POLI 373 African Politics

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Marlea Clarke

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
This course offers a broad overview of the trajectory of politics and economic development in sub-Saharan Africa. It does so by addressing significant themes that relate to the continent as a whole, while drawing on case studies from several countries (e.g. Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Ghana and South Africa). We explore the legacy of colonial rule (settler colonialism in Zimbabwe and South Africa) and neo-colonialism, and the role of corporations, international institutions, domestic social movements and African governments in shaping political and economic systems, struggles and the development processes in the contemporary period. A section of the course will focus on key areas of interest and relevance, such as: fair trade, chocolate and coffee production; gender and human rights; resource extraction and trade; and militant insurgencies.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Identify some of the general characteristics of Africa’s pre-colonial social, economic and political formations
- Define colonialism, settler colonialism and neo-colonialism, and discuss the legacies of the slave trade and colonialism in current
- Discuss some of the general and country-specific processes of nation-building and economic development in the post-colonial period;
- Identify and discuss some of the contemporary issues and topics in politics and the political economy of development in Africa
- Develop core undergraduate skills such as effective writing, research, analysis, and argumentation

Topics may include:
Colonialism, settler colonialism, neo-colonialism
Political economy, nation-building and economic development
Gender, social movements and political struggles

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.