AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
AFR 4935 (12G7) / GEO 4938 (14CB)
Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Noss  Office: Grinter 433
Phone: 352.392.2183   E-Mail: anoss@ufl.edu (Best form of contact)
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday – 4th period (10:30-11:30), or by appointment
Classroom: Flint Hall (FLI) 0101   Course Meeting Time: MWF Period 5 (11:45-12:35pm)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This inter-disciplinary course will examine important environmental issues in sub-Saharan Africa today, including issues in health, energy, water, minerals, urbanization, agriculture, forestry, and biodiversity conservation. We will analyze the opportunities and constraints that relevant case studies present, and the actions that Africans are taking in order to promote economic development, improve livelihoods, and achieve sustainability.

At the end of the class students will be able to:
1. Describe and analyze several contemporary environmental issues facing Africa today;
2. Identify, summarize, and discuss interdisciplinary perspectives, strategies and interventions related to development and sustainability;
3. Continue to build critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

The course is designed around a series of themes, which will each be explored over 1 or 2 weeks. Please come prepared for each class, having completed the readings for the week and formulated thought-provoking questions. On average the readings will vary between 50-75 pages/week.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
There is NO required textbook for the course. Required readings will consist of book chapters and journal articles and will be provided to students either through email or Sakai E-Learning.

Supplemental Materials / Recommended reading list:
Additional readings will be made available with the intention of familiarizing students with current scholarly work being performed in Africa by UF anthropology faculty and graduate students. Where possible we will have in-class presentations by UF researchers about their work. All supplemental course materials will be available through the course e-learning website.
Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule in response to unforeseen circumstances or opportunities. However, no changes will be made to the exam schedule or assignment due dates.

EVALUATION
Attendance/Class Participation (10%)
Exams (50%)
Three open-book exams will be held for the course: a physical / political geography quiz (10%), a midterm 20% and a final 20%). Each exam will cover materials from class readings and
discussions up to the date that they are taken and following the previous exam. Exams will be composed of a mix of map identification, multiple choice and short answer.

**Abstract/Annotated Bibliography (5%) and Final Paper (25%)**: Students are expected to write a final (10 page) paper addressing one of the environmental issues covered by the course, comparing aspects of that issue in two or more sub-Saharan African countries or regions. Research questions may relate to current undergraduate research or derive from class discussion. To ensure everyone stays on track, students will be expected to submit an abstract (200-300 words) and annotated bibliography with 5 sources (week 5) [10%], a draft (week 12), and a final paper (last day of class). To ensure a quality paper – although not mandatory – students are should visit the UF Reading and Writing Center (http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalogarchive/03-04-catalog/student-information/reading.html) prior to their final submission.

**Presentation (10%)**: At the end of the semester, each student will deliver a 15-minute presentation based on his or her final paper.

**GRADING**
Student performance will be graded according to the following criteria and final letter grades will be assigned according to UF’s grading regulations (https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx).

- Attendance/Class Participation: 10%
- Physical / political geography quiz 10%
- Abstract/Bibliography: 5%
- Mid-term Exam: 20%
- Final Paper: 25%
- Presentation: 10%
- Final Exam: 20%

**GRADING SCALE**

*Note: A C- grade is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit.

For further information on UF's Grading Policy, consult the following:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html
http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html

**COURSE WEBSITE**
Go to the e-learning Support Services homepage [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/services/els/] and click on the Sakai System Entry link. The course site provides access to announcements, downloadable lecture notes/outlines. You are responsible for checking this site for announcements and to see
that your grades are being correctly recorded. You may send me e-mail through this site, or directly to anoss@ufl.edu.

Other required readings will be found in the “Resources” section on Sakai or can be accessed through the internet. Films and documentaries shown in class are part of the required class material and will be held on reserve in Library West.

Course website on Sakai: http://lss.at.ufl.edu (enter with your Gatorlink username and password): this provides access to the syllabus, course readings, lectures and supplementary course materials, plus instructions for assignments and for accessing grading. It is a good practice to keep update with international and African affairs: useful internet sources are www.bbc.co.uk/africa and www.allafrica.com. You should also read regularly a daily (the New York Times is good on Africa but The Guardian from the UK is more complete; these and others can be accessed on the internet) and weekly papers, especially The Economist (for which there exists a student subscription for 6 months at very competitive rates).

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE POLICY
Students are expected to complete all requirements (quizzes, exams, papers, presentations) on the specified dates and will not be granted an alternate date unless they have an acceptable reason for their absence as specified in the undergraduate catalog (e.g., absences due to medical illness, observance of religious holidays, military obligation, twelve-day rule), fulfill the conditions described therein, and provide the instructor with timely notification (see http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html). In order to receive excused absences students must make a good faith effort to inform the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for making up course material covered during their absence whether excused or unexcused. Students are advised to visit the instructor during office hours with any questions about material covered during their absence.

UF POLICIES

Services for Students with Disabilities
The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
0001 Reid Hall, 352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

Campus Helping Resources
Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.
University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575, www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

Counseling Services
Groups and Workshops
Outreach and Consultation
Self-Help Library
Training Programs
Community Provider Database
Career Resource Center, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, www.crc.ufl.edu/

Academic Honesty
As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows: A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.

b. Submitting a document or assignment, which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student. (University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007 (www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php).

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code.

Important Tips: You should never copy and paste something from the Internet without providing the exact location from which it came, and the date it was accessed. Do not copy text verbatim from any source (including your own previous work) unless you show the text as a quote with complete attribution.
If a student plagiarizes all or any part of any assignment, University policy suggests that instructors should impose a course grade penalty and report any incident of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. You should know that your work might be tested for its “originality” against a wide variety of databases by anti-plagiarism guardian sites to which the University subscribes, and negative reports from such sites constitute proof of plagiarism.

**Software Use:**
All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Online Course Evaluation Process**
Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open for students to complete during the last two or three weeks of the semester; students will be notified of the specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

**African Studies at UF:**
- The Center for African Studies offers many courses with an African content. You can pick up a free booklet with details from 427 Grinter, and ask more information.
- Many stimulating opportunities exist, such as Semester and Summer Study Abroad Programs (including the prestigious Lumbardi Program). For more info contact the CAS deputy director Todd Leedy (427 Grinter; email tleedy@Africa.ufl.edu).
- Do you want to meet your foreign language requirement in a different and exciting way? Learn one of several African languages taught by AALL department. For more information contact Dr C. Bwenge at cbwenge@Africa.ufl.edu.
- Are you taking, or planning to take, other courses in African Studies? If so, you may qualify for a Minor in African Studies. Make sure you declare it: in the past, some students who qualified, failed to declare it!

**Course Outline**

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<th>Jan 6-10</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical geography of Africa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Political and cultural geography of Africa</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading: Lewis &amp; Berry 2012, Chapters 1 &amp; 2</strong></td>
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<th>Jan 13-17</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Quiz: Physical / Political geography of Africa</strong></td>
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<td>Library tour</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td><strong>Readings: Raghavendra et al. 2011, WHO 2006, Blanding 2011, ILRI</strong></td>
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<td>Date</td>
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| Jan 22-24  | **Holiday 20 Jan MLK day**  
Health for Animals and Livelihood Improvement (HALI) project:  
[http://haliproject.org](http://haliproject.org)  
**Readings: Mazet et al. 2009** |
| Jan 27-31  | Health in Africa Working Group talk: Malaria (11:45 Grinter 472)  
Energy  
Guest speaker: Donald Underwood (Jan 31) |
| Feb 3-7    | Water  
Guest speaker: Greg Kiker (Feb 5)  
**Due: Abstract and Annotated Bibliography** |
| Feb 10-14  | Water |
| Feb 17-21  | Minerals |
| Feb 24-28  | Minerals  
**Mid-Term Exam** |
| Mar 3-7    | **Spring Break**  
Urbanization |
| Mar 10-14  | Urbanization |
| Mar 17-21  | Urbanization  
Mar 17: Health in Africa Working Group talk: AIDS (11:45 Grinter 472) |
| Mar 24-28  | Agriculture  
Guest speaker: Sarah McKune |
| Mar 31-Apr 4 | Agriculture  
**Due: Draft Paper** |
| Apr 7-11   | Forestry |
| Apr 14-18  | Forestry  
**Due: Presentations** |
| Apr 21-23  | Biodiversity conservation  
Guest speaker: Amy Panakowski (21 Apr)  
Guest speaker: Bob McCleery  
Review  
**Due: Final Paper**  
**Reading days Apr 24-25** |
| May 2, Fri 10am-12pm | **FINAL EXAMINATION** |

The final exam will be conducted during scheduled exam time listed in the course catalog.

This schedule is subject to change