

Bemidji State University

GEOG 3840: Geography of Africa

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

Despite persistent bias about it, Africa's cultural complexity, social dynamism, and political/economic struggle have tremendous relevance for the study of global trends at the start of the twenty-first century. The central purpose of this course is to demonstrate that relevance by investigating the cultural, historical, economic, and political dimensions of change in Africa.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 07/13/2007 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Africa has always played a profoundly important but sadly underestimated role in human affairs. Despite persistent bias about it, the continent's cultural complexity, social dynamism, and political/economic struggle has tremendous relevance for the study of global trends at the start of the 21st Century. The central purpose of this upper-level course is to demonstrate that relevance by investigating the multiple dimensions of change in the independent states of sub-Saharan Africa.
2. As such, it is an explicitly interdisciplinary study, involving as it does articulation of Geography with anthropology, political science, history, and economics. Themes include but are not limited to deconstruction of the tribal narrative and the scarcity narrative as they have been deployed by outside interests to justify exploitation of Africa and neglect of the consequences of doing so.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. To assess the unique character of Africa's environmental issues
2. To appreciate the diversity of African regional cultures
3. To explore Africa's indigenous histories
4. To understand the social, political, and economic impacts of colonialism and Cold War in Africa
5. To consider the demographic outlook for contemporary development in various regions of Africa

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted