Welcome!
Africa is one of the most-resource endowed continents and yet it is among the poorest and the most conflict-ridden. How do we explain this paradox? In this course, to help us understand the place that Africa occupies in the global economy we will examine the politics and economics of African resources and resource use in historical perspective. Using a thematic approach and drawing examples from different parts of the continent, we look at how different players shaped or were shaped by, and/or struggled over, human and natural resources over the centuries from the trans-Atlantic slave trade era through colonialism to the present.

Requirements
We meet twice per week on Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:45 pm. Instruction takes a hybrid format. It is passed through a combination of lectures, readings, discussions, films/documentaries and songs. The films/documentaries and novels/autobiographies we are going to watch/read should be seen as one of the historical sources available (rather than entertainment) to understand South African history. They should, therefore, be analyzed critically. Students are encouraged to take notes during screening/reading, as well as to make analytical comments or ask questions after the film. During lectures we will also have discussions focused on the readings and films.
for that week. Discussion will take a variety of forms, including answering questions, debate, group work and students will also take turns to lead class discussions by giving short responses to readings of the week. Your preparation for these discussions – careful, critical and timely engagement with the readings – is, therefore, absolutely necessary. Ask yourself how the texts for the day relate to one another and to other readings you have encountered in the course or elsewhere and how they relate to the larger themes in the course. Do they reinforce or complicate a particular angle of interpretation? What overlaps or discrepancies emerge when you hold up these texts next against each other? What kind of story do they tell about continuity and change over time and place?

You should complete the reading assignments prior to lectures. Preparation and participation in class and discussion sections will constitute a part of your grade. Remember, active listening is an integral part of a productive discussion. Late arrivals, leaving the room excessively during class time, and talking privately while someone else has the floor undermines a collective atmosphere of mutual respect and commitment to learning, and will be duly noted when assessing participation grades.

**Attendance and Deadlines:** Attendance at all lectures is required. There is a high correlation between students who receive good grades and those who attend class on a regular basis. Please contact the professor if you are going to be absent. Naturally absences will affect your participation grade in a very direct way.

All deadlines are final except in extraordinary circumstances, and they must be documented in writing. Assignments should be submitted electronically (unless otherwise stated) and they are due by mid-night on the date listed on the class syllabus. Late papers will be penalized at 2.5% per day.

**Policy on late work:** Please plan ahead around the assignments that are listed in your syllabus. As a general rule extensions will not be granted for this class unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Required Texts:** The following books have been ordered at the Bookstore:

- Adam Hoschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*
- Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*
- Ousman Sembene, *God’s Bits of Wood*
- Chinua Achebe, *A Man of the People*

All the articles in the syllabus can be accessed through JSTOR or Google Scholar via the University of Manitoba electronic library.

**Written requirements include:** one map quiz, one primary document analysis, an in-class mid-semester exam, and a short research paper and the final exam. Detailed instructions for each of these assignments will be distributed in class. All written work should be typed and double-spaced, using standard font size 12. Employ proper citations (footnotes must be used for this class) and use the Chicago Style

**Map Quiz:** History makes little sense without geography. To that extent you need to familiarize yourself with the geography of South Africa. There will be one in-class map quiz on the second
Thursday of the semester. No make-up quizzes will be provided unless a student has an official excuse for her or his absence.

**Analyzing a primary document:** This is an exercise that will help students learn how to read/analyze historical primary documents. I will provide the primary document. The analysis (minimum 1500 words long) is due October 1.

**Research Paper:** Students’ critical and analytical skills also develop by writing. To that end, you are expected to formulate a specific topic of your own interest for research, examining in more depth, one of the topics covered in class. Write a 7-10 page (1750-2500 words) paper. The paper is due on November 26. One of the major aims of this course is to hone the skills students need to write an African history essay. Therefore, where possible, you should strive to use primary and secondary sources when writing papers. For this course use at least one primary document and five academic sources (journal articles and books) and you can also use any novels and songs on South Africa, where relevant. Any further details will be provided in class.

**Examinations:** Students will write one mid-term exam in the 7th week of the semester. The final requirement is the end of semester exam which will be taken during the examination weeks in December. This exam will test your grasp of the material we have covered throughout the semester.

**Grading:**

1. Class Participation – 10%.
2. 1 map quiz – 5%; 17 September
3. Primary Document Analysis – 10%; 1 October
4. Mid-semester exam – 20%; 22 October
6. Final Exam – 30% (December TBA)

All papers are graded on a percentage point system:

- A+ 90-100% Exceptional
- A 80-89% Excellent work
- B+ 75-79% Very good
- B 70-74% Good
- C+ 65-69% Satisfactory
- C 60-64% Adequate
- D 50-59% Marginal
- F 0-49% Failure

Feel free to contact the professor with any problems via email, phone or in person.

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Please note that it is a student’s duty to make sure that they meet all the course requirements in a timely manner.
Gizmos: Gadgets in the classroom have proven to be annoying and distracting not only for their users but for others around them as well. They are like magnets for your fellow students’ eyes and thus attention. Laptop, i-pads sometimes have a demonstrably negative effect on learning and participation. Should you use the lap top or i-pad to take notes and/or e-readers please sit at the back of the classroom. Please turn your phones to silent (or off) and resist the urge to text until after the class.

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty (University’s regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may be found in the section on “Academic Integrity” of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html). Do not cut corners by engaging in illicit collaboration and/or recycling course work. Do not plagiarize from any source: books/the internet/journals/other students. Remember that we all have access to the same google so if you can find it so can I. By all means use its tools but use them properly and judiciously. Wikipedia is an unaccredited source therefore its contents are not very reliable and authoritative – do not use it.

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Student Resources: You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/ The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/). The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on two days of the week. All of the above services can also be accessed through this link: http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/student-resources.html

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=219304
Week 1: Introduction

Watch: Chimamanda Adichie: The Danger of a Single Story.

Week 2: The Idea(s) of Development

Required Readings:

- Frederick van der Ploeg, “Natural Resources: Curse or Blessing,” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 49, 2, 2011: 366-420;

Recommended Readings:


Discussion: Walter Rodney: *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*

In class Map Quiz, Sept. 17
Week 3: The slave and Legitimate Trade

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Discussion: Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa: Chapter 3 and 4.

Week 4: Land

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Primary document analysis due on Thursday, Oct. 1 by midnight. Email as an attachment.

Week 5: Colonialism

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Discussion: King Leopold’s Ghost/ Ousmane Sembene, God’s Bits of Wood

Week 6: In-dependent Africa/Socialist Experiments

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:

Week 7

Mid-semester exam on Thursday, Oct. 22 – in class. No class on Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Week 8: Multi-national Corporations

Required Readings:


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 9: IMF and World Bank: Structural Adjustment Programs: A Failed Grade?**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 10: Food Security**

**Required Readings:**

Cote d’Ivoire, and Mali,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 107, 13, 2010: 5774-5779;

**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 11: Crude Africa**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 12: Diamonds and other Minerals**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Research Paper Due on Thursday, Nov. 26 by midnight.**

**Week 13: Wither to Africa: Resource Use, Development and the Environmental Impact**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 14: Overview**