

AFRICA, SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

Geography 355

Spring, 2014

Instructor: Matthew Turner
340 Science Hall
262-2465
mturner2@wisc.edu

Office Hours: M 11-12; Tue 11:30-12:30pm;
W 2:30-3:30pm or by appt

Course Description. This course is an intermediate-level introduction to the geography of Africa. It is a course for undergraduates. While welcomed, no course work on Africa is required prior to taking this course. After a general overview of physical and historical geography in the first part of the course, we will focus on a number of important contemporary issues including population, urbanization, economic development, gender, AIDS pandemic, ethnicity and politics, and environmental change.

Readings. The class is organized so as to provide an increasingly rigorous, sophisticated view of African geography over the course of the semester. Required (REQ) and recommended (REC) readings will come from four sources:

- 1) Stock, R. 2013. *Africa South of the Sahara*. Third Edition. New York: Guilford Press. [**Stock**]
- 2) Readings on reserve for this course in digital format accessible through the Learn@UW page for the course [**RR**]

Required readings for this course will come from the Stock textbook along with on-line reserved readings which are accessible through our Learn@UW course page (contents tab). The Stock textbook is available for purchase at the University Bookstore. An earlier edition of Stock (Second Edition) is on reserve in the Geography Library with those assigned sections that are the same in the second and third editions marked with an asterisk (*). Other readings are all available in digital format through the course's Learn@UW page. Several readings are from two sources: 1. Nelson Mandela's autobiography: *Long Walk to Freedom* (also a copy is on reserve in College Library); and 2. Moseley, W. ed. 2012. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on African Issues*. 4th edition. McGraw-Hill [Moseley]. There will also be the occasional handout. Lectures and discussions will build from the reading material and therefore it is imperative that assigned reading for the week will be done prior to class meetings. Note: reserved reading assignments may be changed over the course of the semester but with little net increase in overall volume.

Course Requirements

1 Exam 1	17-February	17%
2. Response paper 1	5-March	8%
3. Mandela reading questions 1 and 2	12-March, 31-March	16%
4. Current Events Presentation	Variable	7%
5. Exam 2	9-April	22%
6. Response paper 2	21-April	8%
7. News source debate	7-May	7%
8. Class participation	(27-January through 7-May)	15%

- 1) Exam 1 on the capitals and locations of the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa as well as the major patterns in its physical features (e.g. elevation, climate, vegetation – weeks 1-3).
- 2, 6) Response papers. You will be asked to respond to questions that concern assigned readings. Length of the response should not exceed 3 double-spaced pages.
- 3) Response to questions about assigned sections of Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom* that relate

Mandela's life to themes explored in weeks 7-8. The length of these responses will not exceed 2 double-spaced pages.

- 4) Student teams will be asked to review news accounts on African issues over previous week (weeks 3-9, 11-14)
- 5) Exam 2 covers the material covered in weeks 4-9. You will have access to your notes.
- 7) Debate on the question of China's role in Africa using different news sources.
- 8) Class participation is a critical part of this course. You will be expected to contribute to class discussions. Asking questions about the reading or lecture material is also considered participation.

Written assignments are expected to be turned in on time with 10% of the maximum score deducted from scores for every day the assignment is late.

Class Conduct

Attendance I expect every student to be *on time* to *every* class, fully engaged and prepared. An integral component of this course is discussion and for effective discussion all members of class need to be present and full engaged. In addition, some exam questions will come directly from lectures, films, and discussion; therefore, attendance is crucial to receiving a good grade. If you miss class you should still complete the readings and get notes from a classmate. You are also responsible for all information and handouts disseminated in class, as well as all course requirements, including deadlines and examinations. Those with more than one unexcused absences will lead to a reduction in the participation points (one-quarter of participation points for each additional unexcused absence represented 5% of grade).

Scholastic misconduct is broadly defined as "any act that violates the right of another student in academic work or that involves misrepresentation of your own work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, (but is not necessarily limited to): cheating on assignments or examinations and plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another. Students found cheating or committing plagiarism on any of the assignments or examination in this course will receive a score of zero for that assignment or examination. If you have any doubts whether you know what constitutes plagiarism please visit the following website: <http://plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Week 0: Introduction to the Course: What do we know about Africa?

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

27-Jan Images of Africa

29-Jan Diversity of Africa

REQ: RR Wainaina, R. 2006. "How to Write About Africa," *Granta* 92.

RR Keim, C. 2009. How we learn pgs 15-34 in *Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind*, second edition.

Stock chapters 4-5 (pgs 65-96) – for 29-Jan

REC: Stock (15-40);

RR Kaplan, R.D. 1994. The coming anarchy. *The Atlantic Monthly* February: 44-76;

RR Fair, J. E. 1993. War, famine, and poverty: Race in the construction of Africa's media image. *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 17(2): 5-22.

Week 2: Human-Environment Relations 1

3-Feb Geology, mineral deposits, and the “resource curse”

5-Feb Climate and climate change

REQ: Stock chapter 7* (119-131), chapter 25 (451-470); Stock chapter 8* (132-148)

REC: RR pgs 1-17, 34-47 in Adams, W.H., A.S. Goudie et al. 1999. *The Physical Geography of Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (book on reserve in Geography Library);

Week 3: Human-Environment Relations 2

10-Feb Humid tropics

12-Feb Dry savanna and semi-desert

REQ: Stock chapter 9* (149-164), chapter 19* (337-355);

RR Moseley Issue 3: “Is European subjugation of Africans ultimately explained by differences in land, plant, and animal resources?” (pp. 41-52);

REC: RR Moseley Issue 9: “Is climate change a major driver of agricultural shifts in Africa” (pp. 176-193);

RR pgs 134-147, 173-210 in Adams, W.H., A.S. Goudie et al. 1999. *The Physical Geography of Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (book on reserve in Geography Library).

Week 4: Geography of Precolonial Africa

17-Feb Precolonial political organization (**Exam 1**)

19-Feb Slave trade and its impact

REQ: RR Adam Hochschild (1998), “The Traders are Kidnapping our People” in *King Leopold’s Ghost* (pp. 6-18).

RR Venture Smith 1789. “A Narrative of the life and adventures of Venture, a native of Africa, but resident above sixty years in the United States of America.” Focus on the Preface and Chapter I, pp. 1-8; skim pp. 8-17.

RR Alexander Falconbridge (1788), excerpt from *An Account of the Slave Trade on the Coast of Africa*.

RR Moseley, Issue 1: “Did the trans-Atlantic slave trade underdevelop Africa?” (pp. 2-23).

REC: Stock chapter 10* (167-185);

RR Brower, J. 1995. Early food production in Africa. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 4 (4):130-139.

RR Coquery-Vidrovitch, C. 1988. Precolonial rule: From the rural community to the state. pgs 49-65. In *Africa: Endurance and Change South of the Sahara*. Berkeley, University of California Press;

RR Iliffe, J. 1995. The Atlantic slave trade. pgs 127-158 In *Africans: The History of a Continent*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 5: The Scramble for Africa

24-Feb ‘Civilizing’ mission, rivalry, and partition (**Response Paper 1 assigned**)

26-Feb Resistance and indirect rule

REQ: Stock chapter 11* (186-202);

REC: RR Iliffe, J. 1995. Colonial invasion. pgs 187-211 In *Africans: The History of a Continent*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 6: Colonial Rule and Independence

3-March Economic programs of colonial states, independence and colonial legacy

5-March Film: From Congo to Zaire (**Response Paper 1 due**)

REQ: Stock chapter 12 (203-223);

RR Lumumba, P. 1960. "Speech at the Ceremony of the Proclamation of the Congo's Independence." (June 20, 1960);

RR Nyerere, J. 1968. "Relations with the West," pgs 50-54. In *Freedom and Socialism: a Selection from Writings and Speeches 1965-67*;

RR Moseley, Issue 4: "Did colonialism distort contemporary Africa development?" (pp. 53-68).

REC: RR Iliffe, J. 1995. Colonial change, 1918-1950. pgs 212-242 In *Africans: The History of a Continent*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 7: Gender, Kinship and Ethnicity in Contemporary Africa

10-March Ethnicity, family, and kinship in contemporary African society

12-March Gender relations in Africa (**Mandela response 1 due**)

REQ: RR Mandela, N. 1994. Section: A Country Childhood. Pgs 3-70 in *Long Walk to Freedom*.

RR Moseley Issue 13: "Should female genital cutting be accepted as a cultural practice" (pp. 260-281).

REC: Stock chapter 6 (97-115).

RR Moseley Issue 14: "Are women in a position to challenge male power structures in Africa" (pp. 282-295);

RR Siegal, B. 1996. Family and kinship. pgs 221-247 In *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. edited by A. A. Gordon and D. L. Gordon. Boulder, Lynne Rienner.

SPRING BREAK

Week 8: Political Geography of Ethnicity and Race

24-March Intro to political geography and the case of Nigeria

26-March Apartheid and post-Apartheid South Africa

REQ: RR Stock (2nd Edition, 2004), (409-422; 423-436 (on reserve));

RR Mandela, N. 1994. Section: Birth of a Freedom Fighter. Pgs 110-70 in *Long Walk to Freedom*.

REC: RR Mamdani, M. 1992. Africa: democratic theory and democratic struggles. *Dissent* Summer: 312-318.

RR Moseley Issue 16: "Is multi-party democracy taking hold in Africa?" (pp. 330-351)

Week 9: Economic Geography

31-March Africa in the World Economy (**Mandela Response 2 due**)

2-April Film: T-Shirt Travels

REQ: RR Moseley Issue 5: "Have free-market policies worked for Africa" (72-102)

REC: Stock (283-297);

RR Stiglitz, J. E. 2003. Chapter 3: Freedom to choose? Pgs. 53-88 In *Globalization and its Discontents*. New York, Norton and Company.

RR James Ferguson, J. 2006. "Introduction, Global Shadows: Africa in the World" pgs 1-23 in *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*.

Week 10: Review (weeks 4-9)

7-April Economic Geography 2

9-April Exam 2

Week 11: Contemporary livelihoods

14-April Rural-urban linkages (**Response Paper 2 assigned**)

16-April Urban life

REQ: Stock chapter 15 (262-280),chapter 23 (415-431);
RR TBA

Week 12: Health Policy and the AIDS crisis

21- April Population growth: causes and consequences (**Response Paper 2 due**)

23- April Health policy and the AIDS crisis

REQ: Stock chapter 14 (243-261);
RR Moseley Issue 10: "Is food production in Africa capable of keeping up with population growth?"
(pp. 194-216);
RR Steinberg J. 2008. *Sizwe's Test*, pp. 1-8, 90-118.

REC: Stock chapter 29 (524-541);
RR O'Reilly, B. 2000. Death of a continent. *Fortune* (November 13):259-274.
RR Cohen, J. 2000. The hunt for the origin of AIDS. *Atlantic Monthly* 286(4): 88-104.

Week 13: Development in Africa Today 1: Governments, NGOs, and New Media

28-April Failures of conventional development and alternatives

30-April Internet Media and development: KONY 2012

REQ: RR Keim, C. 2009. We should help them. pgs 83-102 in *Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind*, second edition.

KONY 2012 Invisible Children's "KONY 2012." If you have not yet seen this youtube video, please watch it and then read three of the following articles for April 30:

RR Kate Cronin-Furman and Amanda Taub (March 8, 2012), "Solving War Crimes with Wristbands: the Arrogance of 'Kony 2012'," *The Atlantic*.

RR Michael Wilkerson (March 8, 2012), "Joseph Kony is Not in Africa (and other complicated things)," *Foreign Policy*.

RR Max Fisher (March 8, 2012), "The Soft Bigotry of KONY 2012," *The Atlantic*.

RR Teju Cole (March 21, 2012), "The White Savior Industrial Complex," *The Atlantic*.

RR Cadwalladr, C. and J. Russell "KONY 2012 and the fight for truth. *The Observer*. (March 2, 2013).

REC: RR Ferguson, J. 1994. The Anti-politics machine: 'Development' and bureaucratic power in Lesotho. *The Ecologist* 24 (5):176-181;
RR Moseley Issue 8: "Does foreign aid undermine development in Africa" (pp. 157-174);

Week 14: Development in Africa Today 2: Resource Extraction

5-May New patterns of economic development

7-May News source debate (Chinese investment)

REQ: Moseley Issue 10: “Is increasing Chinese investment good for African development? (pp. 128-156);

REC: RR French, H.W. 2010. The next empire. *The Atlantic* (May, 2010)

RR Alex Shoumatoff, A. 2011 “Agony and Ivory” *Vanity Fair* (August 2011)