WHERE THIS COURSE FITS: This course introduces the contemporary economies of Africa, drawing on the economics and political science literatures to examine the influences of geography, governance, and external forces in the evolution of African economic performance since independence. Case material comes from all of Sub-Saharan Africa. Prerequisite: Ec 1.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To present the central themes and cross-country variations in development experience in Africa since 1960, and develop the student’s ability to apply the tools of economic analysis to contemporary issues in African development.


COURSE POLICIES:
Attendance: Attendance is required.
Exams: You must pass a geography quiz. There will be an in-class midterm and a final exam at the scheduled time.
Grading: Class participation 10%, midterm exam 20%, final exam 40%, term paper 30%.
Make-up exams: Scheduling conflicts must be worked out in advance. Make-ups granted within a week of the exam require an emergency or medical excuse certified by the Dean’s office or Worth Health Center.
Late term papers: I automatically grant extensions, but at a cost: your grade on the paper drops by 1/3 of a grade for each 2 days of extension.
Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as passing off the work of others as your own. It is easy to avoid, not by ignoring the work of others but by citing it whenever you use it. For instructions on avoiding plagiarism see Referencing Source Material and Avoiding Plagiarism in Economics under the ‘Classes’ link on my web page. Students will be required to submit their term papers electronically. Any student caught plagiarizing will fail the course and will face the College’s judicial procedure which may lead to suspension or expulsion.
TERM PAPER ASSIGNMENT: 10-12 pages of text, double spaced with standard font and margins (not including tables, figures, and references which can be placed at the end; please place footnotes on the page rather than at the end). Choose an economic topic that interests you and on which there has been some scholarly debate. Briefly review the debate and then contribute to it by developing case material from a particular country, region or episode (Did structural adjustment policies invigorate the agricultural sector in Africa? Review the relevant literature and write a case study of agricultural reforms and supply response in Tanzania. Can African countries compete in global textile markets? In light of the relevant literature, contrast the success of Mauritius with the failure of Senegal.). Alternatively, focus on the debate itself and develop a critical review what one or more leading researchers has contributed (What is the likely impact of HIV/AIDS on economic growth in Africa? Why do diamonds fuel conflict in Angola but not Botswana?).

Term paper deadlines:
--Fri Oct 10, in class: 1 paragraph on proposed research topic. I will return proposals by Fri Oct 17. Approval required.
--Fri Oct 24, in class: Annotated outline (2 pages, with at least 4 refs). Outline the paper and indicate the analytical framework and evidence you plan to use. Approval required.
--Fri Nov 14 (this step optional): Rough draft of paper to Writing Center to be WAed.
--Fri Dec 5, in class: Final draft to me in hard copy; also an electronic copy by email (see ‘course policies’ above about extensions).

Weekly syllabus
*Required readings are marked with an asterix; those outside of the required texts will be available on blackboard [bb] or other venues as indicated. Readings in small font are included supplementary material (e.g. for paper writers) and will not necessarily be readily available.

PART 1 [Weeks 1-3] BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

Week 1 [Mon 9/1]. Historical background


⇒ Fri 9/12, in class: Map quiz.

Mshombwa, Richard (1998), Africa in the Global Economy (Boulder, Lynne Rienner)


**PART 2 [Weeks 4-6] AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY**

**Week 4 [Mon 9/22] Rural livelihoods**


**Week 5 [Mon 9/29] Taxing agriculture and trade**


**Week 6 [Mon 10/6] Structural adjustment**

**Fri 10/10, in class: midterm exam, covering weeks 1-5**


---


Golub, S. (2008), on liberalization of the cotton sector in Benin


**FALL BREAK: Week of Monday October 13**

**PART 3 [Weeks 7-10] POWER AND REDISTRIBUTION**

**Week 7 [Mon 10/21] Restraining predation**


*Herbst, States and Power in Africa, chapter 7 [**monetary policy**]

---


**Week 8 [Mon 10/27] Distributional struggle in Nigeria**


---


---

**Week 9 [Mon 11/3] Civil war and the shadow of war**


---

Ake, Claude *Democracy in Africa* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution)


---

**Week 10 [Mon 11/10] Building the nation**

*Herbst, States and Power in Africa, chapters 5-end

---


---

**PART 4 [Weeks 11-13] AFRICAN RENAISSANCE**

---

**Week 11 [Mon 11/17] External partners**


---


**Week 12 [Mon 11/24] Seizing opportunities**

NEPAD charter (available online).

**Week 13 [Mon 12/1] Student presentations**

![Final exam at scheduled time during finals week](image)