Course Syllabus

Geography of Africa- Online

GEA3600, Spring 2020

Sections 05HF & 13C0

3 credit hours

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

Instructor

Instructor: Ryan Good

Email: Use Canvas Inbox system

Phone: 352-392-0494 (main Geography Department office)

Office Hours: Mondays 9:30am to 12:30pm, available for online chatting via Zoom, or email through Canvas for an appointment

Teaching Assistants: Maram Alrehaili and Michael Dillen

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 isn't personal, please post it to the **Course Questions Board.** This way everyone can benefit from the answers provided to your 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; we will also be checking the Discussion Board to answer questions.

Required Text:

The New Scramble for Africa, 2nd Edition, 2016. Author: Padraig 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. (S and N) (WR)

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 reflective 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.

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 land degradation, including causes & outcomes;

5. Describe wildlife policies and concerns, conservation and environmental degradation in Africa;

6. Research, outline and write effective essays conveying complex ideas and arguments clearly and precisely, supporting claims with adequate evidence.

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, are likely and will be announced; the most up-to-date requirements will always be posted in the individual module pages.

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.

Assignments

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 Week 2/Module 1. Questions submitted by students will create a pool of questions and answers (Q/A) from which the Module Quizzes will in part be created. The questions should be

structured as **multiple choice, true/false, or short answers**. The Q/A's are required for Modules 1-10 and are worth 5 points per assignment. Completing Q/A's for Module 11 will be extra credit.

Note: Module Q/A's should only be created from information an 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.

Module Quizzes: There will be four (4) module quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will consist of 10 questions created by the instructor and 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 and TA will also contribute questions to the question bank.

Reflection Essays (2) and Activities (3)

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, due at the end of Week 1. **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 11.

Students will be required to complete **three 500-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.

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 selected countries.
- By the end of the second week of class, students will select an African country for which they want to develop their Portfolio, which includes conducting preliminary research on the country to determine if there is enough information available through journal/research articles and other scholarly sources that relate to module topics. Students should indicate their selected country by submitting the "**Portfolio Country Selection**" assignment.
- During the third week of class, 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 **11 sources total**) and provide: 1) a brief explanation as to why the source is credible (i.e. qualifies as a 'scholarly source', 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** (i.e. Portfolio Submissions #2-5) 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**). You can also access scholarly sources from the UF Library Off Campus Access.
- **NOTE:** There are a *total of 5 required Portfolio Assignments.*

Cumulative Final Exam:

When: April 27, 2020

What to Expect:

- Online timed exam consisting of 100 fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice & T/F questions drawn from an extensive "question bank" created by the instructors and supplemented 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.

Grading by Assignment Type

Assignment Type	Points
Syllabus Quiz	10
Quizzes	100
Weekly Q/As	50
Portfolio Country Selection	15
5 Portfolio Submissions (2500 words)	375
Reflection Essay #1 (500 words)	50
Reflection Essay #2 (1500 words)	150
3 Reflection 'Activities' (1500 words)	150
Final Exam	100
Total	**1000**

Late Work Policy

We recognize that this class is not the only thing in your life, and sometimes other things happen that get in the way of submitting work on time. Late work is accepted, and **will be assessed a penalty of 1% per hour that it is late**. This allows the most flexibility and fairness across the whole class, so if you need an hour or two extra to finish work, you'll be penalized, but not so much that it wrecks your grade. Make-up work is not allowed beyond this policy without documentation of a university-approved absence. **Quizzes and exams are exempt from this policy and will not be accepted late.**

Grading Scale: *You must earn a C or higher to receive credit for this course!

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

[Click here for Course Schedule](#)

Academic Integrity

You should read the University's Guide to academic honesty, which is available online at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php. Plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are unacceptable. If you are found to have cheated, you will be penalized by the reduction of your course grade, and may be subject to further penalties. You should expect the minimum penalty to be a failing grade for the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodations.

Statement on Intellectual Property Rights

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio tape lectures, on the condition that these audio tapes are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may

not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Course Attendance, Make-Ups, etc.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

UF Grading Policies

University policy on grade point averages for courses is available at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at **https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/** **(https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/)** . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via **https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/** **(https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/)** . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at **https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/** **(https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/)** .

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Jan 12, 2020	**Syllabus Quiz** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008140)	due by 11:59pm
	Reflection Essay #1: Previous Knowledge & Preconceptions of Africa (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008174)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 15, 2020	**Module 1 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008149)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 17, 2020	**Portfolio Country Selection** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008158)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 21, 2020	**Module 2 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008150)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Wed Jan 22, 2020	**Portfolio Submission #1: Annotated Bibliography** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008160)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 24, 2020	**Reflection Activity #1** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008171)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 26, 2020	**Module 3 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008151)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 29, 2020	**Quiz 1: Modules 1-3** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008144)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 2, 2020	**Module 4 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008152)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 7, 2020	**Portfolio Submission #2** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008161)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 9, 2020	**Module 5 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008153)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 14, 2020	**Reflection Activity #2** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008172)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 16, 2020	**Module 6 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008154)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 26, 2020	**Quiz 2: Modules 4-5** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008145)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 11, 2020	**Module 7 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008155)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 13, 2020	**Portfolio Submission #3** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008162)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 15, 2020	**Module 8 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008156)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 20, 2020	**Quiz 3: Modules 6, 7 & 8** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008143)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 22, 2020	**Module 9 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008157)	due by 11:59pm
	Reflection Activity #3 (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008173)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Mar 29, 2020	▤ **Module 10 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008147)	due by 11:59pm
	▤ **Portfolio Submission #4** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008163)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 5, 2020	▤ **Module 11 Questions Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008148)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 10, 2020	▤ **Portfolio Submission #5** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008164)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 15, 2020	▤ **Quiz 4: Modules 9, 10 & 11** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008142)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2020	▤ **Reflection Essay #2- Final Writing Assignment** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008175)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 22, 2020	▤ **Extra Credit: Writing Studio Tutoring Session** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4104333)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 27, 2020	▤ **Final Exam** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008141)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 29, 2020	▤ **Super Bonus Extra Credit Opportunity!** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4092749)	due by 11:59pm
	▤ **Google Earth Activity** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/385868/assignments/4008146)	