

INTRODUCTION TO AFRICA (FALL 2009) **(AFST 2100).**

ANTHROPOLOGY 2100 GEOGRAPHY 2100 COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 2100
HISTORY 2100 SOCIOLOGY 2100 AFRICAN STUDIES 2100

***Class Schedule:* Tuesdays and Thursdays. 8:00 – 9:15 AM—214 MLC**

***Primary Instructor:* Dr. Ibigbolade Aderibigbe *Office:* 206 Peabody Hall, Rm. 20
(Basement.)**

***Office Hours:* Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 PM and by appointment**

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- 704-749-4771 (cell)

Course Description

This course is an introduction as well as an overview. It is designed to serve two purposes: first, to be a general introduction to the field of African Studies; and second, to allow faculty associated with the African Studies Institute to discuss their areas of expertise, so that students will both learn about scholarship related to Africa that is currently being conducted at UGA and have opportunities to select areas of focus for individual study. Thus, the course is a group-taught effort with a primary instructor as coordinator. The course is cross-listed in six departments and, as it is a survey course, no single region or subject will be given exclusive or extended attention.

A major focus of the course will be the ways in which African societies are structured into groups, including nations, states, linguistic groups, classes, regions and occupations. At the end of the class, students will have a better understanding of three topics: first, the immense diversity found on the African continent; second, the ways in which Africa's diversity is beneficial as well as detrimental to the continent; and finally, the ways in which this diversity is expressed through history, religion, and identity as both solidarity and conflict. The underlying theme of the course is the way that learning about Africa's past and present can help us identify the challenges that Africans will face in the future.

Textbook and other reading material:

Required Text: *Understanding Contemporary Africa* (4th edition), (2007). Edited by April A. Gordon and Donald L. Gordon; Boulder, Colorado, and London: Lynne Rienner. This is the primary text for the course and is listed as *UCA* on the class schedule.

- ◆ **If you plan to purchase textbooks on Amazon.com, browse Amazon's books through www.PA.CafeDetre.com to send 6-8% of your payment to the charity Promote Africa, at NO extra cost to you.**

Additional readings, will be announced, or distributed in class.

Course Requirements

- ◆ **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Regular attendance is vital as material discussed in class may differ from that covered in the textbook. I will expect you to be prepared to discuss any and all assigned reading.

I will usually take attendance by circulating a roll sheet for signatures. Students who arrive after the roll sheet has completed a circuit of the classroom should see me after class; however, habitual tardiness will affect your grade. After leaving the classroom I will *not* recognize claims of attendance unless supported by the roll sheet.

Each student begins the semester with a full credit of 100 points for attendance/participation. Points will be lost during the semester due to irregular attendance (**more than three unexcused absences**); habitual tardiness; lack of preparation for class; lack of participation in class activities (sleeping, surfing the net, doing something else other than listening to a speaker, etc.); or engaging in disruptive behavior such as talking while a speaker is speaking, regularly allowing cell phones to ring, or ignoring directions from the instructor. As I may not inform students when participation points are lost, you are encouraged to speak with me if you are concerned about losing points.

- ◆ **TESTS:** During the semester three sixty-minute tests and a final exam will be given. These will involve material from lectures, reading assignments, and other class activities or assignments. While the three tests will cover only specified material, the *final exam will be cumulative*. The final exam will be a conventional in-class exam.
- ◆ **AFRICAN NEWS JOURNAL:** An important component of the course is keeping up with African events covered in the international press and discovering African news that may go unreported here in the United States. To accomplish this you will be expected to visit selected African websites on a *biweekly* basis and record what you find in a written journal. A hard copy your journal will be submitted for evaluation on three occasions as noted in the course schedule.
 - For your journal write-ups, search at least one of the following websites: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm> , <http://www.afrol.com/> or <http://allafrica.com/> and briefly summarize (*do not cut & paste*) stories you find concerning situations in African countries with bearing on the US from an African perspective (for example—stories about U.S. government actions in Africa or the US post- elections) and (c) one other African news story (your choice) currently on the site.
 - You are to pick an African country that you will visit on the internet and report unfolding news items. You will need to take time the first week to identify a suitable website that you will visit each week. **Summarize a story in the news on the day you visit.** Try to select a story that might have a longer life and, as much possible, follow that story from week to week.

Your journal will be evaluated in terms of quality of entries—*quality of entries will be more important than the amount written*. I expect you to read news stories, think about them and write a short but accurate summary

The three journal submissions will be worth a maximum 150 points.

- ◆ **GROUP PROJECT:** The concluding assignment for the course is a group project in which an African country is researched. Each group will present the results of their research to the class and submit a formal paper to the instructor. This assignment is designed to allow students to narrow their focus from the entire continent to a specific country. The presentations are a vital part of the course as it reinforces course content and further illuminates the continent by describing in some detail approximately one third of the countries on the continent.

Additional details will be provided on this assignment later but the following are important activities and due dates:

- *Oct. 1* – Inform instructor of group members (3 - 4 members, groups should be student-formed but students not self-placed in a group will be randomly assigned to a group by the instructor)
- *Oct. 22* – Submit Countries (Group) to be researched to the instructor.
- *Dec. 1&3* – Presentations made to the class (10 - 15 minutes)
- *Dec. 3* – Group Formal paper due (8 - 10 pages)

❖ PLEASE SEE OTHER DUE DATES ON THE SYLLABUS

- ◆ **EXTRA CREDIT:** Students will be given opportunities to earn *limited* extra credit by attending designated events throughout the semester. This will be announced in class.

Course Guidelines

Please use the email function to communicate with the instructor as much as possible.

All written work for this course should be typed, double-spaced in a 12-point font. Margins should be 1 to 1.5 inches. There will be **NO Email submissions of work**.

Make-up tests will **only** be given in accordance with university policy. If you miss a test I will need to see documentary evidence of the reason for your absence. Acceptable documents include but are not limited to doctor's notes and funeral announcements. *In the absence of such evidence, your grade on the test in question will be zero.* If the conditions of university policy are met, I will meet with you to establish an agreement as to how the missed test will be made up.

As this is a SURVEY COURSE, we will cover a large amount of information from a variety of sources. This may pose special challenges. You are encouraged to develop and utilize strategies that will help you to integrate and analyze this material – strategies you can use to bring the disparate information you will receive into a meaningful, integrated framework. Look for connections between information from various sources; consider applying ideas in different contexts; and consider how new information challenges your previously held views. **ALSO TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS FOLLOW AND READ THE CONTENTS OF THE RECOMEMDED TEXT- BOOK, A ONE PAGE**

SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS INDICATED ON THE SYLLABUS WILL BE SUBMITTED WEEKLY! Points earned from this assignment are counted as part of PARTICIPTION POINTS

Persons with Disabilities – I am committed to doing whatever is necessary to make this course as fulfilling as possible for people who may have special needs due to a disability, whether visible or invisible. If there is anything I can do – such as providing materials in alternative formats, assuring physical access to class sessions, or being sensitive to interaction difficulties that may be posed by communication and/or learning disabilities – please take time to discuss your concerns with me early in the semester so we can work together to make the necessary accommodations for you. Please know that anything you discuss with me in this regard will be held in strictest confidence. We will work with the University’s Office of Disability Services to ensure your equal access to the course activities.

Cell Phones – If you need your cell phone for emergency reasons, please put it on silent mode.

Academic Honesty – All academic work must meet the standards described in the University of Georgia pamphlet "A Culture of Honesty." This document can be found at: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/culture_honesty.htm . I take this SERIOUSLY, and cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction.

Grading

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance/Participation	100
Map Quiz	50
Journals/ Individual Projects.	150
Group Project	200
Test #1	100
Test #2	100
Test#3	100
Final Exam	200
Total Points	1000

Grades will be assigned as follows:

1000–933	A
932–900	A-
899–867	B+
866-833	B
832–800	B-
799-767	C+
766-733	C
732-700	C-
699- 600	D
below 600	F

Class Schedule

Week	Date	Class Topics/Activities	Readings – <i>Read before scheduled day!</i>	Speakers -- Subject to change!!!!
1	• August 18.	• Course Introduction & Africa Overview	• UCA: Chapters 1& 2	Dr. Ibigbolade Aderibigbe
	• August 20.	• Facts & Figures/ Geog. Of Africa		Dr. Aderibigbe

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 25 • August 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language & Society • Language and Extinction 	-	<p>Dr. Akinloye Ojo</p> <p>Dr. Norm Thomson</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 1 • Sept. 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-colonial Africa • Colonial rule & Independence <p>Map Quiz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Chapter 3 • UCA: Chapter 4 	<p>Dr. Timothy Cleaveland</p> <p>Dr. Timothy Cleaveland</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 8 Sept. 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-colonial Political Developments <p>Start Writing News Journal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video – Savannah Homecoming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Chapter 6 	<p>Dr. Abdulahi Osman/Guest Lecturer.</p> <p>Dr. Aderibigbe</p>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 15 • Sept. 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 1 • Religion in Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Chapter 11 	<p>Dr. Aderibigbe</p> <p>Dr. Aderibigbe</p>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 22 • Sept. 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion in Africa • Agricultural Development in Africa <p>News Journal #1 Due</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Ch. 5. 	<p>Dr. Aderibigbe</p> <p>Dr. Maria Navarro</p>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept.29 • Oct. 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Family & Kinship in Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Ch. 9 	<p>Dr. Jack Houston</p> <p>ASU panel</p>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 6 Oct. 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinship/ Ethnography in Madagascar • Midterm 		<p>Guest Lecturer</p>

9	Oct. 13	Test#2		Dr. Aderibigbe
	Oct. 15	Sports & Games		Dr. Rose Chepyator-Thomson
	Oct. 20	Political Developments in Southern African Region.		Thomas Sorlie
	Oct. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video– Leopards of Zanzibar Submit Group Research Topics		Dr.Aderibigbe
11	• Oct.27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video: Lost Boys of Sudan. News Journal #2 Due		Dr. Aderibigbe
	Oct. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Issues 	UCA: Ch. 8	Dr. John Carroll
12	• Nov. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education in Africa/ HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Ch. 7 	Guest Lecturer
	• Nov. 5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCA: Ch.12 	Dr. Karim Traore
13	• Nov.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music & Dance 		Dr. Jean Kidula
	• Nov. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Issues News Journal #3 Due	UCA Ch. 10	Njeri Marekia-Cleaveland (J. D.)
14	• Nov. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 2 		Dr. Aderibigbe
	• Nov. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theatre in Africa 		Dr. Freda Scott-Giles
15	• Nov. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving Holiday 		No Class.
	• Nov. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving Holiday 		No Class.

16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 1 • Dec. 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group project presentations • Group Project presentation Last Class/Discussion Day <p>Group Project Papers Due</p>		<p>Students</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Dr. Aderibigbe</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec.11 Friday 	Final Exam	8:00 - 11:00 AM	Dr. Aderibigbe

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.