Macalester College

Power and Development in Africa
(Intl 301)

Autumn, 2013

Carnegie Hall # 404

T TH 9:40 – 11:10 a.m.

Instructor: Professor Ahmed I. Samatar
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Carnegie, 405
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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a notable turn around, a significant number of African societies have, in recent years, experienced both economic growth and renewal of the spirit of women and men acting as citizens. These are commendable achievements. Yet, old quotidian urgencies such as precarious personal safety, hunger, poor health, and political disorder haunt many zones of the continent. This is the dialectic of development. The course explores these contradictions. Most of the attention will be given to the master concepts of power, politics, state, civic culture, and development in contemporary Africa. The course concludes with each student submitting a research paper on a specific problem (e.g. environmental, economic, social, cultural, political) confronting one country of the student’s choice. All students will be expected to become quickly familiar with the map of the continent and the name of the constituent countries and their capital cities.

11. Texts
(All textbooks are available at the Lampert building)


111. COURSE FORMAT

This course convenes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although there will be some formal lectures (perhaps guest speakers) in particular moments, student presentation on the readings and class discussion will remain to be a significant component of the proceedings. Two students will be assigned to orally report (accompanied by a typed and distributed outline to every member of the class) on each of the assigned readings. Each report will contain, among others: (a) identification of the main argument, (b) methods used to make the case, (c) three most pivotal concepts, (d) brief personal critique, and (e) one or two questions for class discussion. The presentation should take NO MORE than TWENTY minutes. Each member of the course is expected to be on top of the materials and to contribute to the discussions. Other elements of the course include a mid-term examination.
on the main concepts of the readings, thus far, a final (in class) examination, and the research paper on a particular country.


1V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POINTS

A. Attendance: more than ONE unexcused absence will result in the deduction of THREE points for each day.
B. Contributions to collective intellectual engagement (20 points):
   1. Oral presentations.
   2. Participation.
C. Mid-term Examination (20 points): In class and on the major concepts of the course, thus far. **October 10 (Thursday).**
D. Research Paper (35 points). **Due: December 7 (Friday), before 3:00 pm.** in the Department of International Studies Main Office # 409.
E. Final Examination (25 points): In class and comprehensive.

**ALERT:** All papers must be given a title page and typed, double-spaced and with pages numbered. NO late papers will be accepted.


V. GRADING

100 - 95 = A  
94 - 90 = A-  
89 - 85 = B+  
84 - 80 = B  
79 - 75 = B-  
74 - 70 = C+  
69 - 65 = C  
64 - 60 = C-  
59 - 55 = D


V. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Introduction (September 3, 5).
   1. Review of course philosophy and syllabus.
   2. What is African Studies?
   3. How does one approach it?
   4. Assignments?
   5. What is Power?
6. What is Development?
7. What is the State?

B. The Backdrop (Sept. 10).
   1. Colonialism.
   2. The coming of Independence.
   3. Continuity and Change.

   Required Reading: Cooper, pp. 1-90
   Student Presenters: (a) --------------------------
                    (b) --------------------------

C. Backdrop Continued (Sept. 12)
   1. The Challenge of Modernity.
   2. Combined and Unequal Development.
   3. The Bequeath of History.

   Required Reading: Cooper, pp. 91-204.
   Student Presenters: (a) --------------------------
                    (b) --------------------------

D. Paradigms and Concepts (Sept. 17)
   1. Political Community.
   2. The State.
   3. Civil Society and Production.

   Required Reading: Chabal, pp: 3-113
   Student Presenters: (a) --------------------------
                    (b) --------------------------

E. Post-Colonial Political Order (Sept. 19)
   1. Promise and Disappointment.
   2. Multiple Crises.

   Required Reading: Chabal, pp. 117-193.
   Student Presenters: (a) --------------------------
                    (b) --------------------------

F. The Dynamics of Change (Sept. 24).
   1. Dependence and Development.
   2. The Reproduction of Power.

   Required reading: Chabal, pp. 197-264.
   Student Presenters: (a) --------------------------
                    (b) --------------------------
G. COLLECTION REFLECTIONS (Sept. 26).

H. Fieldwork Revisited (Oct. 1).
   1. What is Human Well-being?
   2. Problem V. Mystery.
   3. Scarcity V. Reciprocity.

   Required Reading: Jackson, pp.1X – 99
   Student Presenters: (a)--------------------------
                      (b)--------------------------

I. Fieldwork Revisited Continued (Oct. 3).
   2. Hermeneutic Openness.

   Required Reading: Jackson, pp.100-200
   Student Presenters: (a)--------------------------
                      (b)--------------------------

REVIEW (Oct. 8)

Mid-Term Examination (October 10).

J. An African Exception (Oct. 15).
   2. The Imperatives of Building Public Institutions.

   Required Reading: Samatar, pp.1- 104
   Student Presenters: (a)--------------------------
                      (b)--------------------------

   1. Activist State
   2. Class Leadership (hegemony).
   3. Industrialization.
Required Reading: Samatar, pp.105-193
Student Presenters: (a)------------------------
(b)------------------------

C O L L E C T I V E R E F L E C T I O N S (Oct. 22)

Fall Break (Oct. 24).

L. Identification of the Research Problem and Brief Oral Presentation on the rationale for the Choice and the Country (Oct. 29, 30, 5).

M. No Class on November 7 (Thursday), Professor at Rice University, Texas.

N. Individual Research on Country Paper (November 7, 12, 14, 19, 21).

O. No Class on November 21 (Thursday), Professor at the ASA, Baltimore.

P. Brief Presentations on the Research Project (November 26).

THANKSGIVING, NOVEMBER 28

Q. Conversation over the Progress of the Research Project and Review (December 3, 5).

R. FINAL EXAMINATION (IN CLASS)