

PLSC 170b / AFST 170b / GLOBL214:
African Poverty & Western Aid

- or -

Why is Africa poor and what (if anything)
can the West do about it?

Yale University
Spring 2012

LAST UPDATED: 1/9/2012

**NOTE: IF THIS SYLLABUS IS MISSING A READING LINK, PLEASE CHECK THE COURSE BLOG FOR AN UPDATE
IF YOU HAVE THE MOST RECENT UPDATE, PLEASE REPORT BROKEN OR MISSING LINKS TO THE INSTRUCTOR**

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:20pm

Location: WLH 120

Office: 77 Prospect St., Room A103

Instructor: Chris Blattman, Departments of Political Science & Economics,
christopher.blattman@yale.edu

Office Hours: (Tentative) Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-11:30am. Sign up on instructor's website:
<http://chrisblattman.com/about/officehours/>

Course blog: <http://plsc170s12.common.yale.edu/>

Instructor's web page: <http://www.chrisblattman.com/>

Teaching Fellows: Nathaniel Cogley, nathaniel.cogley@yale.edu

Meghan Lynch, meghan.lynch@yale.edu

Lucy Martin, lucy.martin@yale.edu

Purpose and Nature of the Course:

In the 1960s, Africa's future looked bright. This optimism was extinguished, however, by four decades of disappointing growth, failing states, corrupt regimes, widespread poverty and famine, and high levels of violence and civil war. Decades of five-year plans, foreign aid flows, military expeditions, and humanitarian interventions seem to have had little impact, and perhaps even a negative one.

Today, hope for growth and stability is again flourishing in Africa. Civil wars are dwindling, more of the continent is democratic than ever, and many countries have sustained modest growth rates for almost a decade. There are new private foundations, pledges to increase foreign aid, African and UN intervention forces, and books claiming that the end of poverty is within our grasp. The West is capable of saving Africa, according to some. Africa will grow and prosper in spite of the West, according to others. Still others fear that expectations and growth are about to come crashing down again as African and Western government repeat the mistakes of the past.

Why is Africa still poor? What, if anything, can the West do about it? No course can answer these questions in full, but one can get started on the (hopefully lifelong) learning. Students will be exposed to the major and the not-so-major debates in aid and development. They will discuss the conventional and less conventional theories of poverty, growth, war and good governance, and why there is so much or so little of it in Africa. The aim is to help students think critically about these debates and their possible role in the problems and solutions.

The books you'll read and critique are the new canon of development. Perhaps not coincidentally, they are mostly written by rich, white, male academics. They also tend to dwell on failures, rather than successes. You'll read these perspectives, but the readings will also emphasize African voices and positive achievements as well.

You'll be expected to approach all of these materials skeptically. Success in this course will be entirely a function of your critical thinking and writing.

Requirements:

There are no prerequisites for this course, but introductory or intermediate macroeconomics is recommended.

The course is open to all levels and majors, but if demand exceeds supply, we will give preference by seniority.

This is a writing requirement course (WR) course, meaning all of the assignments will be written ones, based on your critical analysis and synthesis of the readings. It should be about the same amount of work as a non-WR class, except your section leaders will give you additional feedback on your writing, will teach you effective strategies for developing and sustaining ideas, as well as the habits and techniques of experienced writers.

More information on WR courses is here: <http://www.yale.edu/bass/students/wr/index.html>

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

- Lecture attendance and map quiz (5%)
- Section participation (15%)
- Weekly short essays (40%)
- Final paper (40%)

There will be no exams.

Grading approach

Each section is like a seminar: you will be evaluated against your peers in that section. Grading standards will be as uniform as possible across sections, as section leaders will all fit their grades to the same grade distribution. Thus there are no "easy" or "hard" sections or section leaders.

Making up sections

If you miss a section, you may make that section up that same week, in another section. You are always responsible for e-mailing your regular section leader immediately, asking him or her to confirm your participation with the make-up section leader. You may make up a section only twice in the semester. You may not use a Dean's Excuse except for extended absences.

Final Paper:

You will write one longer paper this semester. It will be due in two pieces.

A 3-page outline of your initial ideas and arguments is **due March 28 at 4pm.**

The final full paper is **due April 30 at 4pm.**

Your assignment will be to read, summarize and critically examine perspectives on Western development assistance in Africa from African writers, intellectuals, and political leaders. A sample list of suggested readings and videos is provided below. You may choose to focus on a few or many of these readings, and you may supplement the suggested readings with others you identify on your own.

The purpose of the reviews is for you to critically assess the ideas, assumptions, theories, and recommendations from the readings. You have a considerable amount of latitude in how you approach the readings. Some ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Distill the various readings into different schools of thought and discuss their strengths and weaknesses.
- Compare and contrast the views of the African writers and leaders to the other materials you encounter in class (perhaps those of Western intellectuals).
- How does your conception of Western intervention change after considering these perspectives from different African intellectuals, writers and leaders?
- How should we evaluate the basis and legitimacy of an argument? What, if anything, does "Africanness" add or subtract?
- Other questions you run by your Teaching Fellow in advance, or that are suggested by your instructor throughout the semester.

You should make extensive use of the course readings to answer these questions, identify and critique the assumptions and intellectual foundations of the new readings, provide alternative theories, or alternative recommendations.

You can focus narrowly on foreign aid, as many of the readings do, or broaden your focus to other changes and Western intervention such as democracy promotion and peacekeeping.

As much as possible, write in the first person, and bring in a fresh and original perspective based on your own thoughts, experiences, or outside readings.

The final paper should be approximately 15 to 20 double-spaced pages in length. Margins should be 1 inch, and font should be 12 point. Each review is to be submitted to your section leader both in hard-copy format AND via e-mail as a Microsoft Word document (not a PDF).

15 to 20 pages is not long, so do not waste time with long-winded introductions, repetition, or repeating material that is in the book or readings.

If you want to target your analysis and critique to a particular theme or idea, that is fine. In that case, choose wisely. Probably your best strategy, however, is to develop three to five major ideas and develop each at moderate length. Feel free to discuss this decision with your section leader.

You will be evaluated most of all on the quality and originality of your arguments. You can assume your reader has read the readings, and so you should spend a minimum of time summarizing arguments or material (unless it is genuinely new, in which case, be explicit but concise). This is not a book report, and you won't be rewarded for summarizing content. On the contrary, you will be indirectly penalized, since others will be filling the same space with original analysis and thoughts.

Late assignments—even ones late by a few hours—will have the grade reduced by a grade level for each day late, unless you are able to provide a Dean's Excuse.

Some relevant papers and videos which you may want to use for your essay (a handful of which are already in your course readings):

- Dambisa Moyo (2009) [Dead Aid](#).
- Video clip: "[CNN: \[Rwandan President\] Paul Kagame talks about Dead Aid and China](#)"
- Mkandawire & Soludo, [Chapters 2, 3 and especially 4](#)
- TED talks by [Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala](#)
- George Ayittey (2005). *Africa Unchained*, Palgrave Macmillan. (Chapter 3)
- George Ayittey (1998). *Africa in Chaos*. (Chapter 8)
- Andrew Mwenda, [Africa and the Curse of Foreign Aid](#) (Video)
- Binyavanga Wainaina talks about why he wrote "[How to Write About Africa](#)" in these YouTube videos: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#). (If you did not read this short piece in Week 1, please do so now.)
- Podcast with Binyavanga Wainaina: "[The Ethics of Aid: One Kenyan's Perspective](#)" (or see [transcript](#))
- Daniel Etounga-Manguelle (2000). Does Africa Need a Cultural Adjustment Program? *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*. L. E. Harrison and S. P. Huntington. New York, Basic Books: 65–77.
- Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Steven Radelet. 2008. "[The Good News Out of Africa: Democracy, Stability, and the Renewal of Growth and Development](#)." *Center for Global Development Essay* (February).
- Johnson-Sirleaf, E. and N. Oppenheimer (2008). [Aid Is Good, Business Is Better](#). *International Herald Tribune*.
- TED talks by [Ory Okolloh](#)
- Jomo Kenyatta, *Facing Mount Kenya*, p. 305-6
- President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, [Statement to the UN General Assembly](#), 23 Sept 2008.
- Speech excerpts from Nyerere and Nkrumah. Sections 6.3 and 6.4 in *The Africans: A Reader*, ed. A. A. Mazrui et al. New York: Praeger Publishers. pp. 178-88.
- Amos Sawyer (2004). "[Violent conflicts and governance challenges in West Africa: the case of the Mano River basin area](#)." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 42(03).
- Claude Ake, "The Feasibility of Democracy in Africa", p. 75-92 *especially*.
- Mahmood Mamdani (1992). "[Democratic Theory and Democratic Struggles](#)". *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 27, No. 41, pp. 2228-2232
- Thandika Mkandawire (2005), [Maladjusted African Economies and Globalisation](#), *Africa Development*, Vol XXX, Nos 1 & 2, 2005, pp 1- 33.

Weekly Assignments:

The main weekly assignment is an essay, described below. There will, however, be a simple map quiz in the third week of the course where you will be asked to identify 10 countries on a blank map Africa.

Purpose

It is the express purpose of this course to help you improve your concise critical writing skills. The ability to synthesize and critique large amounts of complex material in one to two pages is one of the most important skills you can learn in college. You will use these skills in your professional life more often than you think: writing policy or business memos, e-mails, letters, and articles.

Instructions

You will meet in section 11 times this semester (there is no section the first week of class). In at least 7 of these sections, you should submit a short essay that discusses and critiques the week's readings.

Each week I will provide one, two or three suggested essay topics that require you to use, analyze, critique, or synthesize the readings and lecture material. Your essays should focus on argument and not excessive summarization of course material. You may use additional materials you know or find to help answer the question, but these other works should be properly referenced in the text and in the bibliography.

The purpose of these essays is to get you to see how these materials are applicable to real problems, to think critically about the principal readings beforehand, to generate a productive discussion during seminar time, and to enhance your absorption of the material.

Each essay should be less than two pages in length (at least 1.5 inch spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point font). If you do cite references other than the readings, cite in text with author and date, but the bibliography can be put on a separate third page if you do not want it to crowd your space limit.

You must email the essay to your section leader **the afternoon or evening before your section** (your teaching fellow will give you specific instructions). If your section is on a Friday, the deadline will be Wednesday evening. The reason there is a Wednesday night deadline is that I may address the essay questions in Thursday's class.

Examples of actual essays from previous years, sometimes with comments from the TA, will be posted on the course blog.

Grading

You will be graded on your 7 best submissions, and so you will be able to skip up to 4 without penalty (since there will be none submitted the first two weeks). Submitting all 11 potential comments is to your benefit, but not necessary.

To receive a strong grade, comments should display knowledge from most of the week's readings. How you organize your essay is up to you, but the best strategy is probably to have three to five clear, persuasive points or ideas, backed up with argument or evidence. Comments should also be written in concise prose—that is, sentences rather than phrases or bullets. You should avoid simply repeating material from the readings, and avoid obvious criticisms if possible. You will be evaluated solely on your ability to think and write clearly, creatively, and originally.

Late assignments are not accepted, since you can submit in future weeks.

Comments will be given a number grade: (9-10) inspired, (7-8) clever and interesting, (5-6) meets expectations, (3-4) below expectations, and (0-2) needs serious improvement. (Note that a 9 or 10 will be unusual. Most grades will be between 4 and 8, and such grades are not inconsistent with getting an A or A- in the class. (and 10 are reserved for unusual and outstanding work.)

If fewer than 7 comments are submitted, missing comments will receive a zero.

Sections:

The sections are a time for you to discuss your thoughts about the readings with a small group of classmates, as well as ask questions of your section leader about the readings. Your section leader will typically guide a discussion, and 15 percent of your grade will be determined by the quality of your participation and comments. Section leaders will also spend time instructing you on writing styles and techniques, including feedback on your weekly essays.

Grading

Section leaders will generally assign participation grades of 0 for non-attendance, 1 for attendance, 2 for attendance and participation, and 3 for high-quality participation. You will generally be graded on the quality

rather than quantity of your participation in section. Note that more is not always better, and that uncivil or disruptive discussion (as well as overwhelming the class discussion) can be penalized.

Registration

On-line section registration opens on the fifth day of classes, January 13th. On-line discussion/lab section selection is an extension of On-line Course Selection, the registration process used by Yale College students to register for courses. The system provides the list of meeting days and times, the locations, and the number of available seats for each section.

See section room assignments at: https://www.sis.yale.edu/buildings/Discussion_locations.pdf

Writing resources:

Mostly you will be evaluated on your substance and organization, although style still counts. The idea is for ESL students not to be at a disadvantage. The clarity and strength of your argument is what counts, not the stylistic flourishes.

I cannot recommend enough the following guides to writing. Whether you want to go on in life to write fiction, journalism, or academic journal articles, these are the universal, indispensable guides to crisp and elegant prose. I would recommend them in the following order:

- William I. Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, "[The Elements of Style](#)"
- William Zinsser, "[On Writing Well](#)"
- Keith Hjortshoj, "[The Transition to College Writing](#)"

You may also want to check out the (free) [Purdue online writing lab](#) or resources at the [Yale college writing center](#). They can help you improve your writing skills if you think you'd like some extra help.

Plagiarism:

I take plagiarism in this class very seriously, and so cite, cite, cite. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work, words, or ideas as if they were your own.

Integrating and critiquing different ideas is the whole point of the course, and so giving credit where it's due (but adding your own reflection) will get you higher grades than putting your name on someone else's work or idea.

Most of all, Yale punishes academic dishonesty severely. The most common penalty is suspension from the university, but students caught plagiarizing are also subject to lowered or failing grades as well as the possibility of expulsion. Please be sure to review [Yale's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

You can find a fuller discussion of using sources and avoiding plagiarism on the [Writing Center Website](#).

Staying Current:

Paying attention to African and development news is not required, but it will help you (and might even be interesting). The blog lists podcasts, blogs, and news sources of interest and value. One idea: sign up for news feeds and relevant blogs in an RSS reader (e.g. Google Reader) and make it your home page.

Books you'll need:

Required books:

Note: Sometimes these books are cheaper (new and used) online than in the bookstore. Double check. I have provided links to Amazon and in some cases Barnes and Noble.

We are going to read most of the following books:

- Todd J. Moss (2011). [African development](#) (1st or 2nd Ed). London, Lynne Rienner. (Barnes and Noble may have more availability for [1st Ed](#) and [2nd Ed](#))
- Goran Hyden (2004). [African Politics in Comparative Perspective](#). Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. (Note: A Kindle edition is also available)
- Nicolas van de Walle (2001). [African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999](#). Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Elhanan Helpman (2004). [The Mystery of Economic Growth](#). Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (Also available from the library [online](#)).

We read at least half of this book, and I highly recommend you buy it and read it in full if you are at all interested in development:

- Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo (2011). [Poor Economics](#).

And only two chapters of the following book are required, but the rest of the book is a good complement to other topics, I will come back to it during the course and (most of all) the full book can be used in your final essay. It is polemical and hence an interesting book to use:

- Dambisa Moyo (2009). [Dead Aid](#).

All books are available in the Yale bookstore. In some cases they may be cheaper online (or available for the Kindle). The books will also be on 2-hour reserve in the library, so scrambling to get these scarce copies is an option, but I suggest purchasing them. All are less than twenty-five dollars, and several are as cheap as ten dollars.

Other books:

This history of Africa is concise and interesting:

- John Iliffe (2007). [Africans: The History of a Continent](#).

This book is a rather good summary of “alternative” critiques to the mainstream of development theory, including radical, postcolonial, neo-Marxist and feminist approaches. We will read one or two chapters, and several others are in the “recommended” readings for each week. If you are interested in alternative perspectives, this is not a bad book to purchase. But it is not required.

- Uma Kothari and Martin Minogue, eds. (2001). [Development Theory and Practice: Critical Perspectives](#). Palgrave.

The following books are some of the more influential ones in the field of economic development. Since this is a course that emphasizes the political side of development, we discuss economic development a great deal but do not necessarily read these books in full. Reading them will be important to careers in development, so consider reading them in future.

- Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee, “[Growth Theory Through the Lens of Development Economics](#)”
- William Easterly (2001). [The Elusive Quest for Economic Growth: Economists’ Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics](#).
- William Easterly (2006). [The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill, and So Little Good](#).
- Paul Collier (2007). [The Bottom Billion](#).
- Jeffrey Sachs (2006). [The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time](#).
- Dambisa Moyo (2009). [Dead Aid](#).
- David Landes (1999). [The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor](#).

Finally, the following book is available free online through Yale and is a nice introduction from the perspective of two eminent African economists:

- Mkandawire, T. and C. Soludo (1999). "Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment." Trenton, Africa World Press. (FREE through [Yale library](#))

Lectures and Readings:

"Required" readings are, well, required—you'll need to show that you've read and understand them in your short essays and critical book reviews. "Recommended" readings are optional. I will sometimes highlight their findings in lecture. They are also potential sources of material for your short essays and book reviews.

If a link to a required reading is broken or missing, first check the course blog for an updated version, and if not there, please email your instructor or TF.

Week 1: Introduction (Jan 10 & 12)

No weekly essay this week.

Required readings

- Thomas O'Toole (2007). The Historical Context. Chapter 3 in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Edited by A. A. Gordon and D. L. Gordon. London, Lynne Rienner Publishers (p. 23-56).
- Moss, Chapter 6 and also p.163-177
- Binyavanga Wainaina (2005). [How to Write About Africa](#). *Granta* 92.
- Hyden, Chapter 1
- William Easterly (2009) "[Can the West Save Africa?](#)" *Journal of Economic Literature* 47(2). **Sections 1 and 2 only.**

Recommended readings

- Moss, Chapter 1
- Binyavanga Wainaina talks about why he wrote *How to Write About Africa* in these YouTube videos: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#)
- Mkandawire & Soludo, [Chapter 1](#)

Further reading

- Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo (2006). "[The Economic Lives of the Poor](#)," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(1), 141-167
- Maddison, Angus. 2001. "[The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective](#)" OECD. Especially chapters 1 and 3.
- Benno Ndulu and Stephen O'Connell (2008). "[Policy Plus: African Growth Performance 1960-2000](#)," in *The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960-2000*. Edited by B. J. Ndulu et al.

Week 2: Theories of economic growth and development (Jan 17 & 19)

No weekly essay this week.

Sections will meet this week for the first time, for organizational purposes and (time-permitting) to review the growth and development theories.

Required readings

- Helpman, [Chapters 1-4](#), p. 1-54
- Banerjee and Duflo, Chapter 6
- Chapter 4 of Michael Todaro and Stephen Smith (2009). *Economic Development*. 10 ed. **(You can skip the "O-Ring" section).**

- William Easterly (2009) "[Can the West Save Africa?](#)," Journal of Economic Literature 47(2). **Section 3 only** (and be sure to catch up on Sections 1 & 2 if you did not have a chance last week).

Recommended readings

- Chapter 1, "Critical Perspectives on Development", in Uma Kothari and Martin Minogue, eds. (2001). Development Theory and Practice: Critical Perspectives. Palgrave.
- Banerjee and Duflo, Chapters 8 and 9
- Pritchett, Lant. 1997. "[Divergence, Big Time](#)" The Journal of Economic Perspectives 11 (3):3-17.
- Paul Krugman, "[The fall and rise of development economics](#)"

Further reading

- Amartya Sen. 1999. [Development as Freedom](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee, "[Poor Economics](#)"
- Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee, "[Growth Theory Through the Lens of Development Economics](#)"
- William Easterly (2001). [The Elusive Quest for Economic Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics](#). Cambridge, MIT Press.
- Colin Leys (2009). [The Rise and Fall of Development Theory](#). Indiana University Press.

Week 3: Initial conditions (Jan 24 & 26)

Brief map quiz in section this week

You can begin submitting weekly essays this week.

Required readings

- Jared Diamond (1997). *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (Chapter 4)
- Sachs, Jeffrey D., Andrew D. Mellinger, and John L. Gallup. 2001. "[The geography of poverty and wealth](#)." Scientific American 284 (3):70-5.
- Stanley L. Engerman and Kenneth L. Sokoloff, [Factor Endowments, Inequality, and Paths of Development among New World Economies](#), *Economia*, Fall 2002
- Paul Collier (2007). *The Bottom Billion*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. (Chapter 3, "The Natural Resource Trap")
- Acemoglu, D., S. Johnson, et al. (2003). "[Disease and Development in Historical Perspective](#)." Journal of the European Economic Association 1(2-3): 397-405.

Recommended readings

- W. Easterly and R. Levine, "[Tropics, germs, and crops: the role of endowments in economic development](#)" Journal of Monetary Economics, 50:1, January 2003.
- Nathan Nunn and Diego Puga (2009) "[Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa](#)"
- Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian (2009), "[The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas](#)"

Further reading

- David Landes (1999). [The Wealth and Poverty of Nations: Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor](#). (Chapters 1-3 most relevant to initial conditions)

Week 4: The legacies of slavery and colonialism (Jan 31 & Feb 2)

Required readings

- Moss, Chapter 2
- Hyden, Chapter 2
- Jomo Kenyatta, Facing Mount Kenya, **p. 305-6 only**

- Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. (Chapter 5)
- Elhanan Helpman, "The Mystery of Economic Growth," [Chapter 7](#).

Recommended readings

- Nathan Nunn, [The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades](#)
- Paul Collier (2007). *The Bottom Billion*. Oxford, Oxford University Press. (Chapter 4, "Landlocked with bad neighbors")
- Mahmood Mamdani, "Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism," Princeton 1996 (Chapter 2)
- William Easterly, Alberto Alesina and J. Matuszeski, "[Artificial States](#)", in the Journal of the European Economic Association, forthcoming
- Iliffe, Chapters 9 & 10

Further reading

- Migdal, Joel S. 1988. [Strong societies and weak states: State-society relations and state capabilities in the Third World](#). Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mahmood Mamdani, [Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism](#), Princeton 1996
- Franz Fanon (2004). [The Wretched of the Earth](#), Grove Press.
- Maddison, Angus. 2001. "[The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective](#)" OECD. Chapter 2

Week 5: Independence and the politics of personal rule (Feb 7 & 9)

Required readings

- Moss, Chapter 3
- Hyden, Chapters 3 and 5
- Van de Walle, Chapter 3
- Stephen Smith (2010). "[Nodding and Winking](#)." London Review of Books, 32:3, p. 10-12.
- Speech excerpts from Nyerere and Nkrumah. Sections 6.3 and 6.4 in *The Africans: A Reader*, ed. A. A. Mazrui et al. New York: Praeger Publishers. pp. 178-88.

Recommended readings

- van de Walle, Introduction
- Hyden, Chapter 4
- Fred Hayward. 1986. "In Search of Stability: Independence and Experimentation." Chapter 6 in *The Africans: A Reader*, ed. A. A. Mazrui et al. New York: Praeger Publishers. (Chapter 6, including readings 6.1 to 6.4, especially those by Nyerere and Nkrumah)

Further reading

- Catherine Boone (2003). "[Political Topographies of the African State](#)," Cambridge University Press.
- George Ayittey (2005). *Africa Unchained*, Palgrave Macmillan. (Chapters 5 and 6)
- Iliffe, Chapter 11
- Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rosberg (1982). "[Personal Rule in Black Africa: Prince, Autocrat, Prophet, Tyrant](#)". University of California Press.
- William Reno (1999). "[Warlord Politics and African States](#)". Lynne Rienner.

Week 6: Economic and political crisis, reform, and structural adjustment (Feb 14 & 16)

Required readings

- van de Walle, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2 & 4 (just skim Ch 2, and make sure you look over Ch 3 again from last week)
- Hyden, Chapter 6
- Ravi Kanbur (2008). "[The Co-Evolution of the Washington Consensus and the Economic Development Discourse](#)".
- Pages 35 to 40 in Chapter 3, "Feminist and postcolonial Challenges to Development", by Uma Kothari, in Uma Kothari and Martin Minogue, eds. (2001). *Development Theory and Practice: Critical Perspectives*. Palgrave.

Recommended readings

- Moss, Chapter 7
- [Interview with Joe Stiglitz: Time to snuff the IMF?](#)
- Williamson, John: [What Washington Means by Policy Reform](#), in: Williamson, John (ed.): *Latin American Readjustment: How Much has Happened*, Washington: Institute for International Economics 1989.
- Chapter 9, "Neoliberalism, the World Bank and the New Politics of Development", by Paul Cammack, in Uma Kothari and Martin Minogue, eds. (2001). *Development Theory and Practice: Critical Perspectives*. Palgrave.

Further reading

- Mkandawire & Soludo, [Chapters 2 & 3](#)
- Donald Gordon (2007). "African Politics." Chapter 4 in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. A. A. Gordon and D. L. Gordon. London, Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- John K. Walton and David Seddon (1994). "[Free Markets and Food Riots: The Politics of Global Adjustment](#)". Wiley-Blackwell.

Week 7: State failure and conflict (Feb 21 & 23)

Required readings

- Moss Chapter 4
- Robert H. Bates (2008). *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 2 and 7)
- Human Security Report 2009/2010, [Chapters 1 and 2 \(pp.21-\)](#)
- Bates, Robert H., John H. Coatsworth, and Jeffrey G. Williamson. 2007. "[Lost Decades: Post-independence Performance in Latin America and Africa](#)." *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Amos Sawyer (2004). "[Violent conflicts and governance challenges in West Africa: the case of the Mano River basin area](#)." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 42(03). **Stop at pp. 453.**

Recommended readings

- Hyden, Chapter 9
- Crawford Young (2002). "[Deciphering Disorder in Africa: Is Identity the Key?](#)" *World Politics* 54(4).

Further reading

- Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, "[Civil War](#)," forthcoming in *Journal of Economic Literature*
- William Reno (2011). "[Warfare in Independent Africa](#)". Cambridge University Press.

Week 8: State formation and peacekeeping (Feb 28 & Mar 1)

- Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. (Chapter 1)
- James A. Robinson (2002). "[States and Power in Africa by Jeffrey I. Herbst: A Review Essay](#)." *Journal of Economic Literature* 40(2): 510-519.
- Weinstein, Jeremy M. 2005. "[Autonomous Recovery and International Intervention in Comparative Perspective](#)." *Center for Global Development Working Paper* 57.
- Michael Doyle & Nicolas Sambanis (2008). "[Peacekeeping Operations](#)," *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Thomas G. Weiss, Sam Daws, eds. Oxford University Press, pp. 323-348
- Jeffrey Hersbt, "African Peacekeepers and State Failure", from *Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement in Africa*, Robert Rotberg, ed. (Brookings, 2000).

Recommended readings

- Page Fortna (2004). "[Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanisms and Empirical Effects](#)," *World Politics* Vol. 56, No. 4, July 2004.
- Michael Barnett, Hunjoon Kim, Madalene O'Donnell, and Laura Sitea (2007). "[Peacebuilding: What Is in a Name?](#)" *Global Governance* 13, 35–58.
- Michael Bratton and Eric C. C. Chang (2006). "[State Building and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa: Forwards, Backwards, or Together?](#)" *Comparative Political Studies* 39, p.1059
- Marrack Goulding (1993). "[The Evolution of United Nations Peacekeeping](#)". *International Affairs* Vol. 69, No. 3. 451-464.

Further reading

- Jeffrey Herbst, [States and Power in Africa](#), Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.
- Pierre Englebert (2002). [State Legitimacy and Development in Africa](#), London: Lynne Rienner.
- TED talks by either [Ory Okolloh](#) or [Ashraf Ghani](#)

Week 9: Foreign aid and humanitarianism (Mar 20 & 22)

Required readings

- Moss, Chapter 8
- Steven Radelet (2006). [A Primer on Foreign Aid](#), CGD Working Paper 92.
- Banerjee and Duflo, Chapters 1 and 7
- UN Millennium Project, Jeffrey D. Sachs, [Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals](#), January 2005 (Chapters 1 and 2)
- Michael Barnett and Thomas G. Weiss (2008). "Humanitarianism: A Brief History of the Present," in *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power and Ethics*. Barnett and Weiss, eds. Cornell University Press.

Recommended readings

- Hyden Chapter 10
- Dambisa Moyo (2009). *Dead Aid*. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Eric Werker and Faisal Z. Ahmed (2008). "[What Do Nongovernmental Organizations Do?](#)" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22:2.
- Joseph E. Stiglitz (2003). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. (Chapter 1)
- Glenn Hubbard (video): [How to Fix the Aid Crisis](#)
- Development Drums, [Episode 23: Famine and Foreigners](#)
- Alesina, A. and D. Dollar (2000). "[Who Gives Foreign Aid to Whom and Why?](#)" *Journal of Economic Growth*, 5, 33-64.

Further reading

- William Easterly (2006). "[The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill, and So Little Good.](#)" New York, Penguin Press.
- Alex de Waal (1997). "[Famine crimes: Politics & the disaster relief industry in Africa.](#)" London : African Rights & the International African Institute.

Week 10: Foreign aid and humanitarianism II (Mar 27 & 29)

March 28: Your 3-page outline of your final paper is due.

Required readings

- van de Walle, Chapter 5
- Michael Clemens and Todd Moss (2005). [What's Wrong with the Millennium Development Goals?](#) CGD Brief.
- William Easterly (2008). "[Can the West Save Africa?](#)" Journal of Economic Literature. **Sections 4 to end.**
- Dambisa Moyo (2009). Dead Aid. Chapters 3 and 4.

Recommended readings

- Nancy Birdsall (2004). [Seven Deadly Sins: Reflections on Donor Failings](#), CGD Working Paper 50.
- Robert Wade (2001). "[Showdown at the World Bank](#)". New Left Review 7.
- William Easterly and Tobias Pfitze, [Where Does the Money Go? Best and Worst Practices in Foreign Aid](#)" Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 22, No.2, Spring 2008

Week 11: Democratization and institutional development (Apr 3 & 5)

Guest speaker: Nazanin Ash (Mar 29), US Secretary of State Policy Planning Staff and former Chief of Staff to the first Director of Foreign Assistance and Administrator of USAID. See [bio](#).

Required readings

- Moss, Chapter 5
- van de Walle, Chapter 6
- Claude Ake, "The Feasibility of Democracy in Africa", **p. 75-92 only.**
- Mahmood Mamdani (1992). "[Democratic Theory and Democratic Struggles](#)". *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 27, No. 41, pp. 2228-2232
- Amos Sawyer (2004). "[Violent conflicts and governance challenges in West Africa: the case of the Mano River basin area.](#)" *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 42(03). **p.453-463 only.**
- Crawford Young (2004). "[The end of the post-colonial state in Africa? Reflections on changing African political dynamics.](#)" *African Affairs* 103(410).

Recommended readings

- Jonathan Di John (2008). "[Conceptualising the Causes and Consequences of Failed States: A Critical Review of the Literature](#)".
- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2002. "[An African Success Story: Botswana.](#)" In *In Search of Prosperity: Analytic Narratives on Economic Growth*, ed. D. Rodrik. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Chapters 5 to 7 in Uma Kothari and Martin Minogue, eds. (2001). *Development Theory and Practice: Critical Perspectives*. Palgrave.

Further reading

- Ostrom, Elinor, Clark Gibson, Sujai Shivakumar, and Krister Andersson. 2002. "[Aid, Incentives, and Sustainability: An Institutional Analysis of Development Cooperation \(Summary Report\)](#)." Sida Studies in Evaluation 02/01:1.
- DFID. 2010. [Societies, States and Citizens. A policymaker's guide to the research](#).

Week 12: Private sector development (Apr 10 & 12)

Required readings

- Moss, Chapter 13
- Banerjee and Duflo, Chapter 9
- President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, [Statement to the UN General Assembly](#), 23 Sept 2008.
- Thandika Mkandawire (2005), [Maladjusted African Economies and Globalisation](#), Africa Development, Vol XXX, Nos 1 & 2, 2005, pp 1- 33.
- Vijaya Ramachandran (2008). [Power and Roads for Africa](#), CGD Essay
- Dani Rodrik (2007). [Industrial Policy for the 21st Century](#), in "One economics, many recipes: Globalization, institutions, and economic growth". Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Recommended readings

- Moss, Chapter 12
- Banerjee and Duflo, Chapter 8
- Dambisa Moyo (2009). Dead Aid. Chapters 6 to 10.
- Hyden, Chapter 7
- Adrian Wood and Kate Jordan, 2000, "[Why Does Zimbabwe Export Manufactures and Uganda Not? Econometrics Meets History](#)," The Journal of Development Studies, vol.27 (2), pages 91 – 116.
- Selassie, Abebe Aemro. 2008. "[Beyond Macroeconomic Stability: The Quest for Industrialization in Uganda](#)." IMF Working Paper 08 (231).
- TED talks by [Jacqueline Novogratz](#), [Eleni Gabre-Madhin](#), and [Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala](#)

Further reading

- World Bank, [2005 World Development Report – A Better Investment Climate for All](#)
- Benn Eifert, Alan Gelb and Vijaya Ramachandran, [Business Environment and Comparative Advantage in Africa: Evidence from the Investment Climate Data](#), CGD Working Paper 56
- Dani Rodrik (2007). [The Global Governance of Trade as if Development Really Mattered](#), in One economics, many recipes: globalization, institutions, and economic growth. Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Week 13: Reflections and conclusions (Apr 17 & 19)

Required readings

- Video: Lant Pritchett (2010) [The best of aid](#)
- Banerjee and Duflo, Chapter 10 and conclusion
- Hyden, Chapters 11 and 12
- van de Walle, Chapter 7
- Dani Rodrik (2006). "[Goodbye Washington Consensus, Hello Washington Confusion? A Review of the World Bank's Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform](#)". Journal of Economic Literature.

Recommended readings

- Moss, Chapters 11 and 14
- Lant Pritchett, Michael Woolcock and Matt Andrews. 2010. [Capability Traps: Techniques of Persistent Development Failure](#). Background paper for the 2011 World Development Report on Development, Conflict and Fragile States.
- Valerie Bockstette, Areendam Chanda, and Louis Putterman (2002). [States and Markets: the Advantage of an Early Start](#), *Journal of Economic Growth*, 7, 347-369
- Maxim Pinkovskiy and Xavier Sala-i-Martin (2010) [African Poverty is Falling...Much Faster than You Think!](#)
- TED Talk by Euvin Naidoo: [Africa as an investment](#)
- George Ayittey (2005). *Africa Unchained*, Palgrave Macmillan. (Chapters 8 to 11)

April 30: Final paper due