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University of Colorado at Boulder
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Examinations and quizzes will not be given to anyone at a day or time other than that already specified on this syllabus, unless students have discussed with me IN ADVANCE special arrangements due to disability or time conflict. Students with disabilities must show me authorization from the Office of Services to Disabled Students during the first week of class and must still take the examination with special arrangements at the specified time.

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MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES:

With but a few exceptions, powerpoint slides are NOT posted or otherwise made available to students outside of class. If you miss class, you should copy the notes from a classmate. Please do not ask the instructor what you missed.

Please turn off your cell phones in the classroom. Also, please do not read newspapers, surf the internet, bring your dog(s), or chat with your neighbor during class.

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

UNIT 1: WHO CAUSED AFRICA'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT? US, THEM, OR MOTHER NATURE?

Week 1

- May 9 Introduction
Us (The West): Slave Trade
- May 10 Us (The West): The Scramble for Africa and Colonialism
- Reading assignment: Dowden chapter 4 and pp. 266 to 283 [posted as .pdf in CULearn]. Start reading Hochschild.
 - Discussion: Do slavery and colonialism explain African underdevelopment?
- May 11 Us (The West): The Cold War, Trade, and Aid
- Reading assignment: Continue reading Hochschild.
 - Discussion: Overall, what has been the impact of the West on Africa?
 - QUIZ 1: On the map of Africa
- May 12 Mother Nature: African Geography and Development
- Reading assignment: Continue reading Hochschild
 - Discussion: Do you find geographical explanations of underdevelopment convincing, outlandish, or something in between?
- May 13 No Class: Watch Parts 1 and 3 of *Guns, Germs, and Steel*
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4008293090480628280#>
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4008293090480628280#docid=-3449100874735282191>
- Reading assignment: Finish reading Hochschild.

Week 2

- May 16 Them (Africa's "Big Men"): Nationalism and Independence
- Reading assignment: Start reading Guest.
 - Discussion: Why did nationalist dreams fall so short?
 - QUIZ 2: On Hochschild
- May 17 Them (Africa's "Big Men"): Military Rule and Economic Failure
- Reading assignment: Continue reading Guest
 - Discussion: Why haven't Africa's various economic strategies worked? Or have they?

UNIT 2: AFRICA'S TRAGEDIES

- May 18 Africa's Tragedies: Rwandan Genocide
- Reading assignment: Continue reading Guest and read Dowden chapter 9 [posted as .pdf in CULearn]

- Discussion: Is the West responsible for the Rwandan genocide?

May 19

Africa's Tragedies: Africa's World War

- Reading assignment: Finish Reading Guest
- Discussion: Is Africa's burgeon peace sustainable?

May 20

Africa's Tragedies: HIV/AIDS in Africa

- Discussion: How did the HIV/AIDS epidemic get to be so bad? What is the most effective way to address it?
- QUIZ 3: On Guest

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Week 3

UNIT 3: AFRICA'S TRIUMPHS? SOUTH AFRICA AND BEYOND

May 23

African success stories: Ghana and Botswana

- Reading assignment: Start reading Carlin
- Discussion: Do you believe in an African renaissance?

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS!

May 24

South Africa: History and apartheid

- Reading assignment: Continue reading Carlin
- Discussion: What are the historical roots of South Africa's racial strife?

May 25

South Africa: Transition

- Reading assignment: Continue reading Carlin
- Discussion: Why did apartheid occur in South Africa? How could a minority impose its will for so long?

May 26

South Africa: Rainbow Nation?

- Reading assignment: Finish reading Carlin
- Discussion: Do you consider South Africa a success story?
- QUIZ 4: On Carlin

May 27

FINAL EXAMINATION

RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

Africa is the most economically underdeveloped region of the world, and it also remains a laggard in how democratic its political systems are. Why does Africa continue to struggle with these challenges? Why have economic affluence and democracy been so rare in the continent? *In short, who causes Africa's economic underdevelopment and lack of democracy, us (the West), them (Africa's leaders), or Mother Nature (geography)?*

You will write a short paper that makes a definitive argument that answers this last question. The paper should be about 1000 words (about four double-spaced, 12 pt. font pages and certainly no longer than five). You must support the argument with relevant facts and details from one African country on which you do outside research. You must consult and cite sources other than those assigned in class and include formal citations and a bibliography.

The paper should be polished and free of spelling errors and typos. You MUST submit an electronic copy of the entire paper to turnitin.com and a hard copy by 12:15 on May 23. Papers handed in after this time will have 10% subtracted from their final score each school day they are late. As always, THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. The paper should be typed, polished and free of spelling errors and typos.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO POLICIES:

Students with Disabilities

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities should ask for "reasonable and timely" accommodations. You are welcomed to do so in the first two weeks of the semester either during my office hours or after class. These accommodations can be extended if you are a student with a disability and are registered with the Office of Services to Disabled Students. Please refer to the web link www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices or contact 303-492-8671, Willard 322 for information. University regulations on this issue will be strictly observed. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarizing will be treated according to the University regulations which will be strictly observed. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the University of Colorado's Code for Academic Honesty at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students in this situation can ask for "reasonable and timely" accommodations. Please review the syllabus closely and try to find out whether you have time conflicts with any of the assignments. I encourage you to do so in the first two weeks of the semester and inform me about your concerns either during my office hours or after class. Full details can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.