This course analyzes the roles of history, geography, governance, and global forces in the evolution of African economies since independence. Case material comes from all of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Prerequisite: Ec 1.

OBJECTIVES: Students develop an informed perspective on development experience in sub-Saharan Africa and a working knowledge of the economic and political trajectory of one country. They learn to apply global evidence and analytical frameworks from economics to key debates in the African political economy literature.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Available in the bookstore. Additional required readings will be on blackboard or on General Reserve in McCabe library.


COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance: Attendance is required.

Exams: You must pass a geography quiz and submit a set of short written assignments. There will be an in-class midterm and a final exam at the scheduled time.

Grading: Class participation 10%, assignments 25%, midterm exam 25%, final exam 40%.

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: Your grade on required assignments drops by 1/3 of a grade each day it is late.

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.
Weekly syllabus, weeks 1-7

*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 and will not necessarily be readily available.

Weeks 1-2 [Mon 1/17, 1/24] New states
*Moss, African Development, chapters 1-2
*Mathai, The Challenge for Africa

Fri 1/21, in class: Map quiz, and choose countries
Fri 1/28, due in class: Political time line


Weeks 3-4 [Mon 1/31, 2/7] Intervention and structural adjustment
*Bates, R. H., Markets and States in Tropical Africa
*Moss, African Development, chapters 3 and 7

Tues 2/1, 730pm Professor Chris Udry, Yale University, on Agricultural Productivity in Africa
Fri 2/4, due in class: Interests and policies in Bates (1981)
Fri 2/11, due in class: Data download and growth comparison


*Moss, African Development, chapter 4-6

⇒ Fri 2/18, due in class: Topics for after break
⇒ Fri 2/25, due in class: Poverty and human development

**Week 7 [Mon 2/28] Renaissance**
Radelet, Emerging Africa


⇒ Fri 2/11, in class: Midterm exam

**SPRING BREAK: Week of Monday March 7**
The second half of the syllabus will cover a selection of topics that may include natural resources and conflict, trade policy, foreign aid in Africa, agricultural development, public service delivery, and poverty targeting; students will provide input into the choice of topics.

-Thurs 3/24, Antoinette Sayeh, IMF (Former Minister of Finance, Liberia)

Subject to revision. This version: February 21, 2011.