

Macalester College

**Power and Development in Africa
(Intl 301)**

Autumn, 2016

Carnegie Hall # 411

T & TH 9:40 - 11:10 am.

**Instructor: Professor Ahmed I. Samatar
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
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The time is the fateful meeting of deformed modernity
and a disfigured traditional world faced with the venomous
challenge of mutual regeneration.

-- Ato Sekyi-Out, *Fanon's Dialectic of
Experience*, 1996.

We are not to repine, but we may lawfully struggle; for the
calamities of life , like the necessities of nature, are calls to
labour and exercises of diligence.

-- Samuel Johnson, *Rambler* 32, 1750

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a notable turn around, a significant number of African societies have, in recent years, experienced both a modicum of 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, political disorder, and high vulnerability to manipulations by external powers still haunt many zones of the continent. This is the dialectic of development. This 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, scientific/technological, 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.*

II. TEXTS

(All textbooks are available at the Lampert building)

1. Parker, John and Rathbone, Richard. AFRICAN HISTORY: A VERY BRIEF INTRODUCTION. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007
2. Davidson, basil. THE BLACKMAN'S BURDEN: AFRICA AND THE CURSE OF THE NATION STATE.. New York: Times Books, 1992.
3. Chabal, Patrick. *Power in Africa: An Essay in Political Interpretation.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992.
4. Rothberg, Robert I. AFRICA EMERGES: CONSUMMATE CHALLENGES, ABUNDANT OPPORUNITIES. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.
5. Taiwo, Olufemi. AFRICA MUST BE MODERN: A MANIFESTO. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. 2014

III. COURSE FORMAT

This course convenes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Although there will be some formal lectures in particular moments, student presentations on the readings and class discussion will remain 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 a research paper on a particular country.

IV. COURSE REQUIRMENTS 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 13** (Thursday).
- D. Research Paper (5000 - 6000 words, 35 points). **Due: December 7, (Wednesday), before 3:00 pm** in the mailbox by my office door.
 - 1. Pick a country and a specific issue (by **October 1**).
 - 2. Articulate the rationale for the choice.
 - 3. State the organizational structure of the paper.
 - 4. Make sure to bring in the relevant materials from the course reading and lectures.
 - 5. Express cogently the **specific** added value of the study to your intellectual growth.
 - 6. Create an appropriate title page.
- E. Final Examination (25 points): in-class and comprehensive. **December 14** (Wednesday).

ALERT: All papers must be given a title page and be 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 |

VI. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Introduction (September 1, 6).
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?

*** Required reading: Start on Parker and Rathbone.

- B. The Backdrop (Sept. 8).
1. The Idea of Africa.
 2. Environment and History.

Required Reading: Parker and Rathbone, pp. 1-69

Student Presenters: (a) -----
(b) -----

- C. Backdrop Continued (Sept. 13).
1. African in The World.
 2. Colonialism.
 3. Decolonization and the Future.

Required Reading: Parker and Rathbone, pp. 70-149.

Student Presenters: (a) -----
(b) -----

- D. Ancestral Moralities and Traditions of Governance (Sept. 15).
1. Colonial Projects and Modernity.

Required Reading: Davidson, pp.3-98

Student Discussants: (a) -----
(b) -----

- E. Independence and New Nationalism (Sept. 20)
1. Tribalism and New Nationalism.
2. The Rise of the Nation-State.

Required Reading: Davidson, pp: 99-242.

Student Presenters: (a)-----
(b)-----

- F. Return to the Source and Innovation (Sept. 22)
1. The Social Question.
2. Participatory Self-Commitment.

Required Reading: Davidson, pp. 243- 322.

Student Presenters: (a) -----
(b)-----

- G. Paradigms and Concepts (Sept.27).
1. Political Community.
2. The State.
3. Civil Society and Production.

Required reading: Chabal, pp. 3- 113.

Student Presenters: (a) -----
(b) -----

- H. Post-Colonial Political Order (Sept.29).
1. Promise and Disappointment.
2. Multiple Crises

Required Reading: Chabal, pp.117-193

Student Presenters: (a)-----
(b)-----

- I. The Dynamics of Change (Oct.4).
1. Dependence and Development.
2. The Reproduction of Power.

Required Reading: Chabal, pp.197-264.

Student Presenters: (a)-----
(b)-----

REVIEW / DISCUSSION (Oct. 6 and 11)

Mid-Term Examination (Oct. 13).

J. The Challenges and the Imperatives of the Future (Oct. 18).

1. Demography
2. Geography
3. Education and Peace

Required Reading: Rothberg, pp.1- 90

Student Presenters: (a) -----
(b)-----

Fall Break (Oct. 20).

K. Challenges Continued (Oct. 25).

1. Scales of Corruption
2. Infrastructure
3. Engagement with PRC

Required Reading: Rothberg, pp.91-172

Student Presenters: (a)-----
(b)-----

L. Challenges Continued/Conclusions (Oct.27).

1. Governance and State
2. Leadership

Required Reading: Rothberg, pp: 173-225

Student Discussants: (a) -----
(b) -----

- M. The Imperatives and an African Proposition (Nov. 1).
1. Modernity and Development.

Required Reading: Taiwo, pp. Xxiii -117

Student Discussants: (a) -----

(b) -----

- N. African Proposition Continued (Nov. 3).

Required reading: Taiwo, pp. 118-218

Student Discussant: (a) -----

(b) -----

C O L L E C T I V E R E F L E C T I O N S (Nov. 8)

- O. Brief (5-7 minutes) on the Topic Your Research Project (Nov. 10).

- P. Work on Your Own on Your Project (Nov. 15- Dec. 6).

- Q. Final Paper Due: December 7.**

- R. FINAL EXAMINATION: December 14 (Wednesday), 10:30am-12:30pm.**