

Geography of Africa - Online

GEA3600, Summer B 2018

Sections: 4A40, 4A14

GEA 3600 provides 3 Credit Hours of General Education Requirements (GER): S=Social Science N=International Gordon Rule: 6,000 words Communication

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the geography of sub-Saharan Africa. It will provide an overview of major environmental and human features of the region and examine the dynamic issues facing African societies. Students will learn about environmental and resource issues, historical impacts on development, cultural characteristics, social organization, politics and conflict, and prospects for the future.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills: There are no course prerequisites.

Purpose of Course:

This course presents the Geography of Africa from an environmental and economic development perspective, with a focus on sub-Saharan (SSA) Africa. We start by understanding how Africa formed, its landscape, its climates and how people evolved to interact with the environment. 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 reflective writing exercises, we will study environmental and resource issues, the impact of historical events on development, education and culture, population distribution, health and disease, culture and social organization, environmental degradation, wildlife conservation and protected areas management, and prospects for the future.

Course Communications:

All email communication should be conducted through Canvas email, so a record is kept. If you have a question about the course that is not personal, please post it to the Course Questions Board. This way everyone can benefit from the answers provided to your questions. There is 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; we will also be checking the Discussion Board to answer questions.

GEA 3600 Canvas e-Learning System: ELS allows you to see your scores & grades on assignments, quizzes & exams; course calendar; announcements; class internal email; instructions; resources; course updates. <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students must register with the Disability Research Center in Reid Hall and bring forms to the instructor.

UF Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>

Required Textbook: Aryeetey-Attoh, S. *Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa. 3rd Edition.* Prentice-Hall Publisher. ISBN 0136056318.

Course Elements & Overview

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, research articles, and other materials.

1) Module Questions & Answers:

- Students will be required to submit three questions & answers pertaining to the topics covered in each of the 6 course modules. 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, true/false, or short answers**. The Q/A's are required for Modules 1-6 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 the materials that provided in the course and that everyone has access to. For example, Q/A's should not be portfolio specific or related to topics not covered in the course modules and assigned readings and videos.

2) Module Quizzes:

- There will be four 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 1-2
 - **Quiz 2:** Module 3
 - **Quiz 3:** Module 4
 - **Quiz 4:** Module 5
- 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 and TA may also contribute questions to the question bank.

3) Reflection Essays and Activities

- Students will be required to write **two 'Reflection Essays'** and complete three **'Reflection Activities.'** **Reflection Essay #1** is a **500-word** essay on any previous knowledge or preconceptions you may have about Africa or topics related to Africa. **Reflection Essay #2** is a **1,500-word** essay on 1-3 topics that you found the most interesting and/or useful in this course, due after completion of Module 6.
- Students will be required to complete **two 1,000-word Reflection Activities** as responses to assigned research articles, videos or other materials relative to module topics. These essay activities should demonstrate critical thinking and analysis as you briefly reflect on topics/issues in the African context, and how the issues are relatable on a larger scale.

4) African Country Portfolio:

- Students will develop a “Portfolio” for an African country of their choice. Students will submit **four 500-Word Portfolio Essays** and **one Annotated Bibliography** (Portfolio Submission #1) that will discuss the issues/topics covered in the modules in relation to their selected countries.
- Students will submit an **Annotated Bibliography** as **Portfolio Submission #1** based on their **approved** African country. Students will provide at least **one scholarly source for each of the course modules** (you should have **6 sources total**) and provide: 1) a brief explanation as to why the source is credible, 2) a short summary of the article (1-2 sentences), 3) brief description of how the article relates to one or more of the module topics.
- The Annotated Bibliography (aka 'Portfolio Submission #1) should be at least **500 words** and will serve as a resource base for writing the **Portfolio Essays**, for which scholarly sources are required. (Students may find additional or alternative sources throughout the semester if they wish but the bibliography should prepare them for the essays and save time.)
- **Scholarly Sources:** Scholarly or peer-reviewed journal/research articles are written by scholars, scientists, or professionals who are experts in their fields. In the sciences and social sciences, they often publish research results. Google Scholar is a useful internet search tool, and online digital libraries such as JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#))). You can also access scholarly sources from the UF Library Off Campus Access.
- **Note:** There are a **total of 4 required Portfolio Assignments.**

5) Final Exam:

- 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.
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Grading:

Assignment Type	Points
Syllabus Quiz	10
4 Quizzes	140
Weekly Q/As	60
Portfolio Country Selection	30
4 Portfolio Submissions (2,000 words)	360
Reflection Essay #1 (500 words)	50
Reflection Essay #2 (1,500 words)	150
2 Reflection 'Activities' (2,000 words)	200
Final Exam	100
Total	1000

Grading Legend:

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
C-	70-71.99
D+	68-69.99

Presentation of Essays

On all written assignments:

- Full name
- UFID
- Word count
- Date submitted
- Title of Paper
- Standard layout
 - Times New Roman, 12 font,
 - 1.5 spacing
 - 1" margins
- APA format references