

Macalester College

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

Spring, 2022.

Carnegie 404

TUESDAY and THURSDAY, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm.

Instructor: Professor Ahmed I. Samatar

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Wednesday, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Office Phone: 651-696-6564.

Cell Phone (for emergencies): 651-757-6828.

E-Mail: samatar@macalester.edu

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

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In a notable turn, 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 substantial review-cum-comparative paper on THREE volumes read for the course. *All students will be expected to become quickly familiar with the map of the continent and the names of the constituent countries and their capital cities.*

11. TEXTS

(All textbooks are available at the Lampert building)

1. Freund, Bill. *The Making of Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Rienner Publishers (Third Edition), 2016.
2. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. *Devil on the Cross*. Heinemann, 1982.
3. Rotberg, Robert. *Africa Emerges*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014.
4. Taiwo, Olufemi. *Africa Must Be Modern: A Manifesto*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014.

111. 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 discussions 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 and techniques used to make the case, (c) three most pivotal concepts, (d) relationships with the preceding readings and lectures, (e) personal critique, and (d) 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 and a review/comparative essay, and a final (in class) comprehensive examination on the large concepts of the course.

IV. 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 the collective intellectual engagement throughout the semester (20 points):
 1. Oral presentations.
 2. Participation.
- C. Mid-term Examination (20 points): on the major concepts of the course, thus far. **March 10** (Thursday).

D. Comparative Review paper (4000 words; 35 points). **Due: May 2, before 3:00 pm:**

1. Choose THREE volumes from the readings.
2. State the organizational structure of the paper.
3. Give a synopsis of each volume.
4. Compare their arguments, methods, styles, and conclusions.
5. Underscore their main differences and similarities.
6. Make sure to bring in the relevant materials from the lectures.
7. Express cogently the **specific** added value by these volumes and other materials of the course to your explorations of the theme of the course and your general intellectual growth.
8. Create an appropriate title page

*****ALERT: All papers must be given a title page and be typed, double-spaced and with pages numbered. Footnotes should appear either at the bottom of the page or as ENDNOTES at the conclusion of the paper.**

***** NO LATE PAPER WILL BE ACCEPTED*****

****** Final Examination (25 points), Saturday, MAY 7 10:30am – 12:30pm**

V. GRADING

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

A. INTRODUCTION (January 20, 25, 27):

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 Freund, pp.1-127..

B. HISTORY AND AFRICA (Feb.1):

1. Colonial Projects and Modernity.
2. Merchant Capital.
3. The Colonial State.
4. Class Formation, Industrialization, and Social Change.

Required reading: Freund pp. 1- 127..

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

(b)--- ---

C. DECOLONIZATION OF AFRICA (Feb.3-8).

1. Class, State, and Development.
2. South Africa: The Liberation Struggle.

Required Reading: Freund, pp. 142-214.

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

(b)--- ---

D. CONTEMPORARY CONTRADICTIONS AND PRESSURES
(FEB.10).

1. The Future.

Required Reading: Chabal, pp.197-264.

Student Presenters: (a)--- --

(b)--- —

E. A CONTINENT ON THE MOVE (Feb. 15,17).

1. Challenges and Opportunities.
2. Demography

3. Geographical Realities and Dilemmas.

Required Reading: Rotberg, pp.1- 68.

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

(b)---

F. CONFLICT AND DEVELOPMENT (Feb.22, 24)

1. War vs. Prosperity.
2. State Failure.
3. Accountability and Corruption.

Required Reading: Rotberg, pp.69-150. Student

Presenters: (a) --- ---

(b)--- ---

G. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (March 1, 3).

1. Africa and the PRC.
2. Governance and the State.
3. Leadership.

Required Reading: Rotberg, pp: 151- 215.

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

R E V I E W (March 8th).

MID-TERM EXAMINATION (MARCH 10).

Spring Break (March 12-20).

H. CRITICAL IMAGINATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CONT'D) (March 22, 24).

1. Imperialism.
2. Neocolonialism and Gender.
3. The Role of the African Elite.

Required Readings: Ngugi, pp. 7-127.

Student Discussants: (a)--- -

(b)--- ---

I. CRITICAL IMAGINATION CONT'D (MARCH 29).

1. Rural vs. Urban.

Required Reading: Ngugi, pp.128-181.

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

(b)--- ---

J. CRITICAL IMAGINATION CONT'D (March 31-April 7).

1. Civil Society, the State, and Capital.
2. Power and Redemption.

Required Reading: Ngugi, pp. 182-254.

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

(b) ---

K. THE NECESSITY OF DEVELOPMENT: AN AFRICAN MANIFESTO (April 12, 14).

1. Modernity and Development.

Required Reading: Taiwo, pp.Xxiii-117.

Student Presenter: (a)---

(b) --- ---

L. AFRICAN MENIFESTO CONT'D (APRIL 19).

Required Reading, Taiwo, pp. 118-218.

Student Presenters: (a)---

(b) ---

M. REFELECTIONS ON THE SEMESTER (APRIL 21).

N. WORK ON YOUR TERM PAPER (APRIL 26 - 28).

O. Final Paper Due: May 2 (no later than 3:00 pm), at the mailbox by my office.

P. FINAL EXAMINATION (IN CLASS): MAY 7, at 10:30am

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