COURSE DESCRIPTION

Africa occupies 20 percent of the earth’s land surface. It is about four times the size of the contiguous United States and ranks just below Asia as the world’s largest continent. Africa is the place where humankind originated. It was a major center of culture and civilization long before the Europeans arrived. Today, immense diversity still characterizes the continent’s population, culture, and ways of life. Africa offers many fascinating opportunities for us to study the complex interplay between environment and society.

The course begins by examining the relations between the human and physical aspects of African geography. It analyzes the many forces and factors that have shaped contemporary African societies within this very diverse continent. The course’s main focus is to uncover the social, economic, political, and physical forces impeding and facilitating the development of Africa.

Africa is the most misunderstood and the most misrepresented continent in the world. The course will help students delve below the stereotypes of a “One Africa” and enhance their understanding of the multi-faceted continent. Topics include the geography of mineral and water resources, the dynamics of populations, spatial dimensions of colonialism and neo-colonialism, problems and prospects associated with urban growth, environmental issues, the quest for democratic governance, the roles of women and children, the AIDS pandemic, debates about trade, aid, and debt, and Africa’s roles in the global economy.

LEARNING GOALS
At the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and Understanding:
- Students will be familiarized with the cultural, social, political, economic, and environmental processes that take place in Africa, both past and present
- Students will rethink many taken-for-granted ideas about Africa and its peoples
- Students will be familiarized with the context and significance of development decisions made at the international, national, and local levels
Skills:
- Students will develop observational skills by analyzing relevant maps and figures
- Students will be able to identify African countries and other features on a map
- Students will demonstrate ability to gather together, synthesize, and critically evaluate relevant articles for a report on an African-related topic

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS


ADDITIONAL READINGS

Additional readings will support the course text. Each reading generally corresponds to the topics covered in class. Articles/book chapters are available to you on the Sakai website for this course. These readings are **REQUIRED** and will be incorporated in exams and assignments.

MAP TEST

The map test will take place on the fourth meeting of the class and counts 10% towards your final grade. A blank practice map together with a study guide will be available on Sakai.

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

The midterm examination will be based on material covered in lectures and assigned readings. There will be no make-up exams without a signed note from your physician. It counts 25% toward your final grade. The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, fill-in responses and short answer questions. Review questions will be distributed to students at least one week prior to the exam. **The midterm exam will be on Thursday, March 13th.**

AFRICA REPORT

The short assignment requires you to find one current day-to-day article (i.e. *The New York Times, The Guardian*) and one current magazine article (i.e. *The Economist, Foreign Policy, Africa, Africa Report, African Business*) that has something to do with an Africa-related topic (i.e. reforestation projects, debt relief, presidential elections, liberation movements, the impact of mobile phones, the internet, population growth, conflicts, etc.). The report counts 20% toward your final course grade. Articles should not be more than six months old. Each article should contain enough information to write a 4-5 page report about (generally no less than 5 paragraphs). A separate handout will be distributed in a few weeks with more details on the assignment.

**The assignment is due Thursday, April 24th IN CLASS. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A SIGNED NOTE FROM A PHYSICIAN.**
**FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final examination counts 35% toward your final grade. The reason why it is weighted more than the midterm examination is because in addition to the normal questions, **you will be required to write a long essay on your understanding of Hochschild book, *King Leopold’s Ghost.* This question, counting approximately 20% of the final examination total grade, asks you to interpret the events highlighted in the book. For example, you should be able to list the key events and policies outlined in the book and then discuss if the knowledge of these events can help explain the political geography of contemporary Africa. The other portion of the final examination will consist of multiple choice questions, fill-in responses, and short answer questions.

**CLASS**

Class consists of lectures and discussions which are designed to clarify material in the textbooks and expand upon when appropriate. Students are expected to read the required materials prior to class and are expected to hand in assignments at the expected deadline. Lectures will be supplemented with the use of multi-media videos, internet sites, and PowerPoint presentations. All the lecture outlines will be made available at the corresponding Sakai website but do not assume that the lecture outlines are adequate substitutions for attending class. **Also, it is important to check Sakai regularly for announcements and additional readings.** Further, it will not always be the case that everything in class will be on Sakai.

If for any reason you are having problems following lectures, cannot cope with the readings, or have any other problems with the course, please bring the matter to the professor’s attention before the end of the semester. She will be more than willing to help you out if you come with any course related information or concerns.

**ATTENDANCE**

In accordance with Rutgers University regulations, attendance is expected at all regularly scheduled meetings of a course. If you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website [https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to your instructor.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CELL PHONE IS OFF AND PUT AWAY BEFORE ENTERING CLASS.**

**OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES (SUCH AS LAPTOPS AND TABLETS) ARE PROHIBITED UNLESS YOU HAVE WRITTEN CONSENT FROM A PHYSICIAN OR FROM THE OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES FOR STUDENTS.**
OFFICE HOURS

Students are encouraged to visit the professor during office hours. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and address concerns regarding the course. If you cannot meet me during my office hours, we can arrange an alternative time.

GRADING

The grade for the course will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**Cheating on exams will not be tolerated.** Please familiarize yourself with the University procedure for dealing with academic dishonesty through the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy:

[http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity)

Any and all students in violation of the policy will be subject to a disciplinary action and automatic failure in the course.

DISABILITY DISCLOSURE

Rutgers University does not discriminate in any of its programs on the basis of disability. In order to facilitate the documentation and accommodation processes, students are encouraged to voluntarily and confidentially disclose any disability requiring accommodations. Rutgers Disability Services provides student-centered and student-inclusive programming in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1998, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

Register with and provide documentation to the Office of Disability Services for Students at Rutgers ([http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/](http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/))

1. Bring a letter to the instructor from the Office of Disability Services for Students indicating your need for academic accommodations. This should be done during the first week of class. Accommodations cannot be offered without this letter.
2. For more information, contact the Office of Disability Services for Students at 848-445-6800 or dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu.
## COURSE OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION, MAP OF AFRICA, AND DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction to Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>Readings: Stock, Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Readings: Stock, Chapter 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/27 and 1/30</td>
<td>Hochschild, pp. 6-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tu Feb 3</td>
<td>MAP TEST</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Readings: Stock, Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/3 and 2/6</td>
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### THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Readings: Stock, Chapters 7, 8, and 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/10 and 2/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Readings: Stock, Chapters 25, 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/17 and 2/20</td>
<td>Video: Rebels in the Pipeline</td>
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### THE POPULATION AND PEOPLE OF AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Readings: Stock, Chapters 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/24 and 2/26</td>
<td>Hochschild, Chapters 1; 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Readings: Stock, Chapter 13, 14, and 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/3 and 3/6</td>
<td>Hochschild, Chapter 2</td>
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### PRE-COLONIAL AND COLONIAL AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Readings: Stock, Chapter 10 and 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/10 and 3/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th Mar 13</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>SPRING RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/17 and 3/20</td>
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DECOLONIZATION AND THE POST-COLONIAL STATE

Week 10
3/24 and 3/27
Film: *Mau Mau*

Week 11
3/31 and 4/3
Readings: Stock, Chapter 12
Hochschild, Chapters 12-15

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT PATHS

Week 13
4/14 and 4/17
Readings: Stock, Chapter 16 and 17

Week 14
4/21 and 4/24
Readings: Stock, Chapters 19 and 20

Th Apr 24
AFRICA REPORT DUE IN CLASS

GENDER DYNAMICS AND CHILDREN

Week 15
4/28 and 5/1
Readings: Stock, Chapters 6 and 30

THE HEALTH SECTOR

Week 16
5/5
Readings: Stock, Chapter 29

Th May 8
FINAL EXAM 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM