Global Issues

FACILITATOR: KINYUA L KITHINJI

Autumn Semester 2018

Course Description

For a better clarity of what this course entails, it is important to think about the course title as "Global Issues: Africa in the Contemporary Global Political Discourse".

Within the International Development, Africa features as field where global actors exercise their mandate. These global actors are enormously powerful and bears a strong role in shaping the political and development trajectories of majority of sub-Saharan African states. How was Africa incorporated into the global discourse, which often is imbalanced? What is the impact of the historically ever-increasing presence of global actors in African societies? Has the entry of the East in Africa, especially China, assumed any different strategies from that of the conventional partners (West)? Is AID the remedy for Africa's underdevelopment? How are the contemporary Africans responding to the challenges that face the continent? What are the agencies of social-political processes for sustainable development in Africa? These are some of the questions that this course aims to address through readings, class discussions, and lectures.

Although this course will transcend conventional disciplinary boundaries so as to expound the state of African politics as a consequence of its history, culture, and geography through the use of research by Historians, Economists, Sociologists, and Anthropologists, it will situate the study of Africa within the specific discipline of Political Science and International Development. Thus, the interest of this study is not just learning historical facts of African Politics and Society. Rather, it will attempt to include a wide range of academic theories, approaches, and conceptualizations so as to explain the varying patterns of politics and development in Africa.

Outline and Objectives

This course aims to introduce the students to key important concepts, themes, and approaches of politics and development in Africa. Specifically, this course aims to address such questions as a) how was Africa transformed from its traditional systems of governance to Western type democracies, b) what is the colonial legacy of Western colonialism and imperialism to contemporary African political arrangement, and c) to what extent is the current state of Africa in reference to poverty and underdevelopment a consequence of its history, culture, and geography. In regards to politics and development of Africa, this course has, among others, objectives such as; a) to create awareness and an understanding of major issues of African politics and development, and b) to familiarize the students with the approaches and theories applied by Social Scientists in analyzing the political process and development in Africa.

Goals

The course will focus on building academic skills by encouraging students to acquire analytical skills on a variety of issues through the study of politics and development in Africa. Furthermore, students will be expected to develop critical thinking skills through readings and class discussions. Overall, this course will also encourage students to create interest and inclinations towards Africa related issues including areas beyond politics and development in order to expand students' capacity for career prospective.

This course has, among others, the following objectives: a) Create awareness and an understanding of major issues of African politics and development. b) Familiarize the students with the approaches and theories applied by Social Scientists in analyzing the political development and international development in Africa. c) Develop and enhance reading, writing, and research skills in Global Studies. d) Create interest and inclinations towards Africa related issues including areas beyond political and development issues to expand students capacity for wider course selection, career prospect, and future research.

Method(s)

The course will focus on building an academic exchange and discussions on each week's thematic areas. Students are expected to carry out the assigned readings prior to attending the sessions. In-class small groups discussions will be a key element to this class. Discussions will be restricted to the key terms and thesis statement from the assigned readings. However, students will be given time to explore topics of interests emerging from the readings or elsewhere. In this regard, students are expected to familiarize themselves with the contemporary political and development discourse in Africa via BBC Focus on Africa or any other suitable media channels. Although the instructor may use most of the time to explain the content of the class, students are encouraged to bear in mind that the style of the class is not a monologue, but a discussion format. Besides the class discussions, students' input will also be in form of research-based essay at the end of the semester.

I expect students to come to class prepared so as to be able to engage and participate. To be able to participate and express thought in class and in term paper, students need to make adequate preparations. This class requires at least eight to ten hours of preparation each week.

This class meets three hours for 14 weeks. Students are expected to have approximately eight hours of preparation prior to class through reading and preparing to lead seminars (only for those responsible in the specified weeks).

Grading Criteria

Students should take note that the process of writing for this course will take place within the 14 weeks sessions and not at the end of the course. The course grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Attendance and Active Participation:	10%
Issue Paper:	20%
Theory & Hypothesis Paper:	20%
Final Paper Presentation:	20%
Final Paper:	30%

Issue Paper

During the first three weeks, students will be expected to identify and develop interest in an issue relating to Politics and Development in African context. The issue paper will be based on a topic that students have identified as an important Global Issue in Africa and are therefore interested doing further research on. At this stage, students will be expected to provide a research question and an explanatory note on why they think their topic is interesting or important.

Theory & Hypothesis Paper

With the Issues paper in mind, the second paper will focus on identifying and describing a particular theory in Global Studies that would be useful in explaining their research question identified in Issue Paper. Students are expected to explain how their theory of choice can be used to study their choice issue within Global Studies. They will also develop a clear hypothesis to be tested in their essay.

Final Paper and Presentation of Results

The final session will be a workshop to present the findings of the papers that the students have been working on throughout the semester. Students will be expected to have joined the Issues, Theory, and Hypothesis papers by the 14th week. Presentation will not require PowerPoint. Students will be expected to circulate their papers one week prior to all attendees for a peer review.

Textbooks and References

This class will use different assigned readings for each week throughout the course. Students are advised to finish all required readings before class and formulate any questions for discussions in the class. Some sections of the course will have guiding questions to help students focus and get the most out of the readings. Those students who wish to explore more on the topics are encouraged to look at the recommended readings section.

Students are also requested to familiarialise themselves with Journal of African Studies, Journal of Eastern African Studies, and The Journal of Development Studies.

Outline

Part I
Politics and Development in Africa as a Global Issue

Session 1: Introduction

Approaches to Studies of Global Issues

This part targets to shed light on how local perspectives can be studied at a global scale. It answers the question on approaches adopted throughout this course on theory, methods, and practice of the studying Africa as a global issue by giving interdisciplinary perspectives that shape descriptions of Africa in global perspectives. Specially answering the question, "will Global Studies new approaches change how localities are represented in the global political discourses?"

Required Text

Darian-Smith, E., & McCarty, P. (2017). *The Global Turn: Theories, Research Designs, and Methods for Global Studies*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Session 2: Africa in Global Political Discourse

a) How is Africa talked about in the global political discourse, and how should we talk about Africa?

Required Text

1. Wainaina, B. (2011). How to write about Africa. Nairobi: Kwani Trust.

2. Chigozie, O. (2017). Africa has been failed by Westernization: It must cast off its subservience. The Guardian. Available @ https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/nov/12/africa-failed-by-westernisation-must-cast-off-its-subservience?CMP=share_btn_fb

3. Ferguson, J. (2006). Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order. Durham and London: Duke University Press. Chapter 1.

   Recommended

4. TED. (2009). *The danger of a single story*. Retrieved from https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story/transcript?language=en

b) Is Africa a Global Issue?

Required text

1. *Hopeless Africa.* (2000). *The Economist.* Retrieved 3 April 2018, from https://www.economist.com/node/333429

2. *Africa rising.* (2011). *The Economist.* Retrieved 3 April 2018, from https://www.economist.com/node/21541015

Part II
A Brief Overview of the Concept "Africa"

Session 3: Colonialism and Post-Colonial Legacy

Study Questions

1. What were the main reasons for colonialism, and why did it happen?

2. What were the outcomes of the Berlin Conference?

3. How does origin of the state in Africa differ from those in Europe?

4. What role did the African educated elites play in colonial rule and national liberation?

5. How appropriate were the political institutions left to Africa after independence?

Required Readings

1. Thomson, A. (2016). An introduction to African politics (4th ed.). London: Routledge. (Chap. 2)

2. Herbst, J. (2000). States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chap. 3)

3. Ngugi wa, T. (2011). *Decolonising the Mind: the Politics of Language in African Literature*. Oxford:

Currey.

4. Mamdani, M. (1996). Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. (Chap. 2)

Recommended Readings

3. Bates, R. (1987). Essays on the political economy of rural Africa. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press. (Chap. 4)

4. Herbst, J. (2000). States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chap. 4)

5. Rodney, W. (1972). *How Europe underdeveloped Africa.* London: Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications.

Session 4: Africa and International Politics

a) Global Economy

Required Readings

1. Thomson, A. (2016). An introduction to African politics (4th ed.). London: Routledge. (Chapter 8 pages 313-318)

2. Mshomba, R., Africa and the World Economy., in Cheeseman, N., Anderson, D., & Scheibler, A. (2013). Routledge Handbook of African Politics. New York: Reutledge. (Chap. 28).

Recommended Readings

3. Taylor, I. (2007). Sino-African Relations and the Problem of Human Rights. African Affairs, 107(426), 63-87.

4. Olivier, G. (2011). From Colonialism to Partnership in Africa–Europe Relations?. The International Spectator, 46(1), 53-67.

5. Carmody, P. (2014). The new scramble for Africa. Cambridge: Polity. (Chapters 1, 2, & 3)

6. Clapham, C. (2007). Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 4-6)

b) China and India in Africa: African Resource Bounty, India Africa Forum Summit (IFAS), and Forum on China - Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Required Readings

1. Chris, A., China in Africa., in Cheeseman, N., Anderson, D., & Scheibler, A. (2013). Routledge Handbook of African Politics. New York: Reutledge. (Chap. 32).

2. Broadman, H. (2008). "China and India go to Africa," Foreign Affairs (2), pp. 95-109

Recommended Readings

3. Manji, F. (2007). African perspectives on China in Africa. Oxford: Fahamu.

4. Africa - China: Military Agreements. (2007). *Africa Research Bulletin: Political, Social And Cultural Series*, 44(3), 17023A-17024A.

5. Harsh V., P., & Ava M., H. (2017). China's Expanding Military Footprint in Africa. *ORF Issue Brief*. Retrieved from http://cf.orfonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ORF_Issue_Brief_195_China_Military_Africa.pdf

6. McCormick, D. (2008). China & India as Africa's New Donors: The Impact of Aid on Development. *Review Of African Political Economy*, 35(115), 73-92.

7. Taylor, I. (2010). *China's new role in Africa*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

c) Japan in Africa: Foreign Aid Policy and The TICAD Process

Required Readings

1. Yamada, S. (2011). The Discourse on Japanese Commitment to Africa: The planning Process of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV). *Journal Of Contemporary African Studies*, 29(3), 315-330.

Case Study

TICAD IV (Yokohama), TICAD V (Yokohama), and TICAD VI (Nairobi)

Recommended Readings

2. Raposo, P. (2014). *Japan's Foreign Aid to Africa: Angola and Mozambique Within the TICAD*. NewYork: Routledge. (Chap. 1 & 2)

3. Ampiah, K., & Rose, C. (2012). The Evolving Relations between Japan and Africa: The Discourse of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD). *Japanese Studies*, 32(2), 153-159.

4. TICAD. (2017). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Retrieved 19 November 2017, from http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/ticad/

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Part III
Poverty and Development

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Session 5: Causes of Poverty

Development strategies are largely shaped by the notion of poverty; particularly how and why poverty is (re) produced. In attempts to address the challenge of poverty, various development strategies have been tried. These strategies often give mixed results. In which way should poverty be understood? One of the single most important beginning point is to start with reference to the root causes of poverty.

Required Readings

2. McMichael, P. 2017. "Globalisation and Development." In McMichael, P. (2017). *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*. Los Angeles, California: SAGE.

3. Peet, R., & Hartwick, E. (2009). *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, and Alternatives*.

New York: Guilford. 1-19.

4. Mosse, D. 2010. "A Relational Approach to Durable Poverty, Inequality and Power." Journal of Development Studies, 46(7), pp. 1156-1178.

Recommended Readings

5. Escobar, A. (1995). The Problematisation of Poverty: The Tale of Three Worlds and Development. In *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World* (pp. 21-54). Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Session 6: Causes of Poverty; Historical Perspectives

Required Readings

6. Kothari U. (eds), A Radical History of Development Studies: Individuals, Institutions and Ideologies, Zed Books, 2005

7. Hall, Stuart. 1992. "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power." In S. Hall and B. Gieben (eds). Formations of Modernity. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press: 276-308

8. Bernstein, Henry. 2010. "Origins and Early Development of Capitalism." In Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing: 25-37.

Recommended Readings

9. Davis, Mike. 2002. Late Victorian Holocausts: El Nino Famines and the Making of the Third World. London.

10. Polanyi, K. (1957). The great transformation. Boston: Beacon Press.

Session 7: The Role of State in Promoting Development in Africa

In the development literature, the state has been seen as the main source of corruption. Thus, international organizations have treated the state as part of the bottlenecks of development. The 1990s, however, has seen renewed interest in the role of the state in promoting development. This section will focus on discussing the ways in which the state in Africa promotes development.

Required Readings

11. Mawere, M. & Mwanaka, R.(2015). Democracy, Good Governance and Development in Africa. Oxford: African Books Collective.

12. Sikuka, K. (2017). *Is there a link between Democracy and Development in Africa?. ACCORD.* Retrieved 7 April 2018, from http://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/link-democracy-development-africa/

13. Mkandawire, T. (2001). Thinking about developmental states in Africa. *Cambridge Journal Of Economics*, *25*(3), 289-314. http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/cje/25.3.289

Recommended Readings

14. Ake, C. (1996). *Democracy and Development in Africa*. Washington, D.C: Brookings Institution.

15. Ferguson, J. (2009). *The Anti-Politics Machine: Development, Depoliticisation, and Bureaucratic Power*

in Lesotho. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

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Part IV
Interventions

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Session 8: Debating AID and Development in Africa

Required Readings

16. Sachs, J. (2006). *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time.* Penguin Books.

17. .Moyo, D. (2010). *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Recommended Readings

18. Ake C., Development and Democracy in Africa, Brookings Institution, 1996

19. L. Whitfield The Politics of Aid. African Strategies for Dealing with Donors, Oxford University Press, 2007

20. Mosse, David. 2005. "Global Governance and the Ethnography of International Aid." In D. Mosse ed. The Aid Effect: Giving and Governing in International Development. London: Pluto Press: 1-36.

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Part V
Locally Generated Solutions

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For a long time, the African continent was viewed as a place for negatives. The main prescriptions towards addressing the various challenges in the continent were various forms of interventions, especially emerging from the West. Africans were often viewed in paternalistic Western discourses as incapable of addressing their own problems hence delegitimizing African philosophies, value systems, knowledge, and institutions. In view of this, this section explores the "African Potentials" through readings derived from Area Studies perspectives.

Session 9: African Problems, African Solutions?

This session will have a special round table discussion with two invited guests who are involved with community development in Africa.
Guests Discussants
   1) Akiko Mera, International Program Manager, Hunger Free World.
   2) Yousuke Nagai, Chief Executive Officer, Accept International.
Moderator
   1) Kinyua L Kithinji

Required Readings

21. Gebre, Y., Ōta, I., & Matsuda, M. (2017). *African Virtues in the Pursuit of Conviviality: Exploring Local Solutions in Light of Global Prescriptions.* Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG (Chapters 6, 9, 10, & 13).

Session 10: The Political Economy of Technology and Money in the Developing World

a) What does the act of sharing credit and sending money say about poverty eradication strategies?

b) What are the underlying causes of proliferation and success of mobile money in Kenya?

c) What is money, and how has technology changed the way we use it and the meanings ascribed to it?

Themes: Money, traditions, and institutions.

Required Readings

22. Maurer, B. (2015). *How Would You Like to Pay?: How Technology Is Changing the Future of Money.* Duke University Press.

Recommended Readings

5. White, L. (1999). *The theory of monetary institutions.* Malden, Mass: Blackwell.

6. Batchelor, S., & Opoku-Mensah, A. (2010). *M-Banking: An African Financial Revolution.* Chicago: Ipg-Academic.

7. Aker, J., & Mbiti, I. (2010). Mobile Phones and Economic Development in Africa. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *24*(3), 207-232.

8. Kendall, J., Maurer, B., Machoka, P., & Veniard, C. (2011). An Emerging Platform: From Money Transfer System to Mobile Money Ecosystem. *Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization*, *6*(4), 49-64.

9. Hughes, N., & Lonie, S. (2007). M-PESA: Mobile Money for the "Unbanked" Turning Cellphones into 24-Hour Tellers in Kenya. *Innovations: Technology, Governance, Globalization*, *2*(1-2), 63-81.

10. Guyer, J. (1999). *Money Matters: Instability, Values and Social Payments in the Modern History of West African Communities (Social History of Africa).* Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Session 11: Agencies of Sustainable Development in Africa: Social Processes in Contemporary Africa

a) Women in informal economy

b) The interface between formal and informal economies

c) Religion in contemporary Africa

Required Readings

23. Kinyanjui, M. (2014). *Women and the Informal Economy in Urban Africa: From the Margins to the Centre.* London: Zed Books.

24. Matsuda, M. (1998). *Urbanisation From Below: Creativity and soft resistance in the everyday life of Maragoli migrants in Nairobi.* Kyoto: Kyoto University Press.

25. Geschiere, P. (2000). *The Modernity of Witchcraft: Politics and the Occult in Postcolonial Africa.* Charlottesville: Univ. Press of Virginia.

Recommended Readings

11. Ferguson, J. (1999). *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copper belt (Perspectives on Southern Africa).* University of California Press.

Session 12: Understanding Everyday Political Actions in Contemporary Africa (agency, resilience, and imagination)

    a) Living with limits

    b) Debt Imperium in Post-Apartheid South Africa

    c) Fighting against environmental devastation while living with precarity in Niger Delta

    d) Surviving as an immigrant in South Africa (seeking for a job)

    e) Operating Bodaboda (okada) in the context of uncertainty in Nigeria

Required Readings

26. Adebanwi, W. (2017). *The Political Economy of Everyday Life in Africa: Beyond the Margins.* Melton: James Curry (Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9).

27. de Certeau, M. (2011). *The practice of everyday life.* Berkeley, California: University of California Press.

Recommended Readings

12. Scott, J. (2008). *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance.* Yale University Press.

Session 13: Is a Basic Income Grant for all Possible?: Politics of Distribution in East and Southern Africa

Required Readings

28. Ferguson, J. (2015). *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution.* Durham: Duke University Press.

29. Standing, G. (2017). *Basic Income: A Guide for the Open-Minded.* Yale University Press.

Recommended Readings

30. Davala, S., Jhabvala, R., Mehta, S., & Standing, G. (2015). *Basic Income: A Transformative Policy for India.* London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Part V
Conclusion

Session 14: Workshop

Presentation of term papers