholarly 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 to detect plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. The use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### 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 accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about ["Accessibility at Western"](#) is available.

### 12. 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.

### 13. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)

[Student Development Centre](#)

### 14. Important Dates

September 9: Classes resume

September 17: Last day to add a first term half course

October 12: Thanksgiving Holiday - Department Office Closed

October 27: Midterms date for GEOG2030A

November 2 to November 8: 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 9: Classes end

December 10: Study day

December 11-22: Examination Period