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 (SSA).

Prerequisite: Ec 1.

OBJECTIVES: An informed perspective on post-independence development experience in SSA, a working knowledge of the economic and political trajectory of one country, and the ability 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 moodle.


COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance: Attendance and participation in class discussions are required.

Exams: You must pass a geography quiz and there will be three equally-weighted exams.

Grading: Class participation and weekly assignments 15%, term paper 25%, 2 midterm exams 20% each, final exam 20%.

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 assignments: Your grade on any assignment drops by 1/3 of a grade if the assignment is late, and then by an additional 1/3 for each additional 2 days 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

*Required readings are marked with an asterisk and are in the required books or available on moodle [m]. Readings in small font are included supplementary material and will not necessarily be readily available.

Weeks 1-2 [Mon 1/16, 1/23] New states

➤ Monday 1/23: Map quiz, and choose countries
*Mathai, The Challenge for Africa
*Moss, African Development, chapters 1(Complexities & Uncertainties), 2 (History), 3 (Big Men)


Week 3 [Mon 1/30] Institutions and growth

➤ Monday 1/30: Political time line for your country
*Moss, African Development, chapters 5 (Political Change) and 13 (Private Investment)
Focus on one of these two for class discussion:

Weeks 4-5 [Mon 2/6, 2/13] Intervention and structural adjustment

- **Monday 2/6: Growth and poverty reduction in your country**
- **Monday 2/13: Response to Bates**

*Bates, R. H., Markets and States in Tropical Africa*

*Braverman and Kanbur (1987) “Urban Bias and the Political Economy of Agricultural Reform,” World Development 15(9): 1179-87* [m]

*Mkandawire, T. and C. C. Soludo (1999), Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment* (New Jersey: ICS Press) [selected sections] [m]

*Moss, African Development, chapters 6 (Slow Growth Puzzle) and 7 (Economic Reform)*

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Week 6 [Mon 2/20] Africa in the world economy

- **Monday 2/20: Trade and regional integration in your country**
- **Friday 2/24, in class: Midterm exam #1, covering weeks 1-5**


*Moss, African Development, chapter 11 (Regional Institutions) and 12 (Africa and World Trade)*

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Week 7 [Mon 2/27] Renaissance – 1

✿ Monday 2/20: Paper topic proposal and bibliography

*Radelet, Emerging Africa


SPRING BREAK: Week of Monday March 5

Week 8 [Mon 3/12] Renaissance – 2

✿ Monday 3/12: assignment TBA

*Radelet, Emerging Africa
*Moss, African Development, chapter 10 (Poverty and Human Development)
*O’Connell, S. A. and L. Dolan “Aid and Development in Africa” forthcoming in Journal of Catholic Social Thought [m]


Weeks 9-10 [Mon 3/19, 3/26] Aid

✿ Monday 3/19: assignment TBA

✿ Monday 3/26: assignment TBA

*Moss, African Development, chapters 8 (International Aid) and 9 (Debt)

Birdsall, N. and W. Savedoff (2010), Cash on Delivery: A New Approach to Foreign Aid (Washington, DC: Center for Global Development)
Collier, P. (2007), The Bottom Billion, chapter 7
Moss, *African Development*, chapters 11-12 (Regional institutions and NEPAD, Africa and world trade)

Weeks 11-12 [Mon 4/2, 4/9] Conflict and natural resources

⇒ Monday 4/2: assignment TBA
⇒ Friday 4/8, in class: Midterm exam #2, covering weeks 6-10
⇒ Monday 4/9: no assignment
*Moss, *African Development*, chapter 4 (Violent Conflict)*


Week 13 [Mon 4/16] Financial development

⇒ Monday 4/16: assignment TBA

Honohan, P. and T. Beck (2008), Making Finance Work in Africa
Morduch, J. “The microfinance promise” Journal of Economic Literature

Week 14 [Mon 4/23] Student presentations
⇒ Monday 4/23: Term paper due

⇒ Final exam at scheduled time
Subject to revision. This version January 12, 2012