

University of New Brunswick – Fredericton
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science 3711 – Fall 2013
The Political Economy of Development in Africa
Dr. Carolyn Bassett

Class Time:	MWF 11:30-12:20	Class Location:	T307
Office:	214 Tilley Hall	Telephone:	458-7192
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Office Hours (fall):	Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30		

About the course:

This course explores the political economy of development in Africa, considering the role of states, corporations, international institutions and popular movements in the development process. It examines several of the most pressing recent challenges for the continent such as donor intervention; oil politics; poverty reduction; food, agriculture and rural development; HIV/AIDS; and the impact of the global economic crisis on African economies.

The first part of the course critically assesses the nature of and future prospects for Africa in light of the challenges posed by globalization by analyzing current trends and historical experiences. In the second part we examine the role of globalization – negative, positive and mixed – in shaping specific industries and sectors in several countries. The third part explores the nature and role of the African state, including recent reform efforts, the role of donors, and some of the contributions of civil society – ranging from women’s groups to gangsters – to African governance, democratization and development.

Course readings:

All course readings are available electronically through the course Desire 2 Learn.

Course requirements:

First short analytical paper (see below for due date):	25%
Second short analytical paper (see below for due date):	25%
Take-home test (due December 18, 5 pm):	30%
Blog entries (throughout term):	10%
Participation (throughout term):	10%

About the analytical papers:

Analytical papers will be critical reflections on an issue, topic or question appropriate to the lectures and/or the readings in the relevant section. You will be provided with several questions to choose from, or may develop your own (which must be approved in advance by the course instructor). There will be three essays, one for each thematic section of the course, but I will only count the top two grades – so you only have to write two if you so choose, or you can write all three. **The due dates are: Section I, Tuesday October 15, 5 pm; Section II, Monday November 18, 5 pm; Section III, Wednesday December 4, 5 pm.**

Essays must conform to traditional essay structure (introduction, body, conclusion) and contain a clearly stated argument, supported by evidence from the course readings. Each essay must use at least 6 readings, but no external research sources. The length of each essay should be approximately 1500 words and all sources used in your essay must be fully referenced. Use in-text citations and APA format – an on-line reference guide has been provided via the course D2L.

You must submit the essay via D2L. Even though you are submitting your assignment electronically, please format your essay to conserve paper: do not use a title page (put your name, the professor's name, the course title and the date at the top of the first page of the essay, followed by your essay's title and then begin), use single or 1.5 spacing and .75 or one inch margins.

About the take-home test:

The take-home test will be due **December 18 at 5 pm**. The test will be comprised of questions related to broad themes addressed in the course; you will be required to answer two questions. Your two answers will draw on course material, with appropriate referencing (using APA format and in-text citations), and be written in sentences and paragraphs with appropriate essay structure (an introduction that states the argument, a body that is well organized to support and defend the argument, and a conclusion that restates the argument). Further details will be provided on the assignment sheet.

About the blog:

The blog assignment asks you to respond to a question I post on Friday before class (none in first and last weeks of class). The response will be due by the following Wednesday at the start of class, submitted on D2L under the appropriate topic in discussions area (which means anyone in the course can view your entry). The questions will ask you to draw on course readings and other course material (including films), credible information found on the internet, and your own ideas and experiences. You will also have the option to respond to other posters. In developing your submission, you may link to credible internet information. Each response should be a maximum of 500 words.

You can receive a maximum 10 marks for the assignment. Each entry will be assessed with a grade of 2, 1 or 0, in accordance with a rubric of expectations I will post D2L. You may submit as many entries as you like with the condition that you cannot do more than one per week or more than two weeks in a row.

About attendance and participation:

This class is run with a lecture and discussion format, and you will be expected to attend regularly, and to participate in each class in an informed and respectful way. Attendance will be taken and *note that attendance counts double on Fridays*. You are required to complete the readings before each class and to be prepared to discuss the issues, concepts and debates they raise. You are welcome to bring questions on the readings or topic to class for discussion.

About academic honesty and plagiarism:

The University of New Brunswick places a high value on academic integrity and has a policy on plagiarism, cheating and other academic offences.

Plagiarism includes:

1. quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, arrangement, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. submitting someone else's work, in whatever form without acknowledgement;
4. knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another.

Examples of other academic offences include: cheating on exams, tests, assignments or reports; impersonating somebody at a test or exam; obtaining an exam, test or other course materials through theft, collusion, purchase or other improper manner, submitting course work that is identical or substantially similar to work that has been submitted from another course; and more as set out in the academic regulations found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Penalties for plagiarism and other academic offences range from a minimum of F (zero) in the assignment, exam or test to a maximum of suspension or expulsion from the University, plus a notation of the academic offence on the student's transcript. For more information, please see the Undergraduate Calendar, Section B, Regulation VII.A, or visit <http://nocheating.unb.ca>. It is the student's responsibility to know the regulations.

Schedule and readings:

Friday Sept 6: **How Do We Know Africa? – Africa in Western Culture**

No readings

Section 1: Political Economy of Africa

Week of September 9 – Quick History and Geography of Africa

Topics:

Monday Sept 9: **Mapping Africa: Some Geography and Some Data**

Wednesday Sept 11: **Quick History of Africa**

Friday Sept 13: **More Quick (Quicker?) History of Africa**

Readings:

Peter J Schraeder (2004), *African Politics and Society*, 2nd edition (Thompson-Wadsworth), 49-79 (Ch 3 – Impacts of Colonialism).

Week of September 16 – Legacies of Colonialism

Topics:

Monday Sept 16: **Colonial Africa**

Wednesday Sept 18: **Legacies of Colonialism –post-colonial states and economies**

Friday Sept 20: **Why Have African Governments Faltered?**

Readings:

Bill Freund (1998), *The Making of Contemporary Africa*, 2nd edition (Boulder: Lynne Rienner), 97-124 (Ch 6, The Material Basis of Colonial Society).

- Walter Rodney (1997), How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, *Perspectives on Africa*, ed. R Grinker and C Steiner (London: Blackwell), 585-596.
- Peter J Schraeder (2004), *African Politics and Society*, 2nd edition (Thompson-Wadsworth), 176-200 (Ch 8 – State and Civil Society).
- Frantz Fanon (2004), *The Wretched of the Earth*, New York: Grove, 97-144 (The Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness).

Week of September 23 – Neo-liberal Restructuring in Africa

Topics:

Monday Sept 23: **The 1980s: Economic Crisis and Structural Adjustment**

Wednesday Sept 25: **Structural Adjustment and Economic Transformation in Practice**

Friday Sept 27: **Structural Adjustment and Government Legitimacy**

Readings:

- Robert K Schaeffer (2003), *Understanding Globalization*, 2nd edition (Rowman and Littlefield), 95-113 (Ch 5 – Debt Crisis and Globalization).
- Ankie Hoogvelt (2001), *Globalization and the Postcolonial World*, 2nd edition, Baltimore: John Hopkins, 173-196 (Ch 8, Africa: Exclusion and the Containment of Anarchy).
- Padraig Carmody (1998), Neoclassical Practice and the Collapse of Industry in Zimbabwe, *Economic Geography* 74.4, 319-343
- Carolyn Bassett (forthcoming), Debt, Recolonization and Delusions of Hegemony in Southern Africa.

Week of September 30 – Africa and Globalization, Current Trends

Topics:

Monday Sept 30: **Structural Adjustment in Crisis? Africa and globalization in the 2000s**

Wednesday Oct 2: **Africa's New Suitors**

Friday Oct 4: **Africa and Globalization Today**

Readings:

- Padraig R Carmody and Francis Y Owusu (2007), Competing hegemons? *Political Geography* 26.5, 504-524
- J Daniel, J Lutchman & S Naidu (2004), Post-Apartheid South Africa's Corporate Expansion into Africa, *Review of African Political Economy* 100, 343-348.
- Alison J Ayers (2013), Beyond Myths, Lies and Stereotypes, *New Political Economy* 18.2, 227-257.
- Michael Watts (2006), Empire of Oil, *Monthly Review*, September, 1-17.

Part II: Political economy of Africa – industries and strategies

Week of October 7 – Natural Resource Economies

Topics:

Monday Oct 7: **Oil**

Wednesday Oct 9: **Coltan**

Friday Oct 11: **Diamonds**

Readings:

- James Ferguson (2007), *Global Shadows*, Durham, NC: Duke UP, 194-210 (Ch 8 – Governing Extraction).

Jesse Salah Ovadia (2013), The Making of Oil-Backed Indigenous Capitalism in Nigeria, *New Political Economy* 18.3, 258-283.
D Montague (2002), Stolen Goods: Coltan and Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *SAIS Review* 22.1, 103-118.
Kenneth Good (2005), Resource Dependency and its Consequences, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 23.1, 27-50.
Richard Saunders (forthcoming), Geologies of Power: Blood Diamonds, Security Policies, and Zimbabwe's Troubled Transition.

Week of October 14 – Agriculture and Globalization

Topics:

Wednesday Oct 16: **Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

Friday Oct 18: **Coffee**

Readings:

Deborah Fahy Bryceson (2002), The Scramble in Africa: Reorienting Rural Livelihoods, *World Development* 30.5, 725-739.

Catherine S Dolan (2004), On Farm and Packhouse, *Rural Sociology* 69.1, 99-126.

Stefano Ponte (2002), Brewing a Bitter Cup? *Journal of Agrarian Change* 2.2, 248-272

Week of October 21 – More Agriculture and Globalization

Topics:

Monday Oct 21: **Chocolate**

Wednesday Oct 23: **Commodities and Controversies: Is 'Fair Trade' Helpful?**

Friday Oct 25: **Community Forestry**

Readings:

Niels Fold (2001), Restructuring of the European Chocolate Industry and its Impact on Cocoa Production in West Africa, *Journal of Economic Geography* 1.4, 405-420.

Michael Barratt Brown (2007), 'Fair Trade' with Africa, *Review of African Political Economy* 34.112, 267-277

Catherine S Dolan (2006), Fields of Obligation, *Journal of Consumer Culture* 5.3, 365-389.

Richard A Schroeder (1993), Shady Practice, *Economic Geography* 69.4, 349-365.

Week of October 28 – Informalized Economic Activities

Topics:

Monday Oct 28: **Agricultural Alternatives**

Wednesday Oct 30: **Survival / innovation in urban economies**

Friday Nov 1: **Second-hand clothing trade**

Readings:

Rachel Bezner Kerr (2010), The Land is Changing, *Contesting Development*, ed. Philip McMichael (Routledge), 98-115.

Kate Meagher (1995), Crisis, Informalization and the Urban Informal Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Development and Change* 26.2, 259-284.

Karen Tranberg Hansen (1999), Second-Hand Clothing Encounters in Zambia, *Africa* 69.3, 343-365

Week of November 4

Topics:

Monday Nov 4: **Second-hand electronics and e-waste**

Wednesday Nov 6: **Mobile banking – M-Pesa**

Friday Nov 8: **Nollywood**

Readings:

O Osibanjo and IC Nnorom (2007), The Challenge of Electronic Waste (e-waste) Management in Developing Countries, *Waste Management and Research* 25, 489-501

Olga Morawczynski (2009), Exploring the Usage and Impact of ‘Transformational’ Mobile Financial Services, *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 3.3, 509-525.

Brian J Hesse (2007), A Continent Embraces the Cell Phone, *Current History* (May), 208-212.

Jonathan Haynes (2007), Nollywood in Lagos, Lagos in Nollywood Films, *Africa Today* 54.2, 131-150

Part III: Social and governance issues in Africa

Week of November 11 – Governance

Topics:

Wednesday Nov 13: **Democratic and Authoritarian Transitions**

Friday Nov 15: **Governing Extractive States**

Readings:

Sandbrook (2000), *Closing the Circle* (Toronto: Between the Lines), 1-22, (Ch 1, Patterns and Perspectives).

Aili Mari Tripp (2004), The Changing Face of Authoritarianism in Africa, *Africa Today* 50.3, 3-26.

Michael Watts (2004), Resource Curse? *Geopolitics* 9.1, 50-80.

Week of November 18 – Donors and Corruption

Topics:

Monday Nov 18: **Governance Challenges – Corruption**

Wednesday Nov 20: **Role of Aid Donors in Governance**

Friday Nov 22: **Donors, Investors and Corruption**

Readings:

Daniel Jordan Smith (2007), *A Culture of Corruption* (Princeton University Press), 1-27 (Introduction).

Stephen Ellis (2006), The Roots of African Corruption, *Current History* (May), 203-208.

Deborah A Brautigam and Stephen Knack (2004), Foreign Aid, Institutions and Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 52.2, 255-285.

Claire Mercer (2003), Performing Partnership, *Political Geography* 22.7, 741-763.

Roger Tangri and Andrew M Mwenda (2006), Politics, Donors and the Ineffectiveness of Anti-Corruption Institutions in Uganda, *Journal of Modern African Studies* 44.1, 101-124.

Week of November 25

Topics:

Monday Nov 25: **Governance and the Challenge of HIV-AIDS**

Wednesday Nov 27: **Urbanization and Governance Challenges**

Friday Nov 29: **Microcredit**

Readings:

Alex de Waal (2003), How Will HIV/AIDS Transform African Governance? *African Affairs* 102, 1-23.

Mike Davis (2004), Planet of Slums, *New Left Review* 26, 5-34.

William Muhumuza (2005), Unfulfilled Promises? NGOs' micro-credit programmes and poverty reduction in Uganda, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 23.3, 391-416.

Week of December 2**Topics:**

Monday Dec 2: **Governance, Social Movements and Gangsters**

Wed Dec 4: **African Renaissance?**

Readings:

Aili Mari Tripp (2001), Women's Movements and Challenges to Neopatrimonial Rule, *Development and Change* 32.1, 33-54.

Augustine Ikelegbe (2001), Civil society, oil and conflict in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, *Journal of Modern African Studies* 39.3, 437-466.

Luc Christiaensen and Shantayanan Devarajan (2013), Making the Most of Africa's Growth, *Current History* (May), 181-187.