



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Social Studies

1FU212 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

Peace and Development Research

Level

First cycle

Progression

G1F

Date of Ratification

Approved 2023-09-05.

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2024.

Prerequisites

A minimum of 45 credits in peace and development studies, social sciences, relevant humanities subject or the equivalent.

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 in relation to the democratisation 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 analysed within a multilevel analytical framework, including actors/processes/structures at the local, national, regional and international level. Aid and aid policies related to political development and conflicts will be analysed. 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 politicisation of religion/identity, the debate on natural resource extraction, and the role of China/Brics in Africa.

Type of Instruction

The teaching methods consist of lectures and seminars.

Examination

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

Examination of the course takes place by means of a written assignment in combination with presentation of a seminar assignment.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail (i.e. received the grade F). Fx is not a grade and is only used when a student is allowed to complement her/his examination. In order to receive a grade of Pass (E) in the course, the course objectives must be attained.

A new summative assessment is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-Cycle and Second-Cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

Should the university determine that a student is entitled to special educational support due to impairment, the examiner may provide the student with an adapted test or the student may carry out the examination in an alternative way.

Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course. Results and analysis of the evaluation are presented to the students who have completed the course as well as to new students at the following course date. The course evaluation is conducted anonymously.

Overlap

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

1FU141, 7.5 credits

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Arriola, Leonardo R. (ed.), Lise Rakner (ed.), Nicolas van de Walle (ed.) (2022) *Democratic Backsliding in Africa? Autocratization, Resilience, and Contention*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 200 p. (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. Chapters 1-2, approx. 50 p.

Ewald, Jonas., & Robert, Mhamba (2019) *Recentralisation? Interrogating the state of local democracy, good governance and development in Tanzania*. Research Report NO 13. Visby: International Centre for Local Democracy. (ICLD) <https://bit.ly/3dvXqPa>.

Palmer, Eustace (2021) *Africa. An Introduction*. New York: Routledge. (Chapter 1, 4-11 + selected case countries) 150 p.

Taylor, Ian (2018) *African Politics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Africa in a nutshell of 100 p.)

Thomson Alex. (2023) *An introduction to African politics*, fifth edition. London; New York: Routledge. 250 p.

Scientific articles and reports on contemporary development of about 300 pages.