This course is an introduction to the contemporary economies of Africa. It draws 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 Sub-Saharan Africa. The prerequisite is Ec 1.

**Required texts:** Students should purchase the two books below. Additional required readings will be available on Reserve or blackboard.


**Course Requirements:** Attendance is required. You must pass a geography quiz with at most 2 mistakes. There will be an in-class midterm and a final exam at the scheduled time, and a term paper due towards the end of the semester.

**Grading:** Class participation 10%, midterm exam 20%, final exam 40%, term paper 30%.

**Term paper:** Your paper should be 12-15 pages of text, double spaced with standard font and margins (not including tables and figures which can be placed 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 (for example: 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. How should education budgets be spent in African countries? Summarize the overall debate and then focus on lessons from randomized interventions in northern Kenya). Alternatively, focus on the debate itself and develop a critical review what one or more leading researchers has contributed (e.g., What is the likely impact of HIV/AIDS on economic growth in Africa? Why do diamonds fuel conflict in Angola but not Botswana? What role do private remittances play in the economies of West Africa?).

For instructions on avoiding plagiarism, all students must read the following: [http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/soconne1/documents/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.swarthmore.edu/SocSci/soconne1/documents/plagiarism.pdf)
Weekly syllabus

*Required readings are in large font and marked with an asterix. Required readings that are not in the required texts will be available on blackboard or other venues. Readings in small font are included as bibliographic suggestions for paper writers.

Weeks 1 and 2. The historical context
*End of week 2: Map quiz, in class.


Week 3. Rural livelihoods


Weeks 4 and 5. Transformation and development after 1960


Meade, J. E. and others (1961), The economic and social structure of Mauritius: report to the Governor of Mauritius (London: Methuen).


Week 6 and 7. Intervention and liberalization


Weeks 8 and 9. Unsustainable policies


**Weeks 10 and 11. Buying the peace**

[http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/emiguel/miguel_nation.pdf](http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/emiguel/miguel_nation.pdf)


**Week 12. The aid debate**


**Weeks 13 and 14. African renaissance**


NEPAD charter (available online).

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