

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

University of Florida, Department of Geography

GEA 3600

Fall 2020, 3 Credits, Online

Professor: Heidi Lannon, Ph. D.
Class Time: Online class, Asynchronous
Office: Turlington 3126A
Phone: (352) 392-0494 (best to contact me through Canvas)
E-Mail: lannon@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 to 12:30. Additional office hours by appointment.

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93668927426?pwd=U0pJVXUyTFNETjdmK1Vib1FqbUM1UT09>

Meeting ID: **936 6892 7426**, Passcode: **geography**

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
Graduate Teaching Assistant: Guoqian Yan, PhD Candidate
E-Mail: yanguoqian@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

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

This is an Online Class. If you are reading this you have already mastered the essentials of the Learning Management System (Canvas). I expect you to check the Learning Management System (Canvas) for messages and content at least 3 times a week. I suggest you conduct yourself online as you would in person. To that end, it may help if you assign yourself regular times each week to review the lectures, take quizzes and post discussion items. 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 group project to prepare a presentation and support from your peers is essential. **YOU MUST PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP CLASS PRESENTATION AND SUBMISSION TO PASS THIS CLASS.** While I understand that the requirement to develop a group online presentation may be daunting, every student will participate and I expect demonstrated effort and creativity, and respect for each other.

One of the advantages of taking an online class is that you do not need to arrive on time or worry about turning off your cell phone. **HOWEVER**, I suggest that when you are reviewing the lectures you remove all other distractions, such as cell phones, social media, the television, etc. I encourage talking in classes that I teach in person, and you should use the discussion format to “talk” to your class peers. I will monitor the discussions, but if you need to contact me, please do not use the discussion board. Your decision to sign up for this class is voluntary, so I anticipate you are willing to do a substantial amount of self directed work. You may contact me through the Learning Management System (Canvas) (preferred) or by e-mail. Telephone messages may not be received promptly. I will endeavor to respond to the Learning Management System (Canvas) within 24 hours on week days. To excel in this class you should make a conscious decision to complete the level of participation outlined above. Please be aware that respect for your peers online, as it would be in person, is required.

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 it will help you with reviewing the lectures online. A copy is be available on reserve in Marston Science library. You are not required to purchase this textbook.

- 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 group, a topic and side to write on. A copy of the book is available for you on reserve in Marston Science library. Each seminal article is also available from the original scholarly journal source, through the library online databases, so you are not required to purchase this textbook.

- 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

- 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, APA citation style. All work should be well structured, clear and concise.

Student Evaluation

Assignment	Points (100 total)	Words required	Due Dates on Class Calendar
1a – Syllabus Evaluation	1 point		Due Friday 5pm 9/11/20
1b - Introduction Video	1 point		Due Friday 5pm 9/11/20
1c - Written evaluation of the Origin of Personal Stereotypes	3 points	750	Due Friday 5pm 9/18/20 Submitted via Canvas
2a – Colonial Remnants Topic Selection 2b – Colonial Remnants Report	1 point 14 points	1250	Due Friday 5pm 10/16/20 Due Friday 5pm 10/30/20 . Submitted via Canvas
3a -Taking Sides Report 3b - Taking Sides Class Presentation (MANDATORY)	20 points 10 points	2000	Submitted via Canvas, Individual, not group reports required. Group development of a presentation submitted in Canvas 5pm Friday the week the issue is scheduled
4 – Satirical Evaluation of Article/Movie/Multimedia/ Cartoon/Documentary	14 points	1000	Submitted via Canvas, due 5pm Friday 11/27/20
Discussion posts on Peers Taking Sides Issues Presentations (3)	3 (2 points each)	@450 (@150 each)	Due by 5pm. Check your group Group 1, Post 1 – 10/2/20 Group 1, Post 2 – 10/16/20 Group 1, Post 3 – 11/13/20
			Group 2, Post 1 - 10/2/20 Group 2, Post 2 – 10/23/20 Group 2, Post 3 – 11/20/20
			Group 3, Post 1 – 10/9/20 Group 3, Post 2 – 10/30/20 Group 3, Post 3 – 11/27/20
Map Quizzes (2)	10 points (5 each)	0	Given online and timed, complete by 5pm Friday 10/9/20, 10/16/20
Midterm Exam – short essay	10 points	750	Taken on Canvas, 11/8/20

Final Exam – multiple choice, true/false, matching	10 points	0	Taken on Canvas, timed, due on date shown on the course calendar 12/16/20
--	-----------	---	--

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 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. These will be the subject of class discussion posts. Discussion posts should be scholarly in nature, but also include informed opinions. You should be aware that your opinions may not be parallel to others. Each issue will be assigned a student facilitator to coordinate the presentation materials. You will also complete 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. 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.

Extra Credit

Extra credit in the class can be obtained from paying attention to the recorded lectures. There are clues embedded in the lecture narration.

You will be awarded 5 extra credit points on the final examination for each clue.

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 Assistants 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

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.

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 August 31	Welcome and Introduction. (Check last day to drop/add, if necessary). Overview of the importance of Geography, Africa (Chapter 1, Attoh) Contact class peer for Assignment 1 interview.
Week beginning September 7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Geography of Africa, Globalization (Chapter 2, Attoh) Introduce <u>Physical Environment</u> , Physical Geography of Africa (Chapter 3, Attoh) Taking Sides Issues and Student Groups Assigned Begin Taking Sides Issue organization. Orient yourself at the library materials and APA citation style. DUE: Friday 5pm, Assignment 1 – 1a syllabus quiz, 1b Introduction Flipgrid
Week beginning September 14	Physical Geography of Africa (Chapter 3, Attoh) – Hydrosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere, biosphere DUE: Friday 5pm, Assignment 1c – Written introduction and stereotypes of classmate
Week beginning September 21	Human Environmental Issues (Chapter 4, Attoh) Taking Sides due: Issue 1 – Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Issue 2 – Contribution to New World Agriculture Issue 3 – Impacts of European Subjugation Issue 12 – Community Based Wildlife Management,
Week beginning September 28	<u>Sociocultural Africa</u> - Historical Geography of Africa (Chapter 5, Attoh) Political Landscapes of Africa (Chapter 6, Attoh) Taking Sides due: Issue 4 – Colonization and Development, Issue 9 – Climate Change and Agriculture Issue- Terrorism and Aid - Should these be linked? DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 1, Group 1 DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 1, Group 2
Week beginning October 5	Political Landscapes of Africa continued (Chapter 6, Attoh) Map Quiz 1 Issues 8 – Impact of Foreign Aid, Issue 7 – Chinese Investment Issue 16 – Multi-Party Democracy, DUE: Friday 5pm, Map Quiz 1 DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 1, Group 3

Week beginning October 12	Social Geography and Conflict. Map Quiz 2 Issue 19 – Peace Keeping Missions, Issue 18 – Corruption, DUE: Friday 5pm, Map Quiz 2 DUE: Friday 5pm, Assignment 2, Select Colonial Remnants Topic DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 2, Group 1
Week beginning October 19	Population Geography (Chapter 8, Attoh) Issue 10 – Food Production and Population, Issue 14 – Power Structures, DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 2, Group 2
Week beginning October 26	Review Guest Lecture, Dr. Andy Noss, “Bushmeat” (this is important, there will be questions on this on the Final Exam) Gender (Chapter 12, Attoh) Issue 13 – Female Genital Cutting, Issue 17 – Female Political Participation DUE: Friday 5pm, Assignment 2, Colonial Remnants Report DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 2, Group 3
Week beginning November 2	Mid Term Review <u>Midterm EXAMINATION on Canvas</u> DUE: Friday 5pm, Midterm EXAMINATION
Week beginning November 9 VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY	<i>Development and Africa</i> Urbanization, infrastructure (Chapter 11, Attoh) Issue 6 - Cell Phones Issue 15 – International Community and AIDS, DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 3, Group 1
Week beginning November 16	Medical Geography and Disease (Chapter 13, Attoh) Economic Activity, Entrepreneurship (Chapter 15, Attoh) Issues 5 – Free Market Policies Issue 11 – Green Revolution in Africa, Ebola Issue - Ebola and the International Community, DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 3, Group 2
Week beginning November 23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	Watch the New Scramble for Africa (this is important, there will be questions on this on the Final Exam). DUE: Friday 5pm, Discussion Post 3, Group 3 DUE Friday 5pm Assignment 4, Satire essay, movie/guest lecture evaluation
Week beginning November 30	Review Lecture 2 Economic Activity, Entrepreneurship (Chapter 15, Attoh)

Week beginning December 7	Future of Africa (Chapter 16, Attoh) Classes End, Reading Days
Week beginning December 14	FINALS. Final is timed, given in Canvas (60 minutes) Due by WEDNESDAY at 5pm

You should post comments on one of the Taking Sides issues presentations submitted. These are available in Modules. You may comment, agree or disagree with one of your peers discussion posts. You should conduct yourself online, as you would in person, and avoid personal attacks and extreme criticism.

Your post should total 150 words

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. Review the Moseley text for the context of 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 peer submission, supplemented by awareness of current events and connections to your personal interests or other classes will enhance your discussion skills.