Course Title:
Seminar in Economic Geography: African Development

Course Number:
GEOG 6230-223

Course Description:
This seminar considers the modernization of Africa, primarily as that process is occurring now, rather than in the colonial past. After an initial outsider’s overview and a reminder of how living in Africa feels to Africans, the seminar takes a sectoral approach, reviewing agriculture, minerals and energy, transportation, and urbanization. It concludes with some case studies of recent World Bank development projects.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: March 18-23, 2014
Location: Stuttgart, Germany. See site director for classroom location.
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 pm; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: February 17, 2014

Site Director:
Antoinette Colaninno. Stuttgart Army Education Center. DSN: 431-3304; Fax 431-2571 or CIV 07031-15-2580 FAX 07031-15-2571. Email: apstuttgart@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Bret Wallach
Mailing Address: Dept of Geography
SEC 684
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73072
Telephone Number: 405-325-5325
Fax Number: 405-325-6090
E-mail Address: bwallach@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Instructional Materials:
Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Scans of the reading materials will be posted on D2L two months before the start of class. Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Course Outline:
1. Tuesday: Primer on African Geography (Read the main entry on Africa in the Columbia Gazetteer, available online as an e-reference at libraries.ou.edu; to access this, you must log in to the library website with your OU 4x4.)
2. Wednesday: An Insider’s View (Read the items listed for Wednesday’s class at Content on D2L)
3. Thursday: Agriculture (Read the items at D2L)
4. Friday: Minerals and Energy (Read the items at D2L)
5. Saturday morning: Transportation (Read the items at D2L)
6. Saturday afternoon: Urbanization (Read the items at D2L)
7. Sunday morning: Development Institutions (Go to maps.worldbank.org/afr/ and explore the map by clicking on a bunch of development projects; find one that you think is directly relevant to one of the sectors considered earlier in this class and which preferably has a project cost exceeding $100 million; when you click on the Project ID you will get a page with a link to “View All Documents.” Those documents should include a Project Appraisal Report. (If it doesn’t, try another project.) Study the Report and prepare a two-minute oral summary. If you were a Bank director considering whether to fund this project, what questions would you ask the bank official responsible for it?

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

There will be quizzes at the top of each class (except Sunday) on the readings for that class. Each quiz is worth 10 percent of your course grade. A Sunday morning presentation based on your reading for that class is worth 10 percent of your course grade. There will be a final examination that covers class discussions as well as the readings. It is worth 40 percent of your course grade.

Grading: This course is a letter graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity.

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Bret Wallach

Education

Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley

Current Positions

• Advanced Programs Professor since 1999
• Professor, Department of Geography, University of Oklahoma

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Regional Geography, especially of Asia and the Middle East

Representative Publications and Presentations

See http://ags.ou.edu/bwallach