

Course Specifications

Politics and Globalization in Central and Eastern Africa

Course size (*nominal values; actual values may depend on programme*)

Credits 5.0

Study time 150

Contact hrs 50

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2017-2018

Semester 1

Self-reliant study activities: 15 hrs

Lectures: 35 hrs

Lecturers in academic year 2017-2018

Cuvelier, Jeroen PS05 principal lecturer

Büscher, Karen PS05 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2017-2018

Master of Arts in African Studies

Exchange Programme African Studies

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Central Africa; East Africa; Globalization; African politics; conflict; development, state-society relations, foreign intervention, politics of belonging.

Position of the course

This course focuses on the interaction between African politics and processes of globalization. The goal is to present different interdisciplinary ways of analysing the multiple links between, on the one hand, local forms of political change, conflict, and protest, and, on the other hand, a wide variety of global structures, processes, and developments. Geographically speaking, the focus of the course will be on Central and East Africa

Contents

Following an interdisciplinary approach, this course will provide students with critical insights in local-global interactions in the arena of Central & East African politics. A broad range of topics will be introduced from the viewpoint of different academic disciplines, including political science, anthropology, and history. Paying close attention to current political events in Central and East Africa, the lecturers will use a series of concrete case studies to discuss and illustrate the most important academic debates on the interplay between globalization and African politics, and to demonstrate the analytical value of theories and concepts drawn from the above-mentioned academic disciplines.

The course will be divided in three parts. The first part, entitled "*African politics and the intensification of global interconnectedness*", will provide the students with a historical overview of the most important developments in Africa's dealings with the outside world during the postcolonial era. Attention will be paid to, amongst other things, the nationalization wave of the 1960s and 1970s, the structural adjustment policies of the 1980s, the influence of Cold War power struggles on African political conflicts, the global spread of Western

models of liberal democracy after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and Africa's cooperation with emerging powers such as India, China, Brazil and Russia.

In the second part of the course, entitled "*Foreign Interventions*", the focus will be on contemporary examples of foreign powers intervening in the affairs of countries in Central and East Africa. The lectures will zoom in on three types of interventions: (i) peacebuilding initiatives (i.e. peacekeeping missions and military interventions), (ii) nature conservation efforts, and (iii) humanitarian interventions. Particular attention will be paid to the effects of these interventions on local power struggles and governance dynamics. Finally, the third part of the course, entitled "*Flow and closure*", will take its cue from Geschiere and Meyer's observation that the globalization-driven increase in the mobility of people, goods, and services has gone hand in hand with the closure of identities that used to be less rigidly defined. The latter trend has led to a rising number of identity-based conflicts and an increasingly exclusionary and violent politics of belonging across the globe, including in Central and East Africa. These lectures will concentrate on three globalization-related factors that have triggered violent manifestations of the politics of belonging in recent years: (i) political liberalization, which has led to fierce struggles over access to citizenship and political representation, (ii) large-scale development projects, which have provoked competition over access to project benefits and resources, and (iii) the privatization of land rights, which has led to intense disputes over who is an "autochthonous" landowner and who is not.

Initial competences

Bachelor in African languages and cultures or equivalent

Final competences

- A thorough understanding of the most important developments in Africa's dealings with the outside world in the post-independence era
- A profound insight into the interplay between foreign interventions, on the one hand, and local power struggles and governance dynamics, on the other
- A good grasp of the dialectics of flow and closure in the context of globalization
- A strong capacity to apply methods and theoretical insights from different disciplinary backgrounds in the context of Central and East African politics
- Being able to formulate an original argument from the analysis of the existing literature on dynamics of globalization in Africa.
- A well-developed ability to present research findings in a clear, well-structured and academically sound manner

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Initial Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, self-reliant study activities

Learning materials and price

Academic articles (compulsory reading materials) provided on the MINERVA platform.

References

Abrahamsen, Rita. *Disciplining democracy: development discourse and good governance in Africa*. London: Zed Books, 2000.

Autesserre, Séverine. *The Trouble with the Congo: Local violence and the failure of international Peacebuilding*. Vol. 115. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Bayart, Jean-François, and Stephen Ellis. "Africa in the world: a history of extraversion." *African affairs* 99.395 (2000): 217-267.

Büscher, Bram. *Transforming the frontier: peace parks and the politics of neoliberal conservation in Southern Africa*. Duke University Press, 2013.

Büscher, Karen, and Koen Vlassenroot. "Humanitarian presence and urban development: new opportunities and contrasts in Goma, DRC." *Disasters* 34.s2 (2010): S256-S273.

Geschiere, Peter, and Birgit Meyer. "Globalization and Identity: Dialectics of flow and closure. Introduction." *Development and Change* 29.4 (1998): 601-615.

Geschiere, Peter. *The perils of belonging: Autochthony, citizenship, and exclusion in Africa and Europe*. University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Goldman, Michael "Constructing an Environmental State: Eco-governmentality and other Transnational Practices of a 'Green' World Bank", *Social Problems* 48.4 (2001) 499-523.

Hilhorst, Dorothea, and Bram J. Jansen. "Humanitarian space as arena: A perspective on the everyday politics of aid." *Development and Change* 41.6 (2010): 1117-1139.

Hvding, Edvard. "Contested Rainforests, NGO's and projects of desire in Solomon Islands", *International Social Science Journal* 55 .178 (2003): 539-554.

Jackson, Stephen. "Sons of which soil? The language and politics of autochthony in eastern DR Congo." *African studies review* 49.02 (2006): 95-124.

Kuba, Richard, and Carola Lentz. "Land and the Politics of Belonging in Africa." (2006). Leiden: Brill.

Simone, AbdouMaliq "On the Worlding of African Cities", *African Studies Review* 44.2 (2001): 15-41.

Course content-related study coaching

Online feedback + interim feedback moments

Evaluation methods

30% non-periodic: permanent evaluation: individual paper + presentation

70% periodic: end-of-term evaluation in the form of a written exam

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written exam, open & closed questions

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written exam

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

10% Presentation

20% Paper

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

Not possible to retake the paper and presentation in second examination period

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam (70%): Through a number of open questions, students will be evaluated on their insights and understandings of the different subjects treated during the lectures.

Non-periodic, permanent evaluation (30%): Each student has to write an individual paper on a subject of choice related to one or more subjects treated during the lectures (20%). Each student has to prepare an oral presentation (10%) of this paper to his/her peers and the lectures and will have to answer to a number of questions related to his/her paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

30% permanent evaluation; 70% written exam

Students can only succeed for this course by the participation in and submission of BOTH exam and the paper.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during lectures is required
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

Extra information:

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy