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COURSE SYLLABUS

## Regional Studies: Governance of Natural Resources in Africa

Lecture Times: Mondays and Thursdays 15:30 – 16:50 in Clearihue Building A216

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00 to 11:00 in DTB B324

by appointment Africa has often been sidelined from reaping the benefits of minerals, forests, and land for agriculture. Africa has many of the world's natural resources, but many countries on the African continent have been unable to reap the benefits of these resources. This course will explore the governance of natural resources in Africa, where the more natural resources a country is endowed with, the more likely it is to experience stable democracy and socioeconomic development. In this course, we will explore the opportunities and challenges facing people living in Africa and how to address them.

Introduction: Unpack your stereotypes and place the continent on a map. At the beginning of this course, we will talk about some of our preconceptions about the continent, you will gain a basic understanding of a natural resource perspective and be able to place some of the continent on a map. An in-depth look at natural resources governance in Africa: from the course readings will help you engage with scientific literature on environment interactions within and beyond Africa. You will also learn that the 'problems' facing Africa do not stem from Africa and modern day global processes continue to impact the situation in Africa. We will critically examine and contest dominant discourses on Africa's natural resources on a daily basis.



This course does not have a textbook, but rather the reading list is provided below. You can find the links or pdfs on Brightspace. Although you will be ~~exp~~ to read some “classics,” I make an effort to ensure that you are reading relevant and current material, which means that some readings may change as the course progresses. If this happens, I will keep you updated.

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	Food value chains for inclusive development	Oct. 13: Feyaerts, H., Van den Broeck, G., & Maertens (2020). <a href="#">Global and local food value chains in Africa review</a> . <i>Agricultural Economics</i> 51(1), 143-157.
7	Corporate perspectives The business model behind sustainable sourcing practices	Oct. 17: Hofstetter, J. S., McGahan, A. M., Silverman, E. & Zoogah, B. D. (2022). Sustainability and global value chains in Africa: Introduction to the Special Issue. <i>Africa Journal of Management</i> 8(1), 1-14. Oct. 20: Outside the Classroom: Student excursions to discover Africa on Vancouver Island
8	Voices from the Continent What do Africans think?	Oct. 24: Outside the Classroom: Student excursions to discover Africa on Vancouver Island Oct. 27: Leissle, K. (2013). Invisible West Africa: The politics of single origin chocolate. <i>Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture</i> 13(3), 2231.

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(Disclaimer) The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, such as changing schedules of ~~level~~ guest speakers.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

One of the functions of the course is to engage students with information and ideas presented by people with experience (often called experts) in a particular area. These are highly ~~safe~~ individuals who have taken precious time out of their busy ~~hed~~ schedules to inspire you and share their knowledge. Each of the invited speakers will present a specific point of view on a given issue.

One of the key learning outcomes of this course is that you become better able to ~~analyze~~ the information you hear/read/view and clearly articulate a thoughtful response to that information.



period so that you can gain the most out of class discussions and lectures. Frequent absences will make it difficult to stay on top of the material and negatively affect your learning.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat. I reserve the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work. Plagiarism is the submission of work that is not your own. To present the work of others as your own is dishonest. All sources must be attributed, or there will be strict penalties. Please familiarize yourself with the following:

Policy on Academic Integrity [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academicintegrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academicintegrity.html)

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php)

### ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible ([uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/)). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

### POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment.

[LearnAnywhere](#) is the student support portal for a full range of student academic and support services.  
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