An introduction to the contemporary economies of Africa. This course examines the interlocking influences of economic structure, the state, the private sector, external forces, and institutions in the evolution of African economic performance since independence. Case material comes from all of Africa south of the Sahara. Analytical frameworks come from mainstream economics, as applied to markets and resource allocation as well as to policy formation and governance.

**Prerequisite:** Introductory Economics

**Required texts:**

Additional readings will be available on Reserve or on a blackboard website.

You will find useful material in journals and periodicals like the *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *Africa News*. *Keesing’s Contemporary Index* is a good source of recent developments by country or regional organization. For mainstream development economics, see M. Gillis, et al, *Development Economics*, 4th Edition (or earlier). To browse the economics research literature, use the Econlit CD-ROM. The Centre for Study of African Economies has an excellent set of working papers ([http://users.ox.ac.uk/~csaeinfo/](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~csaeinfo/)). Finally, you may want to consult the Penn African Studies Home Page, which provides links to Africa resources on the web ([www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies)).

**Course Requirements:** You are responsible for:
- attending class and participating actively in discussions, which will require doing the assigned reading before class.
- passing a geography quiz.
- taking an in-class midterm and a final exam at the scheduled time.
- writing a term paper and presenting a summary in class.

**Grading:** Class participation 10%, Midterm exam 20%, Final exam 40%, Writing assignments/presentations 30% (TOTAL 100%)

Collier, P. and S. O’Connell (2004), draft chapter on opportunities, episodes, and policy syndromes.

Week 3. Seizing sovereignty

Sandbrook (1986), The Politics of Africa’s Economic Stagnation

Weeks 4-5. Intervention and redistribution

*Chapters 2 (Improving Governance, Managing Conflicts, and Rebuilding States), 3 (Addressing Poverty and Inequality) and 4 (Investing in People) in Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?

**Weeks 6-7. Logic and limits of structural adjustment**


*Chapters 5 (Lowering Infrastructure, Information, and Finance Barriers) and 6
(Spurring Agriculture and Rural Development) in *Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?*


**Week 8. Polarization, conflict, and politics**

*Azam, Jean-Paul (2005), “Political Geography and Redistribution” [AERC Growth Project; see web link to Weatherhead Center workshop below.]*


*Nkuruziza, Janvier and Floribert Ngaruko (2005), “Why Has Burundi Grown So Slowly?” [AERC Growth Project; see web link to Weatherhead Center workshop below.]*

Ake, Claude *Democracy in Africa.*


**Week 9. Natural resource and boom economies**


*Collier, Paul and Jan Gunning (2005), “Intertemporal Syndromes: Redistribution from the Future to the Present.” [AERC Growth Project; see web link to Weatherhead Center workshop below.]*


*Davies, Victor (2005), “Sierra Leone’s Growth Performance: 1961-2000.” [AERC Growth Project; see web link to Weatherhead Center workshop below.]*


*Maipose, Gervase (2005), “Indigenous Developmental State and Growth in Botswana.” [AERC Growth Project; see web link to Weatherhead Center workshop below.]


**Week 10. Coastal and landlocked economies**

*Chapter 7 (Diversifying exports, reorienting trade policy, and pursuing regional integration) in Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?


**Week 11: Roundtable: student papers**

**Week 12: Regional initiatives and aid**

*NEPAD documents.


