



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Social Studies

1FU141 Afrika söder om Sahara: Politisk utveckling och konflikter,
7,5 högskolepoäng

Africa South of Sahara: Political Development and Conflicts, 7.5
credits

Main field of study

Peace and Development Studies

Subject Group

Peace and Development Research

Level of classification

First Level

Progression

G1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2015-05-27

Revised 2019-06-13 by Faculty of Social Sciences. Easy update and linguistic review.
The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for university studies.

Objectives

Upon course completion the student shall be able to:

- Describe contemporary Sub-Saharan African politics, conflicts and post-conflict development
- Analyse and reflect upon 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

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 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, the debate on the shrinking political space, the role of China/Brics in Africa and natural resource exploitation.

Type of Instruction

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

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

Grade A is the highest grade and all other grades follow a falling scale in which grade E is the lowest grade to pass the course. A grade F means that the student has failed the course. Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination.

Students who have failed the course (in other words, got an F) during the ordinary course examination date will receive the opportunity to go through an additional examination shortly after the ordinary course examination date.

The course is assessed by a research paper in combination with student participation.

Course Evaluation

After the course, the course will be evaluated. The evaluation will be summarised in writing and the compilation will be presented for the students who have been on the course, together with possible measures planned for the next time the course will be given. The compilation is delivered to the department and the programme council and it is archived by the department responsible for the course.

Credit Overlap

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 1FU140, 7.5 credits

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Economic commission for Africa (ECA) (latest edition). *Economic Report on Africa*. Chapters 1-3, 112 pages.

Evans, Peter B. (latest edition). "Constructing the 21st century democratic development states: potentialities and pitfalls." In: Omano Edigheji (ed.): *Constructing a democratic developmental state in South Africa: potentials and challenges*. Cape Town, South Africa: HSRC Press. 20 pages (available on the internet).

Ewald, Jonas (latest edition). *Challenges for the Democratisation Process in Tanzania. Moving towards consolidation years after independence?* Dar es Salaam: Mkuki wa Nyota publishers. About 250 pages.

Ewald, Jonas, Anders Nilsson, Patrik Stålgren och Anders Närman (latest edition). "Conflict Analysis Rwanda." In: Jonas Ewald, Anders Nilsson, Patrik Stålgren och Anders Närman: *A Strategic Conflict Analysis of the Great Lakes Region*.

Stockholm: SIDA. 35 pages (available on the internet).

Hyden, Goran (latest edition). *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 306 pages.

Mkandawire, Thandika (latest edition). "From maladjusted to democratic development states in Africa." In: Omano Edigheji (red.): *Constructing a democratic developmental state in South Africa: potentials and challenges*. Cape Town, South Africa: HSRC Press. 22 pages (available on the internet).

Thompson, Alex (latest edition). *An Introduction to African Politics*. New York: Routledge. 291 pages.

Plus scientific articles of about 250 pages.