



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Studies

1FU140 African Politics, 7,5 högskolepoäng
African Politics, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Peace and Development Studies

Subject Group

Peace and Development Research

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

GIN

Date of Ratification

Approved 2011-03-16

Revised 2013-09-15 by Faculty of Social Sciences.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2013

Prerequisites

General entry requirements. English B.

Objectives

Upon course completion the student shall be able to:

- Demonstrate thorough knowledge of Contemporary sub-Saharan African politics, conflicts and post-conflict development
- Independently reflect upon and analyse contemporary issues relating to sub-Saharan African politics, conflict and post-conflict development
- Apply and relate theories in an empirical manner, and take a critical approach to current scientific issues within the field of social science relating to Sub-Saharan African politics, conflict and post-conflict development.

Content

Sub-Saharan Africa is developing rapidly, and unevenly. 10 of the 20 fastest growing economies in the world 2013 are African. The continent has gone through a dramatic political development since independence. Democratization processes and conflicts have developed in parallel. After a turbulent 1990s and early 20th decade where a great number of the worlds armed conflicts took place in Africa, in 2013 the situation appears to have improved. Still many of the sources of conflicts exist. Poverty remains widespread and deep – and at the same time a new middle and upper class is rapidly expanding, claiming economic and political influence. The course is designed to give an entry point into some of the broad themes and political challenges in contemporary sub-Saharan Africa. Broadly, the course considers the legacy of colonialism, the cold

war and global development, the making and fragility of the African state, governance issues, the challenges for democratization process – and the social tensions emerging from countries in the midst of rapid transformation from mainly agrarian to “modern” and mainly urban societies. The conflicts and efforts to build post-conflict societies are analyzed in within a multilevel analytical framework, including actors/processes/ structures on local, national, regional and international level. Aid and aid policies related to political development and conflicts will be analyzed. In addition, a few case studies that touch on "hot topics" in recent African politics are examined.

Type of Instruction

The teaching methods consist of lectures, seminars and/or other assignments. The course is taught in English. At some moments of the course, attendance may be required.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course is assessed by a research paper in combination with student participation. The grades are transferred to the following ECTS grades: A, B, C, D, E, F or Fx.

Course Evaluation

A written evaluation is completed after the course, and it will be archived at the School of Social Sciences. The result and possible changes will be communicated to the students next time the course will be given.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Literature

Hyden, Goran (Latest edition) *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press.

Articles

Ewald Jonas *Challenges for the democratization process in Tanzania. Mowing towards*

consolidation 50 years after independence? Dar es Salaam: Mkuki wa Nyota (available electronically via UB).

Thomson A. (2013) *An introduction to African politics*, fourth edition. London; New York:

Chapters

Evans, P. B. (2010). Constructing the 21st century democratic development states: potentialities and pitfalls. In O. Edigheji (Ed.), *Constructing a democratic developmental state in South Africa: potentials and challenges* (pp. 26 .). Cape Town, South Africa: HSRC Press. (*Introduction 20 pages*) Available electronically

Mkandawire, T. (2010). From maladjusted to democratic development states in Africa. (25

p) In O. Edigheji (Ed.), *Constructing a democratic developmental state in South Africa: potentials and challenges* (pp. ix, 326 p.). Cape Town, South Africa: HSRC Press.

Economic commission for Africa (ECA) (2013) *Economic Report on Africa. Chapter 1-3*

Ewald, Nilsson et al 2004 “Rwanda” in *A strategic Conflict Analysis of the Great Lakes*

Region. Stockholm. Sida. Available electronically via UB. Routledge.

Articles (Available electronically via UB)

Abdelrahman M. (2012) A hierarchy of struggles? The ‘economic’ and the ‘political’ in Egypt's revolution. *Review of African Political Economy* 39: 614-628.

Basedau M, Erdmann G, Lay J, et al. (2011) Ethnicity and party preference in sub-Saharan

Africa. *Democratization* 18: 462-489.

- Bogaards, M. (2009). How to classify hybrid regimes? Defective democracy and electoral authoritarianism. *Democratization*, 16(2), 399-423.
- Booth D. (2011) Aid, Institutions and Governance: What Have We Learned? *Development Policy Review* 29: 5-26.
- Carothers T. (2012) Foreword. *Democratization* 19: 389-390.
- Cheeseman N. (2011) The internal dynamics of power-sharing in Africa. *Democratization* 18: 336-365.
- Conversi D. (2011) Majoritarian democracy and globalization versus ethnic diversity? *Democratization* 19: 789-811.
- Crook, R. C., & Booth, D. (2011). Conclusion: Rethinking African Governance and Development. *IDS Bulletin*, 42(2), 97-101.
- Faust J, Leiderer S and Schmitt J. (2012) Financing poverty alleviation vs. promoting democracy? Multi-Donor Budget Support in Zambia. *Democratization* 19: 438-464.
- Grimm S and Leininger J. (2012) Not all good things go together: conflicting objectives in democracy promotion. *Democratization* 19: 391-414.
- Grindle MS. (2011) Good Enough Governance Revisited. *Development Policy Review* 29: s199-s221.
- Harrison, G., & Mercer, C. (2010). Demanding development. *Review of African Political Economy*, 37(124), 119 - 121.
- Jaspal R and Cinnirella M. (2012) The construction of ethnic identity. *Ethnicities*.
- Jensen C and Skaaning S-E. (2011) Modernization, ethnic fractionalization, and democracy. *Democratization* 19: 1117-1137.
- Jung JK. (2012) Power-sharing and democracy promotion in post-civil war peace-building. *Democratization* 19: 486-506.
- Keating MF. (2011) Can democratization undermine democracy? Economic and political reform in Uganda. *Democratization* 18: 415-442.
- Kelsall T. (2011) Going with the Grain in African Development? *Development Policy Review* 29: 223-251.
- Lynch G and Crawford G. (2011) Democratization in Africa 1990–2010: an assessment. *Democratization* 18: 275-310.
- Lynch G. (2012) The economic is political and the political is economic: protest, change, and continuity in contemporary Africa. *Review of African Political Economy* 39: 547-550.
- Mehler, A. (2009). Peace and Power Sharing in Africa: A Not So Obvious Relationship. *Afr Aff* (Lond), 108 (432), 453-473.
- Mkandawire, P. T. (2006). *Disempowering new democracies and the persistence of poverty*. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
- Moestrup, S. (2011). *Semi-presidentialism and Power Sharing - Does it Work? Examples from Anglophone Africa*. Paper presented at the What ever happened to the South?, Sao Paolo.
- Saul, J. S. (2010). Race, class, gender and voice: four terrains of liberation. *Review of African Political Economy*, 37(123), 61 - 69.
- Straus S and Waldorf L. (2011) *Remaking Rwanda : state building and human rights after mass violence*, Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Williams, G., Duncan, A., Landell-Mills, P., & Unsworth, S. (2011). Politics and Growth. *Development Policy Review*, 29, s28-s55.

Background reading

If you feel you need some background/introduction to Africa studies, I can recommend this

two books

Harbeson J, W. and Rothchild D, S. (2009) *Africa in world politics: reforming political order*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Moss, T. J. (2011). *African development : making sense of the issues and actors*. Boulder, Colo., Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.