

GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

GEO 334-80 (ONLINE)

WINTER 2012

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a systematic approach to the physical and human geography of Sub-Saharan Africa. It focuses on the physical-environmental, socio-cultural and development dimensions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a comprehensive coverage on relevant geographical issues pertaining to contemporary events in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. To increase our understanding of Africa in a global context for instance by
 - Considering how cultural landscapes in the region may be tied into a broader global system of cultural, economic and environmental changes
 - Examining the effects of globalization on changing human and environmental landscapes in Sub-Saharan Africa such as effects of global climate change on long term sustainable development, strategies to mitigate the impacts of deforestation and desertification.
3. To provide insights on a number of new development initiatives in Africa aimed at reducing poverty and resolving geographic patterns of inequality.
4. To present Africa as a region with a rich and diverse physical and human resource base and a resilient cultural heritage contrary to stereotypical perceptions of the region as a “dark continent”.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

1. Students should be able to explain contemporary ideas, theories, and concepts in African geography, and their applicability to “real world” situations.
2. Students should be able to explain major aspects of the African environment such as the causes and consequences of deforestation and desertification.
3. Students should be able to explain the concept of Triple Heritage in relation to indigenous heritage, Islamic influence, and Western influence in Africa.
4. Students should be able to identify and explain the major elements of African culture such as land tenure, dress form.
5. Students should be able to explain the dynamics of population change in Africa
6. Students should be able to critically assess major problems facing African agricultural and urban systems and offer possible solutions

COURSE REQUIRMENTS

Students are required to keep up with the readings and assignments. Grading will be based on on-line assignments as specified on the syllabus. Be very precise and address all issues raised in the questions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa by Samuel Aryeetey Attoh. Third Edition
Prentice Hall Publishers ISBN 978-0-13605631-7

COURSE READING ASSIGNMENT:

Week of 12/27- Dec.30th 2011

The Physical - Environment Context

Read Aryeetey Attah - Chapters 3 and 4 (pp 31-87)

Week of January 2nd-January 5th

Socio-Cultural Context

Read Aryeetey Attah – Chapters 5, 7 and 8 (pp 93-118, 151-176, 179-201)

Week of January 6th-January 10th

The Development Context

Read Aryeetey Attah – Chapters 11, 12, 14 (pp 265-302, 305-328, and 367-400)

Midterm and Final exams are posted on bb as well as the other assignments