

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
GEOG 3000: GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS
CREDIT: 3 UNITS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Geographic variability of climate, landforms, vegetation, and resources and the effect of that variability on humans and other organisms; Impacts of different elements on the environment, the relationship of environmental problems; to geographical location; the global impact of "local" environmental problems.

COURSE OUTLINE

Weeks 1 – 3

Concept of geography and environment

- i) Introduction, Meaning of geography, subject matter of geography
- ii) Definition of environment and environmental geography.
- iii) Scope and concept of environmental geography.
- iv) Links between geography, environment and life science.

Weeks 4 – 6

The Earth's environment

1. Abiotic environments and their geographical distribution
 - a. Atmosphere
 - b. Hydrosphere
 - c. Lithosphere
 - d. Interrelations and interactions among the abiotic environments
2. Biotic environments and their geographical distribution
 - a. Biosphere
 - b. Flora
 - c. Fauna
3. Interrelations and interactions between abiotic and biotic environments

Submit Assignment 1: Taking Nairobi City as an example, discuss how human beings influence the abiotic and biotic environments. Paper should be typed; double-spaced and should range between 9-12 pages.

Week 7 - 8

Ecology and ecosystems.

- i) Basic concepts of ecology.
- ii) Structure, function and development of ecosystem.
- iii) Flow of energy and materials.

Submit Assignment 2: In view of increasing large-scale development projects in ASAL of Kenya, discuss the prospects and challenges the traditional pastoral farmers may encounter. Paper should be typed, double-spaced, between 10-12 pages, with citations, references etc.

Week 9

- i) Soil reserves, degradation and management.
- ii) Desertification and its control.

Week 10

- i) Human influence on the environment.
- ii) Environmental pollutions and their management.

Week 11 (Week for the submission of Term Paper)

Environmental hazards and their management.

Week 12 - 13

- i) Biomes, related problems and management.
- ii) Environmental ethics, politics and government and the environment.
- iii) Environmental planning and management.

Week 14

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

READINGS

1. Otiende, J. E. et al. *An introduction to environmental education*, Nairobi University Press, 1991.
2. S. Singh, *Environmental geography*, Prayag Pustak Bhawan, Allabad, India 1999.
3. Any book of physical and environmental geography.
4. GOK (1992) Environmental Action Plan for Arid and Semi-arid Lands in Kenya, Ministry of Reclamation and Development of Arid and Semi-arid Areas and Wastelands, Nairobi, Kenya.
5. GOK (1992) Development Policy for the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASAL), Nairobi, Kenya.
6. GOK (1994) National Environmental Action Plan n(NEAP) Report, Nairobi, Kenya
7. Taylor, D.R.F. (1974) Spatial Aspects of Kenya's Rural Development Strategy: Spatial Aspects of Development, edited by Hoyle, B.S., John Wiley and Sons, Longon. Pp.168-186.

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance & Participation	10%
Assignments	30%
MID-QUARTER EXAMINATION	20%
Final Exam	40%
TOTAL	100%

GRADING

90 - 100	A	67 - 69	C-
87 - 89	A-	64 - 66	D+
84 - 86	B+	62 - 63	D
80 - 83	B	60 - 61	D-
77 - 79	B-	0 - 59	F
74 - 76	C+		
70 - 73	C		

