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:


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 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

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

REC: Stock (15-40);
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)

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);

Week 4: Geography of Precolonial Africa
17-Feb  Precolonial political organization (Exam 1)
19-Feb  Slave trade and its impact

       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);

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);

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);
   from Writings and Speeches 1965-67*;
   RR Moseley, Issue 4: “Did colonialism distort contemporary Africa development?” (pp. 53-68).

   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**)

   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);

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);

   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);
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);

REC: Stock chapter 29 (524-541);

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


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

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