

OLLI Spring 2019
University of California, Berkeley

Africa in Global Context

Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: Berkeley City College

Instructor: Martha Saavedra
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Overview

This course is an introduction to Africa and its significance in the contemporary world. We will address issues spanning three areas of concentrations: Development; Peace and Conflict; and Societies and Cultures. After introducing a basic historical and institutional framework this course follows four thematic sections:

1. Identity and culture;
2. Conflict;
3. Development;
4. Technology.

Learning Objectives

By participating in this course, you will improve your ability to:

- Identify the sociopolitical characteristics of the African continent;
- Evaluate continuity and change in Africa.
- Engage with contemporary debates regarding the region;
- Understand the role and impact of Africa in the global(ized) world

While the course focuses on the region as whole, it is important to understand that there is considerable variation across the countries that constitute “Africa.” I will provide examples to illustrate some of these variations.



Course Schedule Highlights

April 3 Week 1. Introduction: Setting the stage: geography and history
April 10 Week 2. Culture and Identity: Arts, Culture
April 17 Week 3. Culture and Identity: Religion
April 24 Week 4. Managing Conflict...or Not: Violence, Peacemaking and Everyday
 Negotiating
May 1 Development: Livelihood, Migration, and Economic Change
May 8 Week 6. Technology: History and Afrofuturism



Course Details

April 3 Week 1. Introduction: Setting the stage: geography and history

Poem: Dzukogi, Saddiq, 2019, “Clickbait” on Brittle Paper.
<https://brittlepaper.com/2019/01/clickbait-saddiq-dzukogi-poetry/>

Short story: Arimah, Lesley Nneka ‘What it Means When a Man Falls From the Sky’ published in Catapult (Catapult, USA, 2015) and available on the [Caine African Prize](http://caineprize.com/s/What-It-Means-When-A-Man-Falls-From-The-Sky-Arimah.pdf) site. This story was shortlisted for the [2016 Caine Prize](http://caineprize.com/s/What-It-Means-When-A-Man-Falls-From-The-Sky-Arimah.pdf). <http://caineprize.com/s/What-It-Means-When-A-Man-Falls-From-The-Sky-Arimah.pdf>.

Delehanty, James, Chapter 1 “Africa: A Geographic Frame” in *Africa*, eds by Grosz-Ngaté, Maria, John H. Hanson, and Patrick O’Meara, *Africa*. Fourth Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014. <https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/1082239>

O’Toole, Thomas, Chapter 3 “The historical context,” Gordon, April A., and Donald L. Gordon, in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013. 25-60.

Ndlovu-Gatsheni, Sabelo J. and Walter Chambati, Chapter 4 “Discursive construction of the African people,” in *Coloniality of Power in Postcolonial Africa: Myths of Decolonization*, CODESRIA, 2013. pp 105-124. <https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/887615>.

Recommended:

Wainaina, Binyavanga. 2005. “How to Write about Africa.” *Granta Magazine* 92 (The View from Africa). <http://www.granta.com/Archive/92/How-to-Write-about-Africa/Page-1>.

Al Jazeera English. 2019. *How Do Western Media Get Africa Wrong?* The Stream.
<https://youtu.be/eSCBRbg3Srk>

April 10 Week 2. Culture and Identity: Arts, Culture

McNaughton , Patrick and Diane Pelrine, Chapter 8. “Visual arts,” in Grosz-Ngaté, Maria, John H. Hanson, and Patrick O’Meara, eds. *Africa*. Fourth Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014. pp. 161-186. <https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/1082246/>

Murrell, Denise. April 2008. “African Influences in Modern Art.” In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.
https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/aima/hd_aima.htm

Brown, Kate. 2018. "Senegal Unveils a Vast Museum That Raises the Stakes in Africa's Campaign to Reclaim Its Art." *Artnet News*, December 7, 2018. <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/museum-of-black-civilizations-1409911/>

Mungai, Christine. 2018. "Who Are Western Museums Guarding African Artefacts From?" *Al Jazeera*, December 3, 2018. <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/western-museums-guarding-african-artefacts-181203115612952.html>.

For fun, explore Dak'Art, La Biennale De Dakar

- https://www.instagram.com/dak_artbiennale/
- <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/BiennaledeDakar/>

For further study, see the November 2018 report by Felwine Sarr and Bénédicte Savoy, "The Restitution of African Cultural Heritage: Toward a New Relational Ethics." <http://restitutionreport2018.com/>

April 17 Week 3. Culture and Identity: Religion

Moyo, Ambrose, Chapter 11 "Religion in Africa," in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Gordon, April A., and Donald L. Gordon, eds. 5th edition. Boulder, Colo: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013 335- 367.

Pew Research Center. 2010. "Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa | Pew Research Center." *Religion & Public Life* (blog). April 15, 2010. <https://www.pewforum.org/2010/04/15/executive-summary-islam-and-christianity-in-sub-saharan-africa/>.

Short story: Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. 2008. "A Private Experience:" *The Observer*, December 28, 2008, sec. Books. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/dec/28/chimamanda-ngozi-adichie-short-story>.

Recommended:

Asamoah-Gyadu, J. Kwabena. 2015. "'We Are on the Internet': Contemporary Pentecostalism in Africa and the New Culture of Online Religion." In *New Media and Religious Transformations in Africa*, edited by Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Benjamin F. Soares, and Francis B. Nyamnjoh, 157–70. Indiana University Press. <http://muse.jhu.edu/book/38274/>.

Grossman, Guy. 2015. "Renewalist Christianity and the Political Saliency of LGBTs: Theory and Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa." *The Journal of Politics* 77 (2): 337–51. <https://doi.org/10.1086/679596> (also at http://cega.berkeley.edu/assets/cega_events/53/WGAPE_Sp13_Grossman.pdf)

Adama, Hamadou. 2015. "Islamic Communication and Mass Media in Cameroon." In *New Media and Religious Transformations in Africa*, edited by Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Benjamin F. Soares, and Francis B. Nyamnjoh, 21. Indiana University Press.
<http://muse.jhu.edu/book/38274/>.

Janson, Marloes. 2018. "Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa." In *The Palgrave Handbook of African Colonial and Postcolonial History*, edited by Martin S. Shanguhya and Toyin Falola, 951–77. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US. https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-59426-6_38.

April 24 Week 4. Managing Conflict...or Not: Violence, Peacemaking and Everyday Negotiating

Englebort, Pierre and Denis M. Tull, "Postconflict Reconstruction in Africa: Flawed Ideas about Failed States," *International Security* 2008 32:4, 106-139.
<https://doi.org/10.1162/isec.2008.32.4.106>

Laudati, Ann (2013) "Beyond minerals: broadening economies of violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo", *Review of African Political Economy*, 40:135, 32-50.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03056244.2012.760446>

Straus.Scott, "Wars do end! Changing patterns of political violence in sub-Saharan Africa," *African Affairs* (2012) 111 (443): 179-201. <https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/ads015>

Recommended:

Elbadawi, Ibrahim, and Nicholas Sambanis. (2000) "Why Are There So Many Civil Wars in Africa? Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9 (3): 244-269. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/9.3.244>

Links to several relevant datasets:

- Uppsala Conflict Data Program: <https://ucdp.uu.se/?id=1&id=1>
(The wikipedia site (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uppsala_Conflict_Data_Program) on this and other datasets might be useful to get a quick fix on the parameters and issues. Check out the 'talk' and 'edit' pages to get a sense of editorial processes and issues inside wikipedia.)
- The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)
<https://www.acleddata.com/>
- The Social Conflict Analysis Database (SCAD): <https://www.strausscenter.org/scad.html>
- The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) data: <https://www.prio.org/Data/>
- UN Peacekeeping: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/where-we-operate>
- SAS Peace Operations Dataset: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/de/mpome/pods.html>
- SAS Global Violent Deaths (GVD) database:
<http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/de/tools/interactive-map-charts-on-armed-violence.html>

- Interactive Crisis Data Viewer: <http://www.icb.umd.edu/dataviewer/>
- Civil War Termination Data: <http://fas-polisci.rutgers.edu/licklider/civilwardata.htm>
- Minorities at Risk data: <http://www.mar.umd.edu/>
- Electoral Violence Prevention practice database: <http://www.electoralviolenceproject.com/electoral-violence-prevention-practice-database/>

More lists of datasets:

- Conflict, War and Terrorism (U of Central Florida): <https://guides.ucf.edu/war/wardata>
- CERAC: <http://www.cerac.org.co/en/resources/conflict-data.html>
- data.world (62 sets): <https://data.world/datasets/conflict>
- NYU: Abu Dhabi: <https://guides.nyu.edu/polisci/political-conflict-data>

May 1 Development: Livelihood, Migration, and Economic Change

Gracia Clark and Katherine Wiley, “Making a Living: African Livelihoods,” Chapter 4 in Grosz-Ngaté, Maria, John H. Hanson, and Patrick O’Meara, eds. *Africa*. Fourth Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014, 83-102. <https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/1082242>

Grant, Richard. Chapter 7 “Migration,” *Africa: Geographies of change*. Oxford University Press, 2015. 159-183.

Flahaux, Marie-Laurence and De Haas, Hein, “African migration: trends, patterns, drivers” *Comparative Migration Studies* (2016) 4:1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-015-0015-6>

Short story: Onjerika, Makena ‘Fanta Blackcurrant’ published in *Wasafiri* in 2017; the 2018 Caine Prize winner. <http://caineprize.com/s/Makena-Onjerika-Fanta-Blackcurrant.pdf>

BBC News. 2019. “‘A Third of Africans’ Want to Migrate,” March 26, 2019, sec. Africa. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47705944>.

Resources:

African Development Bank, African Economic Outlook 2019, <https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/african-economic-outlook/>

IMF (2018), Regional Economic Outlook: Capital Flows and The Future of Work: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2018/09/20/sreo1018>

Brookings Institute, African Growth Initiative, *Foresight Africa 2018*: <https://www.brookings.edu/multi-chapter-report/foresight-africa-top-priorities-for-the-continent-in-2018/>

May 8 Week 6. Technology: History and Afrofuturism

Diamond, Larry. "Liberation technology." *Journal of Democracy* 21.3 (2010): 69-83.
<https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/liberation-technology/>

Grant, Richard. Chapter 6 "Africa's mobile phone revolution" *Africa: Geographies of change*. Oxford University Press, 2015. (135-158)

Minter, Adam. 2016. "The Burning Truth Behind an E-Waste Dump in Africa." *Smithsonian*, January 13, 2016. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/burning-truth-behind-e-waste-dump-africa-180957597/>.

Silver, Laura, and Courtney Johnson. 2018. "Internet Seen as Having Positive Impact in Sub-Saharan Africa." Pew Research Center (blog). October 9, 2018.
<https://www.pewglobal.org/2018/10/09/internet-connectivity-seen-as-having-positive-impact-on-life-in-sub-saharan-africa/>.

Short Story: Okorafor, Nnedi and Wanuri Kahiu, 2016 October, "Rusties," in *Clarkesworld*, issue 121. http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/okorafor-kahiu_10_16/. (Audio version: http://clarkesworldmagazine.com/audio_10_16d)

BBC. 2019. "Will Tanzania's Drone Industry Take Off?" *BBC Business Daily*.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswglq>.

Of interest:

Pierskalla, Jan H., and Florian M. Hollenbach. "Technology and collective action: The effect of cell phone coverage on political violence in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 107.02 (2013): 207-224. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055413000075>

Wyche, Susan P., Andrea Forte, and Sarita Yardi Schoenebeck. "Hustling online: understanding consolidated Facebook use in an informal settlement in Nairobi." *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, 2013.
<https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2481391>

Web sites to browse:

- A Tale of Two Valleys: Research Project: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/africa/research/twovalleys>
- African Agriculture Technology Foundation: <https://www.aatf-africa.org/>
- Browse MEST (<https://meltwater.org/>) and other African innovation, incubator sites for current projects.