



**Bowie State University**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Department of History and Government**



**Department:** History & Government  
**Course Title:** Geography of Africa  
**Subject & NBR:** GEOG 220-555  
**# Units:** 3 credits  
**Effective Term:** Spring 2020  
**Classroom:** ONLINE  
**Instructor(s):** Dr. Sumanth Reddy  
**Office Location:** MLK 0210  
**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 AM -2:30 PM and/or by appointment  
**Office Phone:** (301) 860-3614  
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**Note:** Email is the **only** reliable source of communication with the instructor. Students are strongly encouraged to use their BSU email. **This is a fully online course which means all class activity will be conducted online including submission of all assignments and class work.** New chapters will be posted on Mondays and most assignments will be due by midnight on Sundays in 1-2 weeks. Students are responsible for having a strong internet connection. Late material is not accepted in this course.

**Required Book (novel):**

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah (ISBN-13: 978-0374531263) can be bought at the BSU bookstore or external websites and many general bookstores.

**Optional Book (Text):** Africa: Geographies of Change by Richard Grant. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Although this is not a required book for this course, it is available in the bookstore and I encourage everyone to get a copy as there is valuable information that can act as a supplement to your lectures.

**I. Course Description:**

Africa is the birthplace of humanity. This vast continent is as diverse in landscape and people as the 54 countries it holds. In this Geography of Africa (GEOG 220) course, we will travel the length and breadth of this diverse continent and explore various issues that affect Africa. We will look at various aspects of Africa's geography such as physical, cultural, political, ethnic, wildlife, language, economic, urban geography and much more. This course is intended to give you a broad and moderately thorough knowledge of Africa and African issues.

**II. Course Objectives:**

The course curriculum is designed so that students acquire and demonstrate college-level proficiency and essential skills. The course objectives for this course will assess each student's proficiency in the following competencies:

- C1. Oral and written communication
- C2. Critical analysis and reasoning
- C3. Technological competency
- C4. Information literacy

\* See Middle States Accreditation and Maryland Higher Education Commission guidelines for more details.

By the end of the course the student should:

- Be able to communicate effectively in writing and in classroom discussions (online) and oral presentations their understanding of important emerging issues and geographical influences on these issues.
- Have gained a thorough competence of different locations in Africa.
- Have acquired a richer understanding of the environmental, demographic, cultural, geopolitical and socio-economic characteristics of different regions in Africa that will enhance their competencies in critical analysis and reasoning.

### III. Course Outline: Tentative Schedule of Lectures, Assignments, and Exams

Dates			Chapter/Topic	Readings
WEEK 1	1/27	Mon	Class Introductions and getting to know the course	
WEEK 2	2/3	Mon	Module 1 - What is Geography	
WEEK 3	2/10	Mon		
WEEK 4	2/17	Mon	Module 2 - Birth of Humanity	
WEEK 5	2/24	Mon	Module 3 - Pre-Colonial Africa	
WEEK 6	3/2	Mon	Module 4 - The Legacy of Colonialism	
WEEK 7	3/9	Mon	<b>Exam # 1</b>	<b>Exam # 1 due by midnight on Friday (3/13)</b>
WEEK 8	3/16	Mon	<i>Spring Break – No Assignments</i>	
WEEK 9	3/23	Mon	Module 5 - The African Physical Landscape Novel quiz 1	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah. Chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. (49 pages)
WEEK 10	3/30	Mon	Novel quiz 2	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier Chs. 9, 10, 11, 12. (51 pages)
WEEK 11	4/6	Mon	Module 6 - Political Geography and Conflict Novel quiz 3	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier Chs. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. (49 pages)
WEEK 12	4/13	Mon	Novel quiz 4	A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier Chs. 18, 19, 20, 21. (48 pages)
WEEK 13	4/20	Mon	Module 7 - Medical Geography	<b>Term Papers Due by Midnight on Sunday 4/26 (Upload in Bb)</b>
WEEK 14	4/27	Mon		

WEEK 15	5/4	Mon	<b>Exam # 2</b>	<b>Exam # 2 due by midnight on Friday (5/8)</b>
WEEK 16	5/11	Mon	Semester complete for this class	

\*\*\*This schedule is tentative. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes necessary based on class progress. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard\*\*\*

**IV. Modes of Instruction:** PowerPoint lectures, discussions, short videos, novel and short article readings, written papers, and library and internet research.

**V. Chapters Covered:** We will cover 7 modules/chapters. Each chapter will be covered over 1-2 weeks. Every chapter will have a power point presentation along with readings/videos/assignments/quizzes. All assignments/quizzes pertaining to that chapter will be due by 11:59 PM EDT on the last day of that chapter (Sunday night in most cases). The due dates will be clearly posted for each chapter. **Late assignments will not be accepted!**

**VI. Modes of Evaluation and Assessment:** This course is worth **400 points** and students' performance will be evaluated using the following instruments:

- 1) Exam 1 = 75 points
- 2) Exam 2 = 75 points
- 3) Write-ups and misc. activities = 120 points
- 4) Novel Write-ups/quizzes = 80 points
- 5) Term Paper = 50 points

**Class total of 400 points**

- 360-400 points (90% - 100%) = A
- 320-359 points (80% - 89.9%) = B
- 280-319 points (70% - 79.9%) = C
- 240-279 points (60% - 69.9%) = D
- 0-239 points (59.9% and below) = F

**VII. General overview of the various activities for points (Specific details will be provided as each chapter is posted)**

- Exams - There will be two Exams in this class.
- Video Assignments – Video assignments will be posted along with each chapter. Most times, a write-up/quiz about the video will be part of the chapter assignment/s.
- Novel Write-ups/quizzes – After reading each set of readings from the novel “A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier,” students will write a summary and/or take a quiz on the assigned chapters.
- Article Write-ups – There will be several short articles that students will read from time to time. A short summary of the articles will be written after each reading.

- Term Paper – The topic of the paper will be discussed the week after Spring break and you will have approximately four weeks to complete your paper.

### VIII. Policies on Plagiarism, Attendance, Deadlines, and Conduct:

- **Plagiarism:** It will be taken for granted that any work, oral or written, that a student does for any course is his/her original work. Any violation of this rule constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism includes any form of cheating on examinations, tests, quizzes and any unacknowledged and/or undocumented use of another's writing or ideas published or unpublished, including copying or rewording information found on the internet. A student who plagiarizes will receive a failing grade for the particular assignment.
- **Attendance:** Since this is an online course, there is no roll-call taken. However, students are expected to participate every week and complete all assignments. A lack of participation/completion of assignments will lower the student's overall grade.
- **Deadlines:** All assignments must be completed and submitted before the deadline. Late work will not be accepted. You will have 1-2 weeks to complete each chapter, so please do not wait till the last minute to submit your assignments. On the rare occasion that you are not able to submit an assignment on time due to an emergency, please contact your instructor immediately. Make-ups will only be allowed with a **written verification and only under extenuating circumstances (emergency room visit, death in the family, etc.)** and it is completely up to the discretion of the instructor to determine if the reason is appropriate to allow a makeup.
- **Conduct:** Since we do not meet face to face and all our assignments are submitted online, please use proper online etiquette. For discussions, please be respectful of each other and use appropriate language while submitting posts.

**I. Special Accommodations:** Bowie State University supports all students in their academic endeavors. Should you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please contact BSU's Disability Support Services Program (DSSP) Coordinator - Mr. Michael Hughes, to register for reasonable accommodations. Dr. Hughes is located in the Thurgood Marshall Library, Lower Level, Room # 078. He can be reached at (301) 860 – 4067 and/or [mhughes@bowiestate.edu](mailto:mhughes@bowiestate.edu). If already registered with this program, please provide the DSSP accommodation forms to the professor immediately to describe what accommodations you are requesting. **It is the student's responsibility to contact your instructor at the beginning (within the first two weeks) and again throughout the semester in order for the instructor to make appropriate accommodations.**