



**GEOGRAPHY 2030B: AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA  
WINTER 2012**

**Instructor:** Jenna Dixon  
**Class day:** Tuesday 12:30 - 2:30pm  
**Classroom:** SSC 3018  
**Office hours:** Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30pm  
Wednesday 11:00am - 12 noon, or by appointment  
**Office:** SSC 1424  
**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext 82818  
**Email:** *Webct email \*\**

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

**Course Description** (0.5 course)

This course provides an introduction to the geography of sub-Saharan Africa. It takes a systematic approach, by examining key historical experiences, environmental, political, social and economic processes of the region. Attention will also be paid to the cultural, political, environmental and economic diversity and specific historical experiences of different regions within sub-Saharan Africa. Major themes explored during the course include: pre-colonial and colonial history, the post-colonial authoritarian rule, structural adjustment, the spatial organization of economic activity, recent demographic shifts and urbanization trends, and the health geography of the region, including the geographies of HIV/AIDS

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of the course, the students are expected to be able to:

- Understand both the diversity and some commonalities (social, environmental, political, historical, economic) of

sub-Saharan Africa;

- Understand some crucial roots of common social, environmental and economic issues faced by people in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Critically assess how sub-Saharan Africa is depicted more broadly in relation to the course material;

#### **Course materials:**

Course Textbook – *Aryeetey Attah, S. (2010). Geography of sub-Saharan Africa, Third Edition. New York: Prentice Hall.* → Available through many sources, so you most likely will not have to buy it new. Check for used copies, or at the library.

Readings – All online readings can be accessed through WebCT Please check the lecture schedule to find out what is to be read prior to each class (i.e., the readings are the basis for in-class discussion).

#### **Evaluation:**

Participation – 10%

Quiz – 15%

Mid-term exam – 25%

Assignment – 10%

Final exam – 40%

**Notes:** Participation is based on both your presence and engagement in class discussions. The quiz will cover all information to date, essential for progress in the course. Both the midterm and the final exam will test your in-depth understanding of events, more general processes and concepts, and your ability to synthesize and think critically regarding the information covered in from both lectures and course readings.

#### **Communication with the Instructor**

I am happy to help you with any problems you might have with the course, by WebCT email, during my office hours, or by appointment. I am also open to suggestions for improving the course. I am always willing to provide feedback, preferably in person. For organizational purposes I ask that you only email through WebCT, and not the regular UWO email accounts.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Course overview & introduction to sub-Saharan Africa	
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Plate tectonics theory: explanations of physical landscapes of SSA	AA Chapter 2 AA Chapter 3
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	SSA physical landscapes continued: climate, vegetation and soils	AA Ch 3 (continued)
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	The historical geography of Africa	AA Chapter 5; Sherwood (2007)
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Quiz: 1 hour in class</b>	
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Post-colonial state building, authoritarian rule & the Cold War in SSA	Young (2004)
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>NO CLASS - Reading Week</i>	
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Debt and Structural Adjustment Program (SAP)	SAPRIN (2004)
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Midterm exam: 2 hours in class</b>	
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Spatial organization of economic Activity: Industrialization in SSA	AA Chapter 15
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Population Geography: population change, demographic transitions, international migration	AA Chapter 8
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Medical Geography: Disease ecologies in SSA	AA Chapter 13
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Globalization and SSA <b>Assignment 1 due in class</b>	AA Chapter 16; Edoho (2011)
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Revisions and Review	
	<b>Final Exam TBA</b>	

\* AA = Aryeetey Attoh *Geography of sub-Saharan Africa*

### **Use of Electronic Devices**

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

### **If you get sick: Medical Accommodation Policy for Undergraduates**

In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see:

[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf)

### **Documentation from Student Health Services**

Students obtaining documentation from Student Health Services should sign a "release of information." This form authorizes Student Health Services to provide information to the student's home Faculty. Release of information forms are available from, and can be arranged through, the student's home Faculty Academic Counselling service.

### **Western's commitment to accessibility**

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

**UWO Geography Undergraduate Advisor:** Angelica Lucaci [alucaci@uwo.ca](mailto:alucaci@uwo.ca)