

SYLLABUS

GEOG 550: GEOGRAPHY OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Instructor: Maingi Solomon, PhD

Lecture Period: MWF 12:10PM – 1:00PM

Venue: Murkland 202

Office: 331 Huddleston Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday 10AM – Noon
Friday 1 – 2PM or by appointment

Email: Maingi.Solomon@unh.edu

Office Phone: 603.862.4007

Website: Mycourses@unh.edu

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the relevant geographical information domains of Sub-Saharan Africa.
 - Students will demonstrate critical thinking in evaluating topical issues concerning the human and physical environments of Sub-Saharan Africa.
 - Students will understand the diversity and complexity of Sub-Saharan Africa and its context within global geography.
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BASICS

CANVAS	Course information can be found in: mycourses.unh.edu
Textbooks	<p>Gepgraphy of Sub-Saharan Africa, Third edition by Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh, Published by Prentice Hall 2010 (ISBN-13: 978-0136056317, ISBN-10: 0136056318)</p> <p>This textbook is required for this class and students should bring it to all class meetings.</p> <p>I suggest reading the BBC's website daily (http://www.bbc.com/news/world/africa) as well as other reputable news sources such as the international edition of The New York Times (www.international.nytimes.com), The Economist (www.economist.com), The Guardian (www.theguardian.com), and others as you may prefer.</p>
Accessibility	<p>The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all University programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 or disability.office@unh.edu. If you have received Accommodation Letters for this course from DSS, please provide me with that information privately so that we can review those accommodations. See the DSS Website for details: http://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices/disabilityservices.html.</p>
University Policies	<p>All students should know and understand university policies and procedures regarding academic performance, including attendance and academic dishonesty. If you are unfamiliar with these policies, please refer to the University of New Hampshire Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities for details: http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/.</p>
Behaviour	<p>To ensure a climate of learning for all, disruptive or inappropriate behavior may result in exclusion (removal) from this class. As a reminder, cell phone/pda, etc. use, including text messaging, is not permitted in this class by Faculty Senate rule unless by instructor permission.</p>

Additional resources:

- **Center for Academic Recourses (CFAR)**: Provides services and resources to support undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic success. (<https://www.unh.edu/cfar>.)
- **Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (SHARPP)**: Provides free and confidential advocacy and direct services to survivors. (<https://www.unh.edu/sharpp>.)

Comments: All the procedures, policies, and schedules contained in this syllabus may change during the course semester. Any changes will be announced in class, posted on CANVAS, or distributed via email. It is your responsibility to check your university email account and CANVAS regularly.

GRADING PROCEDURES

- General** All coursework submitted for evaluation must represent each student's own, original work. Therefore, all assignments and exams are to be completed individually in accordance with the standards of conduct outlined in *Section 09: Academic Honesty* of the UNH Students Rights, Rules and Responsibility (<http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/academic-honesty>).
- Exams** There will be **three exams** in this course **worth 50% of your final grade**.
- Assignments** **Country presentations:** Each student will pick an African country during the first week. You will be required to study that country (economy, politics, and cultures) and make a ten-minute presentation to the rest of the class. On the day of the presentation, the student will be required to present to me a short paper (2000-2500 words) for grading. This assignment is **worth 25% of your final grade**. The country presentations will be scattered throughout the semester. Details to follow.
- Discussion** There will be five **"Discussion Board"** assignments **worth 15 percent of your final grade**. Details will be provided in class.
- Participation** **Attendance and participation is required for this class and is worth 10% of your final grade**. Students are responsible for completing all the assigned activities including assigned readings before class.
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ATTENDANCE

- Lecture** Tardiness and early departure is incredibly disruptive and may cause you, and your classmates, to miss important material. Lecture begins promptly at 10 minutes after the hour so be on time and prepared for the start of class. Do not expect, nor prepare, to leave before the 80-minute class period has elapsed.

Excused Absences	<p>Attendance is mandatory for this class except in cases of excused absences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Absences in which prior arrangements have been made. Such arrangements must be made at least one week in advance of the absence. 2) Absences due to family or personal medical emergencies in which a university approved absence has been granted. You must contact your college's Dean's office for a letter verifying your absence. 3) Absences due to serious illness or personal medical emergency accompanied by a note from the Dean of Students.
Missed Work	<p>In all cases, it is entirely up to you to make arrangements to complete missed work. In the case of an excused absence without prior arrangements, you must notify me within 48 hours of the scheduled exam or homework due date. If you fail to receive approval for a make-up exam or late work within this timeframe, or have an unexcused absence, you will receive a "0" for a missed exam and are subject to the penalties for late work described below.</p>
Late Work	<p>Assignments are due at the beginning of, or prior to, the class period on the indicated due date. Assignments submitted after the due date will be <u>accepted for half credit up to one week after the due date</u>. Assignments that are more than one week late will be assigned a grade of "0." There is no penalty for late work due to an excused absence.</p>

SCHEDULE

Jan 23/25 (Introduction to Sub-Saharan Africa)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Introduction

Jan 28/30, Feb 1 (The Global context)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 2
2. Fosu, A. K. (2015) Growth, Inequality, and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Recent Progress in a Global Context. Oxford Development Studies, 43(1): 44-59.

(Pick countries for presentation Feb 1)

Feb 4/6/8 (The physical environmental context)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 3. The physical environment

Feb 11/13/15 (The physical environmental context)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 4. Human-Environment Impacts: Forest Degradation and Desertification.
2. IPCC (2014) Africa.

Feb 18/20 (The sociocultural context I)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 5. Historical Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Lechler, M. and McNamee, L. (2016) Decentralized Despotism: How Indirect Colonial Rule Undermines Contemporary Democratic Attitudes.

Feb 22: EXAM 1**Feb 25/27/March 1 (The sociocultural context II)**

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 6. Political Landscape of Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities and Constraints.
2. Zeydanli, T. (2017) Elections and Subjective Living Conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa. *African Development Review*, 29(4):545-561.

March 4/6/8 (The sociocultural context III)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 7. Culture, Conflict, and Change in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Blanton, R., Mason, T., and Athow, B. (2001) Colonial Style and Post-Colonial Ethnic Conflict in Africa. *Journal of Peace Research*, 38(4): 473-491.

SPRING BREAK (MARCH 11-15) – NO CLASS**March 18/20/22 (The sociocultural context IV)**

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 8. Population Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Menashe-Oren, A. (2018) Rural/Urban Population Age and Sex Composition in SSA. *Population and Development Review*, 44(1): 7-35.

March 25: EXAM 2**March 27/ 29/April 1/3/5 (The Development Context I)**

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 9. Geography and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Dzanku, F. M. (2019) Food security in rural sub-Saharan Africa: Exploring the nexus between gender, geography and off-farm employment. *World Development*, 113: 26-43.

April 8/10/12 (The Development Context II)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 10. Transport, Communication, and Information Technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa: Digital Bridges Over Spatial Divides.
2. Mbiti, I. and Weil, D. (2016) Mobile Banking: The Impact of M-Pesa in Kenya. **Chapter in NBER book [African Successes, Volume III: Modernization and Development](#) (2016), Sebastian Edwards, Simon Johnson, and David N. Weil, editors (p. 247 - 293). Published in September 2016 by University of Chicago Press © 2016 by the National Bureau of Economic Research in [Research on Africa](#)**

April 15/17/19 (The Development Context III)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 11. Urban Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Yeboah, I., Codjoe, S., and Maingi, J. (2013) Emerging Urban System Demographic Trends: Informing Ghana's National Urban Policy and Lessons for Sub-Saharan Africa. *Africa Today*, 60(1): 99-124.

April 22/24/26 (The Development Context IV)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 14. Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Bryceson, D. (2002) The Scramble in Africa: Reorienting Rural Livelihoods. *World Development*, 30(5): 725-739.

April 29, May 1/3/6 (The Development Context V)

1. Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 15. Spatial Organization and Distribution of Economic Activity: Industry and Entrepreneurship in Africa.
2. Bosker and Garretsen (2012) Economic Geography and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. *World Bank Economic Review*, 26(3): 443-485.

Monday, May 13, 2019: EXAM 3