

The political economy of African development Syllabus

Patricia Agupusi (Watson Institute)

Course overview

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to introduce contemporary development issues in Africa. Drawing on literatures from political sciences, economics, sociology and history, it explores the challenges of development in the continent since independence, as well as investigates the influences of governance, institutions, conflicts and external forces in Africa's development trajectories. This is an applied course that would utilize both theoretical and policy analytical approaches to examine the political and socioeconomic dynamism in contemporary Africa.

This course is guided by questions, such as: Why have most African countries remained underdeveloped, poor and susceptible to conflicts (many of which seem intractable)? What are the past and current roles of the global 'West' in Africa? What are the implications of current democratisation and growth trends in Africa? To answer these questions we will explore various political, economic and sociological theories, as well as show historical evidences of such theories, using them as tools to study individual countries as cases for the course. The aim is to present African socio-political and economy experiences through cross-country variations so that students will be equipped with a set of theoretical and analytical tools that will enable them understand development trajectories in Africa.

This course is structured in three parts. In the first part we will take a quick tour of Africa's colonial structures, as well as the impact of colonialism on the post-colonial development process. Secondly, we will explore the influences of external and internal factors during the post-independence era, focusing on social, political, and economic changes engendered through state-building efforts and their consolidation. Thirdly, as the 21st century has been widely touted as the time for Africa to make the push, we will explore some contemporary development trends and discourse in Africa, which would affirm, or challenge such a position.

Course Requirements

This is a lecture course designed to be accessible to all, but requires students to spend time in reading core literatures and follow current events in Africa to broaden their knowledge and motivate contribution in the class discussion. The class is expected to be interactive and

involves small group presentations. Each student will turn in a total of three different short essays and one term paper by the end of the semester.

Evaluation and Course Requirements

Course Expectations: Regular attendance, active participation, and critical engagement of the readings are all necessary in order for students to complete this course. Thus, each student is expected to dutifully prepare for each class, attend all classes, and actively participate in class discussions.

Response Papers: Students will submit three-page double spaced critical response papers that engage the readings, and demonstrates the student's understanding of the issues and ideas discussed in the course.

Mid-Term take Home Examination: Each student will complete a take-home mid-term essay examination of six to eight pages on the assigned date. The mid-term examination will cover the material engaged in the course up to the point of the examination and is designed to assess each student's knowledge and understanding of the readings, and course discussion.

Group Presentation: Students will participate in a group presentation to be delivered in class on a selected topic and theme of the course designated by the instructor. The presentation along with a collaboratively authored three to five page document will form the assessment criteria for this assignment.

Final Essay: Students are required to complete and turn in twelve to fifteen pages essay. Student will take a country of interest and critical examines its contemporary political economy trajectories. The paper should reflect the student's ability to clearly articulate and logically develop a thesis and reference relevant scholarly literature to support the thesis of the essay.

These are exams and deadlines will be enforced. Late papers will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances. All essays are double spaced and take-home

Course Evaluation Criteria:

Class attendant and participation 10%

Periodic Response Papers 20%

Mid-Term Examination 20%

Group Presentation 20%

Final Research Essay 30%

Course Schedule, Topics and Some Associated Reading

Cumulative time for the class is two hours 40mins divided into two classes per week. Each class will last for 80 minutes. The schedule below specifies lecture topics and readings for each week of the semester: Time will also be set aside at the end for reflection.

Part 1: Background: Understanding African political economy

Week 1: Introduction:

A - Readings

- Agupusi, P. & Okereke, C. (2015). *Homegrown Development in Africa: Reality Or Illusion?* Routledge. chapter (1-2)

B – Readings

- Englebert, P. (2000). Pre-colonial institutions, post-colonial states, and economic development in tropical Africa. *Political Research Quarterly*, 53(1), 7-36.
- Mamdani, M. (1996). *Citizen and subject: Contemporary Africa and the legacy of late colonialism*. Princeton University Press.” (Chapter 2)

Week 2: Colonialism and its legacy in African development:

A – Readings

- ❖ Walter, R. (1972). *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. London. Bogle L’ouverture. (chapter 4)
- ❖ Acemoglu, D., & Robinson, J. (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, Crown Business, New York. Chapter 9

B – Readings

- ❖ Herbst, J. (2014). *States and power in Africa: Comparative lessons in authority and control*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-3),
- ❖ Cooper, F. (2002). *Africa since 1940: the past of the present* (Vol. 1). Cambridge University Press. The Past of the Present, pp. 91-118.

Week 3: Development theories and application in Africa

A - Readdings

- ❖ Leys, C., & Shaw, D. J. (1996). *The rise & fall of development theory* (p. 64). EAEP.

- ❖ Easterly, W., & Easterly, W. R. (2001). *The elusive quest for growth: economists' adventures and misadventures in the tropics*. MIT press. Pp. 47-69.

B - Readings

- ❖ Amin, S. (1972). Underdevelopment and dependence in Black Africa—origins and contemporary forms. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 10(04), 503-524.

Week 4: Politics of independence in Africa

A - Readings

- ❖ Herbst, J. (2014). *States and power in Africa: Comparative lessons in authority and control*. Princeton University Press. pp 97 -136
- ❖ Wallerstein, I. M. (1967). *Africa: The Politics of Unity: an analysis of a contemporary social movement*. New York: Random House. 1961.Pp. 85-137

B - Readings

Sklar, R. L. (2004). *Nigerian political parties: Power in an emergent African nation*. Africa World Press.

Part two: post-colonial Africa, state consolidation and nation-building

Week 5: State consolidation

A - Readings

- ❖ Herbst, J. (2014). *States and power in Africa*. Princeton University Press. 2014. Pp. 35-
- ❖ A. A. Mazrui et al (ed) Speech excerpts from Nyerere and Nkrumah. Sections 6.3 And 6.4 In *The Africans: A Reader*, New York: Praeger Publishers. pp. 178-- 88.
- ❖ Evans, Peter. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton University Press. Pp. 2-43

B - Readings

- ❖ Bates, R. H. (1981). *Markets and states in tropical Africa: the political basis of agricultural policies* (Vol. 1). University of California Press. Pp. 1-29
- ❖ Ake, C. (2001). *Democracy and development in Africa*. Brookings Institution Press. Pp. 1-21

Week 6: State failure and economic crisis: The boom and burst

A - Readings

- ❖ Hydén, G. (1983). *No shortcuts to progress: African development management in perspective*. University of California Press. Pp. 1-53

Collier, P., & Gunning, J. W. (1999). Why has Africa grown slowly? *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 3-22.

B - Readings

- ❖ Lewis, Peter M. "Economic Reform and Political Transition in Africa The Quest for a Politics of Development." *World Politics* 49, no. 01 (1996): 92-129.
- ❖ Herbst, J. (2012). Responding to state failure in Africa. Pp. 120-144
- ❖ Lewis, W. A. (1978). *The evolution of the international economic order* (Vol. 151). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 7: The decade of diseases, war and conflicts

A - Readings

- ❖ Easterly, W., & Levine, R. (1997). Africa's growth tragedy: policies and ethnic divisions. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1203-1250.
- ❖ Collier, P. (2003). *Breaking the conflict trap: Civil war and development policy*. World Bank Publications. , pp. 13-32.

B - Readings

- ❖ World Bank (2003) *Breaking the conflict trap: Civil war and development policy*. World Bank Publications
- ❖ Stefan Elbe 'HIV/AIDS and the Changing Landscape of War in Africa' *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (Fall 2002), pp. 159–177

Week 8: The burden of Aid, Loan, and the World Bank in Africa

A - Readings

- ❖ Sandbrook R. (1999) *The Politics of Africa's Economic Recovery*. Cambridge University Press, 1993. Pp. 1-20
- ❖ Easterly, W. (2003). Can foreign aid buy growth? *The journal of economic perspectives*, 17(3), 23-48.

B - Readings

- ❖ Easterly, W. (2009). How the millennium development goals are unfair to Africa. *World Development*, 37(1), 26-35.
- ❖ Mkandawire, P. T., & Soludo, C. C. (1999). *Our continent, our future: African perspectives on structural adjustment*. Idrc.. Dakar/Trenton. Pp. 49-86

Week 9: Globalisation and development in Africa: The transitional era

A - Reading

- ❖ Stiglitz, J. (1998). E., 2002. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. London: Allen Lane. Pp. 89-132
- ❖ Collier, P., & Gunning, J. W. (1998). *Globalization: implications for Africa. Trade Reform and Regional Integration in Africa*. Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund. Pp 147-181.

B - Readings

- ❖ Iqbal, Z., & Khan, M. S. (Eds.). (1998). Trade reform and regional integration in Africa (Vol. 763). *International Monetary Fund. Volume 763*. Pp. 34-66

Part 3: 21st Century; an Africa renaissance?

Week 10: The spread of democracy and economic growth

A - Readings

- ❖ Mattes, R., & Bratton, M. (2007). Learning about democracy in Africa: Awareness, performance, and experience. *American Journal of Political Science*, 51(1), 192-217.
- ❖ Harber (2002) Education, democracy and poverty reduction in Africa: *Comparative Education*, Vol. 38, No. 3, Special Number (25): *Democracy and Authoritarianism in Education* (Aug., 2002), pp. 267-276
- ❖ Dunning, Thad. "Conditioning the effects of aid: Cold War politics, donor credibility, and democracy in Africa." *International Organization* 58, no. 02 (2004): 409-423.

B - Readings

- ❖ Subramanian, A., Ostry, J. D., & Johnson, S. (2007). *The Prospects for Sustained Growth in Africa: Benchmarking the Constraints*. International Monetary Fund.
- ❖ Pinkney, R. (1999). *State, conflict, and democracy in Africa* (pp. 3-14). R. A. Joseph (Ed.). L. Rienner.
- ❖ Democracy and Development in Africa," *Journal of the International Institute (University of Michigan)* 16, no. 2 (2009): 1-5; <http://hdl.handle.net/2027/spo.4750978.0016.202>.

Week 11: The era of pro-poor and homegrown development initiatives; a new paradigm shift?

A - Readings

- ❖ Stiglitz, J. E. (2002). Towards a new paradigm for development: strategies, policies and processes. *Applied Econometrics and International Development*, 2(1), 116-122.
- ❖ Rodrik, D. (2006). Goodbye Washington consensus, hello Washington confusion? A review of the World Bank's economic growth in the 1990s: learning from a decade of reform. *Journal of Economic literature*, 44(4), 973-987.

B. Reading

- ❖ William Easterly (2008) Can the West Save Africa: *NBER Working Paper Series 14363*
- ❖ Dunning, Thad. "Conditioning the effects of aid: Cold War politics, donor credibility, and democracy in Africa." *International Organization* 58, no. 02 (2004): 409-423.
- ❖ Agupusi, P. & Okereke, C. (2015). *Homegrown Development in Africa: Reality Or Illusion?* Routledge. Chapter 8

Week 12: African development success stories

A - Readings

- ❖ Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S. and Robinson, J. A. (2002). 'An African success: Botswana', in (D. Rodrik ed.) *Analytic Development Narratives*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- ❖ Rodrik, D. (2014). *An African Growth Miracle?* (No. w20188). National Bureau of Economic Research.

B - Readings

- ❖ Subramanian, A. and Roy D. (2001), "Who Can Explain the Mauritian Miracle: Meade, Romer, Sachs, or Rodrik?" *IMF Working Paper WP/01/116*,
- ❖ Hillbom, E. (2012). Botswana: A development-oriented gate-keeping state. *African Affairs*, 111(442), 67-89.

Week 13: political and economic challenges: Institutions and economic diversification

A - Readings

- ❖ Acemoglu, D., & Robinson, J. (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*, Crown Business, New York. Chapter 13
- ❖ Rodrik, D., Subramanian, A., & Trebbi, F. (2004). Institutions rule: the primacy of institutions over geography and integration in economic development. *Journal of economic growth*, 9(2), 131-165.

- ❖ Paul Collier and Willem Explaining African Economic Performance. *Journal of Economic Literature* Vol. XXXVII (March 1999), pp. 64-111

B - Readings

- ❖ Alemayehu Gedaa, and Haile Kebretb Regional Economic Integration in Africa: A Review of Problems and Prospects with a Case Study of COMESA. *Journal of African Economics* (2008) 17 (3): 357-394
- ❖ Michael Bleaney and David Greenaway The impact of terms of trade and real exchange rate volatility on investment and growth in sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Development Economics* Volume 65, Issue 2, August 2001, Pages 491–500

Week 14: Reflections

- ❖ Gelb, A. H. (Ed.). (2000). *Can Africa claim the 21st century?* World Bank Publications.?
- ❖ Agupusi and Okereke (2015). *Homegrown Development in Africa: Reality Or Illusion?*. Routledge. Chapter 3