



The mission of Concord University is to provide quality, liberal arts based education, to foster scholarly and creative activities and to serve the regional community (<http://www.concord.edu/academics/>).

Course Prefix, Number and Title: Geog 255, Regional Studies – Sub Saharan Africa

Course CRN # and Section : 20519, 01

Semester Taught (including year): Spring, 2019

Professor: Dr. Shimantini Shome

Credit Hours: 3

Office Location: Admin 122

Prerequisites: None

Office Hours: MW: 11 – 1, R: 1 – 2

Course Time (if applicable): TR: 11 am- 12.15 pm

Email:sshome@concord.edu

Building and Room Number (if applicable): Admin 309

Phone: #6025

Office Fax: #6091

College/Department Website: <http://www.concord.edu/social-sciences/node/1>

Course Description/Rationale: This course examines the diverse and rich human geography of Sub-Saharan Africa. We will look at the region as human geographers would, emphasizing the key sub-fields of the discipline. This means we will explore and analyze Sub-Saharan Africa's historical geography, population geography, cultural geography, development geography, urban geography, rural geography, and political geography.

Course Management System (Blackboard/Moodle or other systems): Blackboard

Hardware/Software Needed: (include privacy policies, if applicable): NA

Text requirements:

There is no required text for this course. Readings will be handed out in class.

Concord University Educational Goal(s): This should address at least one of the areas (skills, knowledge, or attitude) for each course. Similar courses with different sections should have the same goal(s).

Skills #1, #2 and #6

Knowledge #1 and #3

Attitudes #1 and #3

Concord University Educational Goals can be found here:
<http://catalog.concord.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=83>

National Standards (if applicable) For example, NCTM, IRA, CAEP, etc.

All Geography courses rely on the “Geography for Life” standards put forward by the American Association of Geographers, the National Geographic Society and the National Council for Geographic Education.

Specific Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to identify and describe the various physical and cultural features of Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Students will understand, analyze, and describe the human-environmental interactions in the region
2. Students will be able to evaluate the physical and human landscapes of the region in relation to current events and political challenges while maintaining historical perspective.

Course Requirements

I expect you to attend class regularly. I do not take formal attendance. However, there will be in-class questions, assignments, and discussions, which will be included in your grade. I do not plan on having formal tests for this class. Please make sure that you do the assignments and readings assigned to you in class. I expect you to write two film reactions during the term. You are also expected to read one of the novels listed below over the course of the term, and to write a 4-5 page (double-spaced, typed, 1” margin) review/reaction paper about it.

Book Report

You will read a book (you will have a choice of three) and write a Book Review. The book review has to be written in Times New Roman (12), double spaced and 4-5 pages long.

Film Analysis

You will be watching several films as part of this course. We will decide on a time and place for these movies. You are required to attend all screenings and write two Film Reactions. More details will be discussed in class.

Laptops, Phone calls and/or texting: NOT Allowed

Coffee and Water: Allowed

Food: NOT Allowed

Email etiquette: If your emails do not have a subject line, aren’t addressed properly to me, or do not have your name at the bottom, I will not respond to them.

Please understand that I will not tolerate any kind of racist, homophobic, sexist, Islamophobic, anti-semitic or any other kind of disrespectful conduct in class. That is against both Concord as well as Federal rules/laws. Disrespectful/aggressive conduct in class might land you in the Dean’s office or get you dropped from the class altogether.

Grading Policy and Scale, Make-up Policy, Late Work

I will not be accepting any late assignments, unless there is proper documentation for turning in your work late.

Evaluation: The assignments are as follows:

Weekly country reports: 15%

Quizzes(3): 15%

Mid-term presentation: 15%

Film reactions (2): 10%

Book review: 15%

Final presentation: 20%

Attendance and participation: 10%

Grading Scale: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89.99%, C = 70-79.99%, D = 60-69.99%, F = below 60%

Course Timeline (Schedule of Assignments/Assessments/Presentations)

Note: This timeline may be subject to change

Week 1 (starting January 15): Introduction to the course, Danger of a Single Story, Choosing Countries

Week 2 (starting Jan 22): Africa Overview and Physical Environment

Week 3 (starting Jan 29): Human-Environmental Impacts

Week 4 (starting Feb 5): Historical Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 5 (starting Feb 12): Political Landscape of Sub-Saharan Africa QUIZ 1

Week 6 (starting Feb 19): Cultural Geography

Week 7 (starting Feb 26): Cultural Geography contd.

Week 8 (starting Mar 5): Population, Migration and the African Diaspora

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (starting Mar 19): MIDTERM PRESENTATIONS

Week 10 (starting Mar 26): Geography of Development

Week 11 (starting Apr 2): Transport and Communication QUIZ 2

Week 12 (starting Apr 9): Urban Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 13 (starting Apr 16): Gender and Development, Medical Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 14 (starting Apr 23): Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa, Industrial Development QUIZ 3

Week 15 (starting Apr 30): FINAL PRESENTATIONS

List of novels to choose from for the book review:

A Grain of Wheat by [Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o](#) - Set in 1963, ... the novel focuses on Mugo, a man affected by his childhood, the years in the State of Emergency and his own demons within. While Mugo's home village makes preparations for Kenya's Independence Day celebration, former resistance fighters General R and Koinandu are busy making their own plans to publicly execute – on the same day – the traitor who betrayed a heroic resistance fighter hailing from the village. The story unfolds as we learn of Mugo's involvement in all this. (back cover)

Links by Nuruddin Farrah - Jeebleh is returning to Mogadiscio, Somalia, for the first time in twenty years. But this is not a nostalgic trip—his last residence there was a jail cell. And who could feel nostalgic for a city like this? U.S. troops have come and gone, and the decimated city is ruled by clan warlords and patrolled by *qaat*-chewing gangs who shoot civilians to relieve their adolescent boredom. Diverted in his pilgrimage to visit his mother's grave, Jeebleh is asked to investigate the abduction of the young daughter of one of his closest friend's family. But he learns quickly that any act in this city, particularly an act of justice, is much more complicated than he might have imagined. (back cover)

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - Fifteen-year-old Kambili's world is circumscribed by the high walls and frangipani trees of her family compound –and by her wealthy Catholic father who, while generous and politically active in the community, is repressive and fanatically religious at home. When Nigeria begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili's father sends her and her brother away to stay with their aunt, a university professor whose house is noisy and full of laughter. There, Kambili and her brother discover a life and love beyond the confines of their father's authority. The visit will, in time, give rise to devotion and defiance that reveal themselves in profound and unexpected ways. This is a book about the promise of freedom, about the blurred lines between childhood and adulthood, between love and hatred, between the old gods and the new. (back cover)

Accessibility/Accommodations:

Concord University is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please inform your instructor at the beginning of the class semester if you have a disability and are requesting accommodations. It is your responsibility to self-disclose that you are requesting accommodations. The University and instructor will provide you with a reasonable accommodation. You should register with CU's Disability Services Office, located in the Athens campus Jerry and Jean Beasley Student Center, Bottom Floor, across from the Campus Post Office. The Disability Services Office phone is 304-384-6086 or you can email the Director, Nancy Ellison, at nellison@concord.edu for assistance.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is morally unacceptable as well as destructive to the learning and teaching atmosphere. Academic dishonesty includes the giving or receiving of improper help on examinations or assignments, falsifying documents, and plagiarism (the act of stealing and using, as one's own, the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another). Such dishonesty can lead to a variety of penalties — including but not limited to failure of assignment, failure of course, loss of institutional privileges, or dismissal from the University. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Concord University Honor Code

A Concord University Honor Code was approved by students, staff, faculty, administration, and the CU Board of Governors. The Code states:

"As a member of the Concord University Community I will act with honesty and integrity in accordance with our fundamental principles and I will respect myself and others while challenging them to do the same."

The Honor Code is intended to unite the Concord community behind a culture of honesty, integrity, and civility.

Class/Online Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is part of a student's academic obligation at Concord. Irregular attendance may affect academic performance adversely and is detrimental to the atmosphere of a class. (See University Catalog Academic Policies and Procedures.)

Emergency Alert System

In an effort to increase safety and security on our campus, Concord University encourages everyone to register for instant text message alerts. Alerts will only be used for security and safety notices. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive text message alerts on their cell phones or email alerts. Please contact the IT Help Desk for further assistance (304-384-5291).

Emergency Information

Emergency/courtesy telephones are located at the main entrance of each residence hall and at various other locations on campus. Emergency telephones can be identified by the flashing blue light and will provide the user with a direct link to Public Safety at the press of a button. To report an on-campus emergency, call 304-384-5357 or 911. The Office of Public Safety is located on the bottom floor of the

Rahall Technology Center. For further emergency information go to:
<http://www.concord.edu/administration/office-public-safety>.

Inclement Weather Policy

As a general policy, the University will remain in normal operations during adverse weather conditions. In the event of severe weather conditions, the following may occur:

University Closure

No students or employees are to report.

Classes Cancelled

Students do NOT report BUT employees are expected to report to work at their normal time.

Operating on an Inclement Weather Delay

Under this schedule, all 8 a.m. classes will start at 10 a.m. Students and faculty will follow the Inclement Weather Schedule. (See <http://www.concord.edu/emergency-alerts> for Athens/Beckley Inclement Weather Schedules.)

**Announcements invoking the late schedule or other options referenced above are aired on area radio and television stations and are sent as text and email messages to those enrolled for this service.*

Student Conduct

In classrooms, online, laboratories, and during any activities that are part of course requirements, students are expected to observe reasonable rules of conduct.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Federal law, Title IX, and Concord University policy prohibits discrimination, harassment, and violence based on sex and gender (Including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, and retaliation). If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can receive confidential counseling support through the Concord University Counseling Center (304-384-5290). Alleged Violations can be reported non-confidentially to the Concord University Title IX Coordinator at 304-384-6327 or titleix@concord.edu. Reports to Campus Security can be made at (304-384-5357). As an employee at Concord University, I am a mandatory reporter which means I must report any sexual misconduct I am made aware of. This includes verbal or written (such as in an assignment) disclosures of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

Technology Services

Contact the CU Help Desk at extension 5291 from campus or 304-384-5291 off campus. You may also e-mail cuhelpdesk@concord.edu.

Syllabus Disclaimer

"This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. Please check it regularly."

Miscellaneous (for example):

Sources of Help

Glossary of Terms

Related Research/Professional Organizations