

Naval Postgraduate School
National Security Affairs
Political Economy of Africa

Dr. Robert Looney
Summer Term 2015
NS4301

Office Hours, MW 10:00-11:30
Glasgow 305 or by appointment
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Class webpage <http://relooney.com>

COURSE OUTLINE

Class Objective:

Political Economy of Africa examines the patterns of economic growth and development in Africa. The class is oriented toward providing an understanding of the economic structures of the major countries in the region and the challenges these economies face, both internally and in a changing global environment. The ultimate purpose of the class is to provide the tools for gaining insight to current developments in the region.

Assignments

The readings for each topic are on the class website,
http://www.relooney.com/NS4301_nc1.html.

For each class, please check the class website under “readings for next class” for additional papers for discussion. All the papers and references that we will need for the course can be found on the website. I will indicate which readings can only be found on Sakai.

Lectures:

Introduction (July 6)

Overview of African Economies (July 8, 13)

- Key Issues
- Transformation
- Demographics
- Employment Challenges
- Convergence

Data Issues (July 20)

- Data Sources
- Key Issues
- Shadow Economy
- Country Rankings on Various Indices

Theories of Development (July 22, 27)

- Relevant Economic Principles
- Long-run growth, Historical Stages, Neoclassical
- Development Strategies
- Washington vs Beijing Consensus

Issues in the Global Economy (July 29)

- Current trends
- Commodities
- Debt/Capital Flows
- Foreign Aid/Assistance
- Export Competitiveness
- AGOA
- Risks
- Exchange Rates

Country Case Studies/Briefings (August 2, September 14)

Southern Africa (August 3, 5)

(Theme: Manufacturing, Energy Security)

- South Africa
- Mozambique
- Mauritius
- Namibia

North Africa (August 10, 12)

(Theme: Post-Arab Spring)

- Morocco
- Algeria
- Tunisia
- Egypt

East Africa (August 17, 19)

(Theme: Developmental State, Infrastructure/Transport)

Ethiopia
Uganda
Kenya
Rwanda
Tanzania

Central Africa (August 24, 26)

(Theme: China in Africa)

Botswana
Angola
Zimbabwe
Zambia

West Africa (August 31, September 2)

(Theme: Resource Curse)

Nigeria
Ghana
Senegal
Gabon

Fragile States (September 9, 14)

(Theme: Violence, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Ebola)

DRC
Chad
CAR
South Sudan
Liberia

Grading

(1) Class participation 25%

(2) Country Presentation 25% (30 minutes) -- basic briefing on economic developments in a country and their implications – teams of 3-4 students

**(3) Individual Project 20-page research project – 50%.
The paper can be either an extension of your
country brief, or an entirely new topic of your
choice.**