

Geography of Africa- Online

GEA3600, Fall 2018

Sections 1E21 & 1E22

3 credit hours; **Not a Gordon Rule course**

Instructor: Guoqian Yan

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Office Location: Turlington Hall, Room #3126

Office Hours: Fridays 3pm - 5pm, available for online chatting via the course 'Chat' option or email through Canvas for an appointment

Course Communication

All email communication should be conducted through Canvas email, so a record is kept. If you have a question about the course that isn't personal, please post it to the Course Questions Board. This way everyone can benefit from the answers provided to you question(s). There's a good chance your classmates either have the same questions or have an answer! Feel free to communicate with your classmates via the Course Discussion Board. I will also be checking the Discussion Board to answer questions.

Required Text:

The New Scramble for Africa, 2nd Edition, 2016. Author: Pádraig Carmody ISBN-13: 978-1-5095-0708-5 (pb)

Course Description

This course is a comprehensive and systematic survey of the population, natural resources, geographic regions and potentialities of Africa and the significance of this region in the economic and political affairs of the world.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: There are no course prerequisites.

Purpose of Course

This course presents Geography of Africa from an environmental and economic development perspective. We start by understanding how Africa formed, its landscape, its climates and how people evolved to interact with the environment. There will be a particular focus on wildlife conservation. The course also discusses dynamic issues facing contemporary African societies and the challenges that people and nations of this vast continent are working to resolve, introducing ideas about economic development, politics and governance. Issues of health, demography, gender and culture are also covered. Through lectures, reading assignments, videos and writing exercises, we will study environmental and resource issues, the impact of historical events on development, education and culture, population distribution, social organization, rural and urban structures, industrialization, business and trade, and prospects for the future.

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the physical features, climates, and biomes of Africa;
2. Understand how climate shaped human evolution in Africa and the development of civilizations in Africa;
3. Explain how external influences and the legacy of colonialism shaped African development (and underdevelopment) and identify development challenges in Africa;
4. Describe and analyze human-environment interactions in Africa according to different geographical concepts, and define and identify causes for land degradation, including causes & outcomes;
5. Describe wildlife policies and concerns, conservation and environmental degradation in Africa.

Course Elements

Lectures/Reading Material:

Students are required to view power point audio lectures and topic videos for each of the course modules. Additionally, there will be required readings, including assigned chapters from the textbook (The New Scramble for Africa), research articles, and other materials.

Module Questions & Answers:

Students will be required to submit 3 questions & answers pertaining to the topics covered in each of the 11 course modules, submitted each week beginning with Module 1. Questions submitted by students will create a pool of questions and answers (Q/A) from which the Module Quizzes will be created. The questions should be structured as **multiple choice, or true/false**. The Q/A's are required for Modules 1-11 and are worth 10 points per assignment. One Q/A assignment may be dropped/omitted.

Note: Module Q/A's should only be created from information on materials that provided in the course and that everyone has access to. For example, Q/A's should not be related to topics not covered in the course modules and assigned readings and videos.

Module Quizzes: There will be four (4) module quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will consist of 10 questions derived from the pool of questions created from students' submissions of Module Q/A's.

- **Quiz 1:** Modules 1-3
- **Quiz 2:** Modules 4-5
- **Quiz 3:** Modules 6-8
- **Quiz 4:** Modules 9-11

Quizzes will be based on the topics and materials covered in the course modules, including audio lectures, assigned journal and textbook chapter readings, and videos provided. The quizzes will be created from a 'question bank' composed of **students' submissions** of module Q/A's. The course instructor may also contribute questions to the question bank.

Reflection Essays (must be submitted as Word document):

Students will be required to write **two 'Reflection Essays'**. Please always include an **assignment title/heading** and **word count** at the top of the assignment document.

Reflection Essay #1 is a **100-WORD** essay on any previous knowledge or preconceptions you may have about Africa or topics related to Africa, due after completion of Module 1.

Reflection Essay #2 is a **300-WORD** essay on 1-2 topics that you found the most interesting and/or useful in this course, due after completion of Module 11.

Cumulative Final Exam:

When: December 10th, 2018 (*Note: I may extend this so that you may take the exam anytime within a 3-day period (e.g. between December 9-11).)

What to Expect:

- Online timed exam consisting of 50 multiple choice & T/F questions drawn from an extensive “question bank” created from students' submissions of module Q/A's. The questions will be selected via a random process so that each student will have a different set of questions.
- The exam is designed to test your comprehension and understanding of the materials **from the full course**, so all lectures, videos, readings, activities, and other module elements may be covered in the exam.
- The final exam is worth 100 points.

Disclaimer: This page and the syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

Grades

Grading by Assignment Type

Assignment Type	Points
Quizzes	100
Weekly Q/As	100
Reflection Essay #1 (100 words)	50
Reflection Essay #2 (300 words)	150
Final Exam	100
Total	500

Grading Scale

A	92-100
A-	90-91.99

B+	88-89.99
B	82-87.99
B-	80-81.99
C+	78-79.99
C	72-77.99
C-	70-71.99
D+	68-69.99
D	62-67.99
D-	60-61.99
E	<60