SYLLABUS

GEOG 550: GEOGRAPHY OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Instructor: Maingi Solomon, PhD
Lecture Period: MW 2:10PM – 3:30PM
Venue: Parsons N114
Office: 331 Huddleston Hall
Office Hours: Monday 10AM – Noon
                        Friday 2 – 3PM 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.
### BASICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CANVAS</th>
<th>Course information can be found in: mycourses.unh.edu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Textbooks | **Gepgraphy of Sub-Saharan Africa, Third edition by Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh, Published by Prentice Hall 2010**  
This textbook is **required** for this class and students should bring it to all class meetings. |
| Accessibility | 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](http://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices/disabilityservices.html). |
| University Policies | 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/](http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/). |
| Behaviour | 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. |
| 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](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](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 60% of your final grade. The three exams will focus on areas covered before the day of the exam.

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 15% 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.

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  Attendance is mandatory for this class except in cases of excused absences:
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 doctor’s note.

Missed Work 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.

Late Work 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 accepted for half credit up to one week after the due date. 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.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Jan 25 (Introduction to Sub-Saharan Africa)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Introduction

Week 2: Jan 30/Feb 1 (The Global context)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 2
(Pick countries for presentation Feb 1)

Week 3: Feb 6/8 (The physical environmental context)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 3. The physical environment

Week 4: Feb 13/15 (The physical environmental context)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 4. Human-Environment Impacts: Forest Degradation and Desertification.

Feb 17: EXAM 1
Week 5: Feb 20/22 (The sociocultural context I)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 5. Historical Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 6: Feb 27/March 1 (The sociocultural context II)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 6. Political Landscape of Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities and Constraints.

Week 7: March 6/8 (The sociocultural context III)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 7. Culture, Conflict, and Change in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Week 8: SPRING BREAK (MARCH 13-17) – NO CLASS

Week 9: March 20/22 (The sociocultural context IV)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 8. Population Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa.

March 27: EXAM 2

Week 11: March 29/April 3 (The Development Context I)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 9. Geography and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

April 5 (NO CLASS – AAG)

Week 12: April 10/12 (The Development Context II)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 10. Transport, Communication, and Information Technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa: Digital Bridges Over Spatial Divides.

Week 13: April 17/19 (The Development Context III)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 11. Urban Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Week 14: April 24/26 (The Development Context IV)

April 26: EXAM 3

Week 15: May 1/3 (The Development Context V)
Aryeetey-Attoh, Ch. 15. Spatial Organization and Distribution of Economic Activity: Industry and Entrepreneurship in Africa.