

Student Guide to Success

(a.k.a. the syllabus)

Professor:

Dr. Cerian Gibbes

Email: cgibbes@uccs.edu

Office hours: <https://calendar.app.google/Sb4EdkWffigt2arm9>

Zoom connection information: <https://uccs-edu.zoom.us/j/3919854860>

Course modality: Online asynchronous

Course description:

This course uses a geographic lens to introduce Africa. Emphasis is placed on the relationships between people, places, and processes. Students will explore physical and social environments of Africa and consider how histories and processes such as urbanization, and globalization shape contemporary African societies. Attention will be given to the diversity of African experiences and the ways local communities navigate opportunities and challenges in a rapidly changing world. It would be impossible for a single course to cover in depth every aspect of Africa, as such this course provides a foundation for understanding the continent's geographic complexity. By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Describe the major physical and human geographic regions of Africa.
- Explain how geography influences social, cultural, political, and economic development.
- Evaluate historical and contemporary processes that have shaped African societies.
- Critically assess media portrayals and common misconceptions about Africa.

Course materials:

Course site: The course schedule, lectures, readings, and the schedule of assignments are available at <https://www.drcgibbes.com/> The password to access course content is **AFRICA**.

Students will need to log into Canvas to submit assignments.

No required textbook. All readings are either made available to students through the course site or are available from the library.

Software: ArcGIS Online (from Esri). Additional instructions are sent by email and available on course site. For additional assistance accessing ArcGIS Online please contact Matthew Gottfried matthew.gottfried@uccs.edu

Communication:

Your UCCS email address serves as the official form of communication in this course. Do not use Canvas to contact the professor. Use your UCCS email account to email the professor. Email will be replied to during specific email check periods within regular

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working hours (9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday). Under normal circumstances, and during the work week, you may expect a response to your email within 48 hours.

Assignments & grading:

Assignment	Maximum points earned
Map quizzes	80
Discussions	80
Book club	100
GeoStories Studio	140

Grading scale: A:> 95.9%; A-: 90-95.9%; B+:88-89.9%; B: 82-87.9%; B-: 80-81.9%; C+:78-79.9%; C: 72-77.9%; C-: 70-71.9%; D+:68-69.9%; D: 62-67.9%; F: <62%

Details for each assignment can be found on the course website. Due dates can be found on the course website and on Canvas.

Course policies:

- The course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.
- Any assignment submitted after the due date & time will receive a grade of zero. The “degree of lateness” (i.e. how late the submission is) is irrelevant.
- Use of AI in this course is only permitted for specific assignments. When the use of AI is permitted it will be explicitly noted in the assignment directions. In these instances, students must properly document and cite the use of the AI tool.
- Students are expected to follow the [UCCS student Code of Conduct](#) and refrain from any conduct that adversely affects learning in this course
- Academic honesty violations will be taken seriously and will result in a lowering of the course grade and/or recommendations will be made to the College Dean.
- If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service or training during the semester, please communicate this with the professor no later than the first week of class to discuss the class participation policy. Please see the Veteran and Military Affairs website for more information.
- If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations, it is your responsibility to register with Disability Services and provide them with documentation of your disability. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and disability accommodations cannot be provided until a Faculty Accommodation Letter has been provided. Please contact Disability Services for more information about receiving accommodations at Main Hall room 105, 719-255-3354 or dservice@uccs.edu

Course schedule:

Block 1	Topics: Course introduction, Geographic Foundations
Block 2	Topic: Colonialism and its impacts
Block 3	Topic: People, Place, and Process
Block 4	Topic: State Building and the African Diaspora