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WWS571c: Topics in African Development and Security

WWS571c is an advanced course in African development and security. It surveys the major controversies in African political economy and security with a focus on material relevant to the major challenges that African countries will face in the next three to five years. The course assumes significant familiarity with African politics and history and that most of the course participants have, in fact, lived and worked in sub-Saharan Africa.

Each student will be required to complete one of the assignments associated with each week of the course. The assignments call for the student to read a recent, policy-relevant document and evaluate with a five page paper. The paper must be distributed to the class via email no later than Tuesday, 11:00pm before class discussion on Wednesday. The student who completes the assignment will then lead a discussion during part of the class on Wednesday. Each student must also complete a fifteen page paper on one aspect of the political economy of oil. Finally, the class as a group will write a paper in response to the scope of work document developed by Dr. David Gordon, National Intelligence Officer for Economics and Global Issues. Dr. Gordon will visit Princeton in January to evaluate the class effort.

All material is available to read on reserve in the Wilson School's library. Books with asterisks (**) can be purchased at the University store. There is no requirement to buy books.

Part 1: The Political and Economic Context

Week 1: Current issues in African development and security

Week 2: Informal economics and politics

Jean-François Bayart, Stephen Ellis and Béatrice Hibou, "From Kelptocracy to Felonious State," in their The Criminalization of the State in Africa.

William Reno, Warlord Politics and African States, chapter 1.

Carolyn Nordstrom, "Out of the Shadows," in Thomas M. Callagy, Ronald Kassimir, and Robert Latham (eds.), Intervention and Transnationalism in Africa.

Transparency International, Global Corruption Report, 2001, sections dealing with Africa.

Assignment: Read the “Data and Research” section of Transparency International’s Global Corruption Report (found at: <http://www.globalcorruptionreport.org>). Evaluate the different measures and meanings of corruption and explain which is best for evaluating African countries.

Week 3: Economic Decline and Reform

**Nicolas Van de Walle, African economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999

Economic Commission for Africa, Transforming Africa’s Economies: Economic Report on Africa, 2002. Found at: <http://www.uneca.org/era2002/index.htm>

Assignment: Read the paper by the IMF staff, “The Enhanced HIPC Initiative and the Achievement of Long-Term External Debt Sustainability,” found at: <http://www.worldbank.org/hipc/Long-Term.pdf>. What are the prospects for credible debt relief in Africa?

Week 4: Political Economy of oil and other commodities

Terry Lynn Karl, The Paradox of Plenty : Oil booms and Petro-States.

Global Witness, All the President’s Men: The Devastating Story of Oil and Banking in Angola’s Privatized War. Found at: <http://www.globalwitness.org/text/index.html>

Cyril I. Obi, “Global, State and Local Intersections: Power, Authority and Conflict, in the Niger Delta oil communities,” in Thomas M. Callagy, Ronald Kassimir, and Robert Lathem (eds.), Intervention and Transnationalism in Africa.

Assignment: Read the document “Nigeria: Voice of the Poor” prepared by a number of Nigerian scholars for the World Bank’s 2000/2001 World Development Report found at: <http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices/reports/national/nigeria.pdf>. Assess the value of this document to the debates on development in oil-producing countries.

Week 5: Political Reform

Claude Ake, The Feasibility of Democracy in Africa, pp. 127—192.

Larry Diamond, Prospects for Democratic Development in Africa

Nelson Kasfir, “Civil Society, the State and Democracy in Africa,” in Nelson Kasfir (ed.), Civil Society and Democracy in Africa: Critical Perspectives.

Assignment: Review the survey results from the Afrobarometer at <http://www.afrobarometer.org/results.html>. What do you believe the public opinion data reported says about the possibility and durability of democracy in the countries surveyed? Data analysis is allowed.

Week 6: Foreign Aid

**William Easterly, The Elusive Quest for Growth : Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics

Marina Ottaway, “Social Movements, Professionalization of Reform, and Democracy in Africa,” in Funding Virtue: Civil Society Aid and Democracy Promotion.

Assignment: Assess the Millenium Challenge Account as proposed by President Bush (see: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020314-7.html>). To what extent does this initiative mark a new departure in foreign aid?

Week 7: Future of Development

**World Bank, Can Africa claim the 21st century?

Oxfam International, Towards Global Equity: Strategic Plan, 2001 – 2004.

Assignment: Read the final document from the World Conference on Sustainable Development that ended in Johannesburg in early September 2002 (found at: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>). Assess the contribution of the document.

Part 2: Challenges to the State

Week 8: AIDs and other infectious diseases

National Intelligence Council, The Global Infectious Disease Threat and Its Implications for the United States. Found at:
<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/nie/report/nie99-17d.html>

Africa Development Forum, “HIV/AIDs and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa;” “Lessons Africa has Learnt in 15 Years of Responding to HIV/AIDs;” and “Scaling up the Response to HIV/AIDs.” Found at:
<http://www.uneca.org/adf2000/docs.htm>.

UNAIDS, “AIDS Epidemic Update.” Found at:
http://www.unaids.org/worldaidsday/2001/Epiupdate2001/Epiupdate2001_en.pdf.

Assignment: Analyze the Ugandan experience in fighting AIDs as described by the Ugandan Aids Commission (<http://www.aidsuganda.org>). What are the chances of the Ugandan experience being duplicated elsewhere in Africa?

Week 9: Ethnic conflict

**Bill Berkeley, The Graves are not Yet Full: Race, Tribe and Power in the Heart of Africa.

David Keen, “Incentives and Disincentives for Violence,” and Paul Collier, “Doing Well out of War: An Economic Perspective,” in ,” in Mats Berdal and David M. Malone (eds.), Greed and Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars.

Assignment: Assess the best voting system to ameliorate ethnic conflict as described by Joel Barkan, “Elections in Agrarian Societies” and Andrew Reynolds, “The Case for Proportionality.” Both can be found at:
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/toc/jod6.4.html#cluster4b.

Week 10: Rebellion and War in Africa: Focus on Sudan

International Crisis Group, God, Oil and Country: Changing the Logic of War in Sudan. Found at: http://www.intl-crisis-group.org/projects/africa/sudan/reports/A400534_28012002.pdf

Assignment: Evaluate John Danforth, Report to the President of the United States on the Outlook for Peace in Sudan found at:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/05/outlook_for_peace_in_sudan.pdf.

Part 3: The Future of the African State

Week 11: NEPAD, the African Union, Regional Integration and the Future

African Union, "New Partnership for Africa's Development," Found at:
<http://www.dfa.gov.za/events/nepad.pdf>

Naceur Bourenane, "Regional Integration in Africa: Status and Perspectives;" W.T. Oshikoya and M. Nureldin Hussain, "Infrastructure for Economic Development in Africa;" and Keith Jeffries and Kennedy Mbekeani, "Laws, Institutions and Capital Markets Integration," in Jorge Braga de Macedo and Omar Kabbaj (eds.), Regional Integration in Africa.

Assignment: Read the annual report of the Southern Africa Development Community (<http://www.sadc.int/english/index.html>). Is there any reason to believe that the SADC will succeed when so many other African regional integration projects have failed?

Week 12: Reconfiguring the African State?

O'Leary, "Introduction," O'Leary, "The Elements of Right-Sizing and Right-Peopling the State," in Brendan O'Leary, Ian Lustick and Thomas Callaghy (eds.), Right-Sizing the State: The Politics of Moving Borders.

Jeffrey Herbst, "Responding to State Failure in Africa," International Security **21** (Winter 1996/7), pp. 120-144.

Assignment: Assess the case for recognition of the New Biafra found at:
<http://www.biafraland.com>.