

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

University of Florida, Department of Geography

GEA 3600,
Spring 2020, 3 Credits, CSE A101,
Web Assisted Through Canvas e-Learning System

Professor: Heidi Lannon, Ph. D.
Class Time: Tuesday, Period 5 - 6 (11:45 AM - 1:40 AM) CSE A101
Thursday, Period 6 (12:50 PM – 1:40PM) CSE A101
Office: Turlington 3126A
Phone: (352) 392-0494 (best to contact me through Canvas)
E-Mail: lannon@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Thursday – 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Additional office hours by appointment. E-mail will be responded to within 24 hours on week days only

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Akhil Kshirsager, M. D., MPH
E-Mail: Akhil.kshirsager@ufl.edu
Teaching Assistant Office Hours: Contact through Canvas

I am delighted to talk to you about any aspects of your education (even majoring in Geography). I am committed to undergraduate teaching and interaction and if I can help you in any way, please let me know. You will find our teaching assistants are both very experienced and have taught this class themselves.

To inquire further about Geography contact the Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr. Liang Mao, Ph.D., Associate Professor Email: liangmao@ufl.edu Telephone: (352) 294-7502 Department of Geography's Main Office Location: TUR 3141. Web site information: <http://geog.ufl.edu/programs/undergrad/> Geographic Coordinates: 82.34312 West Longitude, 29.64990 North Latitude

Course Description

This course presents the Geography of Africa in a comprehensive and systematic survey of Africa's population, natural resources, and regional geography. The course will emphasize the significance of Africa's economic and political affairs in a globalizing world. The class will incorporate lectures, guests, readings, various media and exercises.

Media stereotypes and contemporary questions will be addressed in geographical context and evaluated through assignments. *Rather than the poor, starving, diseased populations impacted by corruption and environmental degradation, we will consider the diverse and resilient landscapes and people. Students will be asked to address their preconceptions and work to understand contemporary Africa.*

Students should anticipate a writing intense course and develop an understanding of the approaches used by geographers to identify and analyze environmental systems and human-environment relationships in Africa. This course will enhance student awareness of how geographic concepts apply to, and have influenced their lives specific to the continent of Africa

S - Social Science
Communication

N - International

Gordon Rule – 6,000 words

Class Objectives

The objective of this course is the development of an understanding of the importance of the geography of the continent of Africa. The relationships between physical environment and human systems are the basic tenant of geography. The physical and human landscapes of Africa will be evaluated in relation to current events, politics and challenges, while considering the historical perspective.

The course is constructed to incorporate writing and research in the examination of the origin and evolution of the physical and human landscape of Africa. Assignments will emphasize all scales geography from global economic dimensions to grains of sand, using original research and design, and intensive writing. The course will provide essential background material and concepts will be considered systematically. While the course will be divided into sections, students should anticipate the interconnectedness of the discipline of Geography. The class will follow these general sections:

- . Physical Geography (tectonics, landforms, climate, soil, vegetation)
- . Human-Environmental Interactions (desertification, deforestation, impact of conservation)
- . Population and Medical Geography (birth and death rates, age cohorts, disease, mobility)
- . Geography of Development (globalization, economic development, financial systems, transportation)
- . Social Geography (role of women, education, development perspectives, historical influences)
- . Agriculture (traditional verses cash crops, policy questions, climate impacts)
- . Political Geography (colonialism, post-colonial government systems, conflict)
- . Urbanization (city structures, rural urban migration, housing)

This class will NOT be about geography trivia. My goal for this course is to instill an ability to write and think geographically, rather than the requirement to memorize information. While this course is by its nature fact based, the assignments are designed to develop the following important skills: (1) written and verbal communication; (2) research and critical thinking; (3) problem evaluation and analysis; and (4) application of knowledge. Each assignment will provide the opportunity for a student to demonstrate creativity in applied geography.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Please arrive on time and turn off your cell phone. If you are late, please come in quietly. Being late happens; please try not to make it a habit. I encourage discussion in class. However, it should include the instructor and the entire class. Your decision to enroll in this class is voluntary, by attending you are agreeing to participate and be respectful to me and other students by being attentive. This is a 3 credit class with a 6,000 word writing requirement. You should anticipate it to be rigorous and spend considerable time per week reviewing lectures, taking notes, reading the text, and working with assigned partners and groups. In addition, you should anticipate time needed to be spent on homework, including the Taking Sides group presentation and your Taking Sides paper, satirical evaluation, colonial remnant paper, discussion posts to the class, quiz completion, and preparation for the exam and the final.

Each member of this class will be participating in a presentation and support from your peers is essential. **YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP CLASS PRESENTATION TO PASS THIS CLASS.** While I understand that the requirement to make a presentation to the class may be daunting, every student will participate and I expect demonstrated effort and creativity, and respect for each other.

Required

- Good Attitude
- The text used in this course is by Aryeetey Attoh, S., (ed.), (2010) "Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa" 3rd Edition, Pearson. ISBN 978-0-13-605631-7. If you read the text every week it will help you with preparing for the lectures. It will be available on reserve in Marston Science library
 - Depending on your assigned topic I suggest you have access to a copy of Moseley, W. G., (ed.), (2012) "Taking sides: Clashing views of African issues" 4th Edition, Dubuque, IA, McGraw Hill ISBN 978-0-07-805008-4. You will be assigned a topic and side to write on. I will make a copy of the book available to you on reserve in Marston Science library. Each seminal article is also available from the original source. You may also come to my office hours to secure a copy of the relevant chapter.
- I will use excerpts from Grant. R., (2015) "Africa: Geographies of Change," Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-992056-3. You will not need this text
- Proficient use of the library databases for research of scholarly materials for assignments. Library materials and database orientation through the UF library is suggested if you have not done this before. You will use APA citation style in all your work for this class. Your ability to use this style is part of the demonstration of your writing competency. Specific instructions on this are in the Modules
- Good written and oral communications skills. This class contains a substantial expectation for college level writing in the discipline of geography. References to

scholarly material must be made in the format shown below. All work should be well structured, clear and concise.

Student Evaluation

Assignment	Points (100 total)	Words required	Due Dates on Class Calendar
1a - Introduction - Evaluation of the Origin of Personal Stereotypes 1b – Syllabus Evaluation	4 points 1 point	750	Due Friday 5pm 1/17/20 Submitted via Canvas Due Friday 5pm 1/17/20
2a – Colonial Remnants Topic Selection 2b – Colonial Remnants Report	1 point 14 points	1250	Due Friday 5pm 3/27/20 Due Friday 5pm 4/10/20 . Submitted via Canvas
3a -Taking Sides Report 3b - Taking Sides Class Presentation (MANDATORY)	20 points 10 points	2000	Submitted via Canvas, presented in class, due by 5pm Friday the week the issue is raised (turn in by 5pm the week of your presentation) Individual, not group reports required
4 – Satirical Evaluation of Guest Lecture/Multimedia/ Movie	14 points	1000	Submitted via Canvas, due 5pm Friday 3/13/20
Discussion posts (5)	3 (2 points each)	@450 (@150 each)	Submitted regularly via Canvas, 3 times see class calendar 1/24, 2/28, 4/3
Map Quizzes (2)	10 points (5 each)	0	Given in class MUST ATTEND w/ Laptop, tablet, phone, 2/13, 2/18

Midterm Exam – short essay	10 points	750	Taken on Canvas, 3/17/20
Final Exam – multiple choice, true/false, matching	10 points	0	Taken on Canvas, timed, due on date shown on the course calendar

Canvas e-Learning System

This class will be conducted using the e-Learning System, Canvas. The syllabus, course calendar, reading materials and resources will be available through Canvas. All assignments must be posted through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Grades will be posted in Canvas. The best method of contact for Dr. Lannon is through Canvas email. Please consult <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

If you experience problems with the e-Learning system, such as log-in issues, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at the Hub, or at 392-HELP for assistance.

Writing Evaluation

The course has a substantial writing requirement. To obtain credit for the UF writing requirement, students must achieve a C grade. Your writing will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Content
- Organization and Coherence
- Effectiveness of Argument
- Style
- Grammar and Punctuation

Reading and Literature Citation

The material covered each week is outlined on the course calendar in Canvas. I expect you to read the relevant parts of the text and other articles prior to class so that you can participate in class discussion. While discussion in a large class is complicated, this class is designed to assign sides to diverse issues and groups of students will lead discussion. Debates should be scholarly in nature, but also include informed opinions, that you should be aware may not be parallel to others. Each issue will be assigned a student facilitator to coordinate the presentation materials. You will also individual written assignments.

In your assignments and presentations, I expect you to cite all sources using APA standards. The suggestion to attend a library orientation will assist you if you are unsure of literature citation standards. You will be provided class time to familiarize yourself with library access and materials. It is sufficient under an image or after work attributed to an author, to use Last Name and Date (Lannon, 2018). After a direct quotation you should use Name, Date, Page Number (Lannon, 2018, page 23). At the end of every assignment and presentation please include a complete reference list. If you are consistent, and include all the relevant information (Author Name, Publication Date, Article or Book Title, Publisher and Location, Number of Pages, if applicable), I will be satisfied.

Discussion Techniques

1. Listen to each other and learn a variety of perspectives upon which you can build your opinions in favor or against an issue.
2. Discussions should be focused. The Moseley text provides issues upon which we will base class discussion.
3. Connections between the various subdisciplines of Geography will enhance your ability to evaluate issues.
4. Insight from readings, supplemented by awareness of current events and connections to your personal interests or other classes will enhance your discussion skills.

Class Attendance

Class attendance will not be taken unless required by the University. If you cannot attend class please make arrangements with a classmate ahead of time. However, consistent attendance is strongly recommended. If you attend class you will be better prepared to participate in essential analyses and discussion necessary for assignments.

Extra Credit

Extra credit in the class can be obtained from participating in class, attending office hours of either the Professor or Teaching Assistant, asking salient questions and adding contributions. Please check the syllabus for office hours.

Heidi Lannon, Turlington 3126A, Thursdays 8:30 to 10:30

You will be awarded 5 extra credit points on the final examination for each contribution. The extra credit is applied towards the final exam grade. Please be aware that the maximum amount of extra credit is the total score of the final, not over 100%.

Academic Honesty, Regulations and the Honor Code

The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Details on student responsibilities and regulations can be viewed at

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/academic-regulations.aspx> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

Academic dishonesty (cheating) is not accepted in any class at the University of Florida. The practice of any type of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the entire class. I hope you will find me to be a flexible faculty member in all aspects, but I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with University of Florida policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. You must be registered with Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) in Reid Hall for disability verification and determination of reasonable academic accommodations. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the semester (except for unusual circumstances) so arrangements can be made. For more information, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ 352-392-8565

Course Evaluation

Your Teaching Assistant and I would be grateful to receive feedback on this class. The University of Florida provides you with 10 criteria with which to evaluate the quality of instruction. Feedback can be provided online at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#) and evaluations are usually open the last 2 weeks of the semester. I am sincerely committed to improving the class experience for you and always learn something from student feedback.

Grading Scale

GRADE PERCENTAGE

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
F	<59.99

Final grade policy - Note the Grading scale is to 2 decimal places. At the end of the semester do NOT ask for extra credit to make your grade higher. There are plenty of opportunities throughout the semester.

Grades are used as a tool to measure performance. To perform well in this class the following will help you: (1) attend class regularly (2) take lecture notes and set aside time to read the pertinent parts of the text (3) participate in class exercises. If you are not doing well and have studied, read, and attended class, please e-mail me or come and see me – do not wait until the end of the semester.

Late work policy - Meeting deadlines matters! All assignments are due at 5pm on the due date or as indicated on the Calendar. Late assignments will be marked down a letter grade for each day they are late (i.e., from an A to a B for being a day late). A day is defined as 24 hours and begins immediately after 5pm. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN THROUGH THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CANVAS).

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

Please consult the Calendar on The Learning Management System (Canvas) for exact dates

DATES	TOPIC
Week beginning January 6	<i>Tuesday</i> - Welcome and Introduction. (Check last day to drop/add, if necessary). Introduce Assignments.
	<i>Thursday</i> - Overview of the importance of Geography, Africa (Chapter 1) Complete Assignment 1 interview.
Week beginning January 13	<i>Tuesday</i> – Geography of Africa, Globalization (Chapter 2)
	<i>Thursday</i> - Globalization continued. Introduce <u>Physical Environment</u> , Physical Geography of Africa (Chapter 3) Taking Sides Issues and Student Groups Assigned Begin Taking Sides Issue organization. Use the class time to orient yourself at the library. DUE: Friday 5pm, Assignment 1 – 1a syllabus quiz, 1b Introductions and Stereotypes of classmate
Week beginning January 20 MLK HOLIDAY	<i>Tuesday</i> – Physical Geography of Africa continued (Chapter 3) Taking Sides – Issue 12 – Community Based Wildlife Management, Issue 3 – Impacts of European Subjugation
	<i>Thursday</i> - Physical Geography of Africa DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 1
Week beginning January 27	<i>Tuesday</i> – Human Environmental Issues (Chapter 4) Taking Sides - Issue 1 – Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Issue 9– Climate Change and Agriculture

	<i>Thursday</i> - Complete Human Environmental Issues
Week beginning February 3	<i>Tuesday</i> – <u>Sociocultural Africa</u> - Historical Geography of Africa (Chapter 5) Taking Sides - Issue 16 – Multi-Party Democracy, Issue 4 – Colonization and Development,
	<i>Thursday</i> - Historical Geography of Africa continued (Chapter 5)
Week beginning February 10	<i>Tuesday</i> – No class, professor out of town. Study for Map Quizzes
	<i>Thursday</i> - Map Quiz 1 (In class, must attend with phone, tablet or laptop)
Week beginning February 17	Tuesday – Map Quiz 2 (In class, must attend with phone, tablet or laptop)
	<i>Thursday</i> - Political Landscapes of Africa (Chapter 6) DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 2
Week beginning February 24	<i>Tuesday</i> – Political Landscapes of Africa continued Taking Sides Issue 19 – Peace Keeping Missions, Taking Sides Issue 18 – Corruption,
	<i>Thursday</i> - Social Geography, and conflict (Chapter 7),
Week beginning March 2	SPRING BREAK
Week beginning March 9	<i>Tuesday</i> – Complete Social Geography, and conflict, Population Geography (Chapter 8) Taking Sides - Issue 10 – Food Production and Population, Taking Sides Issue 14 – Power Structures

	<p><i>Thursday</i> - Population Geography. (Chapter 8), Mid Term Review</p> <p>DUE Friday 5pm Assignment 4, movie/ guest lecture evaluation</p>
Week beginning March 16	<p><i>Tuesday</i> –Midterm EXAMINATION on Canvas (No class). Must be completed by 5pm</p> <p>DUE 5pm - Midterm EXAMINATION</p>
	<p><i>Thursday</i> – Complete Population, Gender (Chapter 12)</p>
Week beginning March 23	<p><i>Tuesday</i> –Gender (Chapter 12)</p> <p>Taking Sides - Issue 13 – Female Genital Cutting, Issue 17 – Female Political Participation</p>
	<p><i>Thursday</i> - Medical Geography and Disease</p> <p>DUE: Select Colonial Remnants Topics for Assignment 2, submit on Canvas by 5pm Friday</p>
Week beginning March 30	<p><i>Tuesday</i> - Taking Sides - Issue 15 – International Community and AIDS, Ebola Issue Ebola and the International Community</p>
	<p><i>Thursday</i> - <u>Development and Africa</u> Urbanization, infrastructure (Chapter 11) Taking Sides - Issue 2 – African Contributions to Agriculture</p> <p>DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 3</p>
Week beginning April 6	<p><i>Tuesday</i> – Economic Activity, Entrepreneurship (Chapter 15)</p> <p>Taking Sides Issues 8 – Impact of Foreign Aid, Issue 7 – Chinese Investment</p>

	<p><i>Thursday - Taking Sides Issue 11</i> – Green Revolution in Africa</p> <p>DUE: Friday 5pm, Assignment 2 - Colonial Remnants</p>
Week beginning April 13	<p><i>Tuesday</i> – Review Lecture 2 Economic Activity, Entrepreneurship (Chapter 15)</p> <p>Issue 6 - Cell Phones Issues 5 – Free Market Policies, Terrorism and Aid Issue – Should these be linked?</p>
	<p><i>Thursday</i> – Watch the New Scramble for Africa.</p>
Week beginning April 20	<p><i>Tuesday</i> – Future of Africa (Chapter 16), Presentation make-ups for 50% credit</p>
	<p>Classes End, Reading Days</p>
Week beginning April 27	<p>FINALS. Final will be given on Canvas (60 minutes)</p>