

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	MA International Development
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	African Development Politics
Course Code:	DEV 7400
Course Leader:	Dr Michael Keating
Student Engagement Hours:	200
Lectures:	39
Seminar / Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
Semester:	FALL & SPRING
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

Engages with African development politics in the post-colonial era. The ideologies and strategies of promoting development are assessed, along with the problems and difficulties faced in on this continent. Beginning with the colonial legacy, the course addresses social, political and economic structures and transformations that have taken place. Both domestic and international factors are considered, with empirical cases and theoretical concepts being given equal weighting in the exploration of these issues. The relationship between state and civil society, and the consequences of this for development, is a key theme of the course.

Prerequisites: MA International Relations and MA International Development students only

Aims and Objectives

- To develop an analytical understanding of key themes and concepts informing the political economy of development on the African continent;
- To examine major theoretical explanations and academic debates relating to the political economy of development in Africa;

- To apply theory in evaluating the progress in the implementation of different development strategies in Africa;
- To identify exemplary case studies in Africa and to critically evaluate their history and contemporary practices in implementing different development strategies.

Programme Outcomes:

LEVEL 7 A, B, C, D, E, G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the main theoretical approaches in the political economy of development in explaining the strengths and weaknesses of a range of African development experiences
- Respond in a critical and innovative way to the normative concerns informing the political economy of development in Africa
- Demonstrate a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply theoretical knowledge to analysis of the means and mechanisms of the political economy of development in Africa
- Design and undertake substantial research in the area of the political economy of development in Africa, while critically reflecting on the different theoretical and methodological tools
- Engage with and evaluate complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence in the area of the political economy of development in Africa
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and diverse information regarding the political economy of development in Africa, while reflecting upon and improving the skills required for effective communication

Indicative Content:

- Colonial legacy in Africa
- Social, political, cultural and economic cleavages in post-independence sub-Saharan Africa
- Strategies for political and economic development in Africa and their consequences
- International actors in African development
- State collapse, conflict, civil war
- From authoritarianism to democratization: Africa in the 1990s

- NEPAD

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Texts:

- Andreasson, S. 2010. *Africa's Development Impasse: Rethinking the Political Economy of Transformation*. Zed.
- Bayart, J. 2009. *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*. 2nd ed. Polity
- Binns, T., A. Dixon, E. Nel, 2012. *Africa: Diversity and Development*. Routledge.
- Chabal, P. 2009. *Africa: The Politics of Suffering and Smiling*. Zed.
- Harbeson, J. and D. Rothchild, 2013. *Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order*. 5th ed. Westview Press.
- Harrison, G., 2010. *Neo-Liberal Africa: The Impact of Global Social Engineering*. Zed Books.

