GEOG 5840: Geography of Africa

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
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: 08/25/2014 - 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. describe the physical geography of Africa and the processes that created the landscape.
2. assess the human-environment interactions, and environmental future of the region.
3. describe different cultures and the population geography of the region.
4. evaluate development trends and distributions throughout space and time.
5. discuss the history of conflict and territorial disputes.
6. forecast the effects of globalization and the future 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