Course description. This course will seek to provide students with a realistic picture of African economies and societies today, emphasizing their heterogeneity and accomplishments, as well as focusing on reasons for continued widespread poverty throughout the continent. The course develops behavioral models that can be used to explain and predict household, market, and government behaviors and outcomes. Students are expected to quickly acquire basic stylized facts and economic models, and then analyze one of the many data sets now available.

Prerequisites: Econ 55. Introductory econometrics (Econ 139) will be extremely useful. Working knowledge of differential and integral calculus, econometrics, and Excel is necessary.

Texts. There is one required text. Copies of required journal articles and other readings, if not available through the library or Internet, will be kept on file in the EcoTeach Center. Most articles can be obtained online through Duke's electronic journal collection, and also by downloading from various websites. My class notes will be posted on Blackboard. These are intended to be supplemental, and are neither a perfect substitute for class or for the readings. Special thanks are due to Rebecca Anthopolos, William Baldridge, Augustin Fosu, I-Heng (Emma) Lee, and Khalil Shahyd for invaluable advice with the reading list.


I don't know anything about Africa! Where can I start?

- Start reading literature (p. 14)
- Check out films
- Background picture books worth looking at if you can find them, even though they're dated and a bit politically slanted: Peter Menzel and Charles Mann, Material World: A Global Family Portrait (Sierra Club Books, 1995), Faith D’Aluisio and Peter Menzel, Women in the Material World (Sierra Club Books, 1996).

Honor code and course policies. Failure to acknowledge assistance on an assignment, or to cite a source of information used in an assignment, or to represent the work of others as your own, violates the University’s honor code. Any violations may result in failure of the assignment or the course, or expulsion from the University.
Any exam missed for a non-legitimate reason will be accorded the grade of 0. Any exam missed for a legitimate reason will be made up with an oral exam as soon as EcoTeach can schedule it.

Late work will be penalized by 1/3 grade point per day late (excluding Sundays).

Assignments must be submitted via Blackboard. An electronic and a hard copy of the term paper must be submitted to the instructor.

Standard formatting for regular text material shall be as follows: 1-inch margins top/bottom/left/right; 1.5 line spacing; extra space between paragraphs; Garamond 12 font; right hand justification for main text. References and footnotes should be single space (with space between individual citations) and Garamond 11 font.

Assignments and term papers that have not gone through a basic spell and grammar check will not be accepted. Files attached with viruses will be deleted and not regarded as submitted; if for some reason the virus gets through and infects one of my computers, you will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment.

4. **Grading and assignments.** The grades will be determined as weighted averages of exam and homework performances:

   - Africa overview quiz 5% Sept 1
   - Literature survey and technical presentation (10% each) 20% Sept 17, Oct 29
   - Midterm exam 20% Oct 8
   - Research project/term paper 35% Dec 5
   - Final examination 20% Dec 17

The essays/presentations include (1) a brief literature survey on a policy topic of interest, with dissemination via Blackboard to the class, and (2) a technical presentation (via Blackboard, but also possibly "live"): short but detailed presentation of a formal (i.e., mathematical) economic model or econometric application pertinent to Africa. Topics must receive the instructor's approval.

The term paper is expected to be 15-30 pages in length plus tables, on a topic of the student's choice, but subject to instructor approval. The paper is expected to involve [a] original empirical or theoretical research (required of graduate students in Econ 296), or [b] a comprehensive survey a topic, and provide policy analysis in light of recent data and research. However, I will push strongly for all students to undertake original empirical work, regardless of whether or not it makes use of sophisticated statistical techniques.

The final examination will be comprehensive.

6. **Course overview.**

   [1] The big picture: becoming familiar with sub-Saharan Africa
   [2] Dualistic economic development
   [3] Colonialism, dependence, and foreign aid
   [4] Institutional change, failed states, and civil decay
   [5] Corruption (and oil)
   [6] Incomes, poverty, inequality, and famine
   [7] Migration and urbanization
   [8] The brain drain and remittances (and low savings vs. low human capital)

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1 I reserve the right to cancel the final, in which case the presentation and survey will count for 30% (combined) and the term paper 45% of the total grade.
Disease and mortality
AIDS
Fertility, polygamy, and the role of women in African societies
Agriculture and farm-household economic models
Industrialization, trade, import-substitution, and exports
Success stories and growth models
Rapid Growth at Last? Chinese investment, minerals’ growth, financial sector development, and modern communications

7. Useful data and research sites:
Africa Data Dissemination Service http://igskmnenwb015.cr.usgs.gov/adds/
African Census Analysis Project http://www.acap.upenn.edu/
APHRC (African Population & Health Research Center) http://www.aphrc.org/
Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest http://www.bceao.int/
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Harvard University http://www.cid.harvard.edu/bread/papers2.htm
Burkina Faso household agricultural data (from Yale’s Center for Data Sharing) http://www.econ.yale.edu/~cru2//ghanadata.html
CEMAC (Communauté Economique et Monétaire en Afrique Centrale) http://www.cemac.net/
Current Demographic Research Reports http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/cdc/library/cderr/subscribe.htm
US Census International Database http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/
Cape Area Panel Study (South Africa) http://www.caps.uct.ac.za/
Center for Global Development http://www.cgdev.org/
Center for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/
CSAE firm and household data for Ethiopia, Ghana, & Tanzania http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/datasets/main.html
Demographic & Health Surveys http://www.measuredhs.com/
Economic shocks and civil conflict dataset from Ted Miguel (includes an African rainfall dataset) http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~emiguel/data.shtml
HIV spatial data repository http://www.hivspatialdata.net/
Harvard Center for International Development datasets http://www.cid.harvard.edu/ciddata/ciddata.html
Human Mortality Database http://www.mortality.org/
IMF General Data Dissemination System http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/getpage/?pagename=gddhome
ICPSR http://www.icpsr.umd.edu/
International Food Policy Research Institute http://www.ifpri.org/
IFPRI standard computable general equilibrium model http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/microcom/micro5.htm
IFPRI rural & agricultural household datasets http://www.ifpri.org/data/dataset.asp
International Household Survey Network http://www.internationalsurveynetwork.org
Innocenti Research Center (UNICEF) http://www.unicef-irc.org/
Institut national d’études démographiques (INED) http://wwwINED.fr/
International Organization for Migration http://www.iom.int/jahia/jsp/index.jsp
Integrated Public Use Microdata Series – International https://international.ipums.org/international/
IRIS (University of Maryland) http://www.iris.umd.edu/
Kwazulu-Natal Income Dynamics Survey (KIDS) http://www.ifpri.org/data/southafrica01.htm
8. **Useful journals:**

- *Journal of African Economies*
- *AIDS*
- *Economic Development & Cultural Change*
- *Journal of Development Economics*
- *Journal of Development Studies*
- *Journal of International Development*
- *Oxford Bulletin of Economics & Statistics*
- *South African Journal of Economics*
- *World Bank Economic Review*
- *World Bank Research Observer*
- *World Development*

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Malaria Vaccine effectiveness (spreadsheet and documentation)
http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/kremer/vaccine_research_kremer

Malawi Diffusion & Ideational Change Project
http://www.malawi.pop.upenn.edu/Level%2003/Malawi/level3_malawi_main.html

National Income Dynamics Study (South Africa)
http://www.nids.uct.ac.za/

Northern Nigeria Rural Credit Survey
http://www.yale.edu/~crv2/papers.html (item 26)

Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies
http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/

Penn World Tables
http://pwt.econ.upenn.edu/

Population Reference Bureau
http://www.prb.org/

Poverty Action Lab (MIT)
http://www.povertyactionlab.com/

Princeton data on Africa
http://do1.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/datalistresources/newdatalistresources.cgi?term=14

SAHIMS (Southern African Humanitarian Info Mgmt Service)
http://www.sahims.net/gis/GIS%20input/GIS_Library_Regional.asp

South Africa Integrated Household Survey

South African Data Archive
http://www.nrf.ac.za/sada/index.asp

South Africa StatsOnline
http://www.statssa.gov.za/

Southern Africa Labour & Development Research Unit surveys (CAPS, Houts Bay migration survey, SA integrated household survey, Langeberg integrated family survey)
http://www.saldru.uct.ac.za/surveys.html

Social Networks Project (Kenya and Malawi)
http://www.malawi.pop.upenn.edu/

Tanzania Human Resource Development Survey

Transparency International
http://www.transparency.org/policy_research

Transmonee database
http://www.unicef-irc.org/partnerships_links/

UN Common Database

WIDER MicroSimulation models of Botswana, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda
http://models.wider.unu.edu/africa_web/

World Health Organisation statistical information system
http://www.who.int/whosis/en/

WHO health systems indicators
http://www.who.int/healthinfo/statistics/index.htm

World Bank data

World Bank research datasets

World Bank datasets by research program

World Bank research site
9. **Course outline and lots of literature.** As we come to each topic, I will note required and optional readings. The class itself will be conducted as a guided discussion, except when it is necessary to present formal models, or when students are making presentations. Thus, it is essential that everyone have done a substantial amount of reading on each subject prior to the class. **As a general policy, I expect each student to read the Ndulu book as assigned and one paper (or chapter from a book) for each class, and to contribute to the discussion based on that reading. Readings may be chosen from the syllabus below, or from the journals and websites listed above, or found elsewhere. Each student will be expected to submit an annotated log of notes on readings at the time of the midterm and final: these will be permissible “open book” materials for the exams.**

**Monday ** **August 25** 
**[1] The big picture: becoming familiar with sub-Saharan Africa**
- Ndulu, et al., Chapter 1

**Wednesday** **August 27**
- Ndulu, et al., Chapters 2-3

**Monday ** **September 1** 
**[2] Dualistic economic development**
- Ndulu, et al., Chapter 9
- **Quiz on basic facts (countries, capitals, major geographic features, per capita incomes)**

**Wednesday** **September 3** 
**[3] Colonialism, dependence, and foreign aid**
- Ndulu, et al., Chapter 4
- Patrick Bond, Ed, Fanon's Warning: A Civil Society Reader on the New Partnership for Africa's


**Monday September 8**

- Ndulu, et al., Chapter 5

**Wednesday September 10**


**Monday September 15**

Wednesday  September 17

1. Ndulu, et al., Chapter 8

- **Presentation 1 (issue with country focus) due**

Monday  September 22


Wednesday  September 24

Monday  September 29

Wednesday  October 1

Monday  October 6  [7]  Migration, urbanization, and labor markets

Wednesday  October 8
• Midterm exam

Wednesday  October 15
• Beauchemin, Cris and Bruno Schoumaker, 2005, “Migration to cities in Burkina Faso: does the level of development in sending areas matter?” *World Development* 33(7): 1129-1152.

Monday October 20

[8] Education, the brain drain and remittances (and low savings vs. low human capital)


Wednesday October 22


Monday October 27

[9] Disease and mortality


Wednesday  October 29

AIDS

• J. Caldwell and P. Caldwell, "The Nature and Limits of the sub-Saharan AIDS Epidemic: Evidence from
Geographic and Other Patterns," *PDR* 1993 (December) 19:4.


- Kate Halton et al., 2003, “Herpes simplex 2 risk among women in a polygynous setting in rural West Africa,” *AIDS* 17: 97-103.


- **Presentation (technical model or econometric analysis) due**

**Monday November 3**


**Wednesday November 5**


**Monday November 10**


**Wednesday November 12**

- **Agriculture and farm-household economic models**


### Monday November 17


### Research presentations start

### Wednesday November 19


- [13] Industrialization, trade, import-substitution, and exports


Monday November 24


Monday December 3

[14] Success stories and growth models

- Ndulu, et al., Chapter 12


• Dani Rodrik, “What kind of economist are you?”


• Vijaya Ramachandran, 2008, “Power and roads for Africa,” Washington, DC: Center for Global Development

• Term paper final version due

Friday December 12 2:00-5:00 Final Exam
An afterthought: you should be learning the literature as well. In case you haven’t had a course, favorite African authors include:

Ousmane Sembene  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ousmane_Semb%C3%A8ne
(also a great film director  http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0783733/  (Senegal)

Ken Saro-Wiwa (Nigeria)
Ngugi wa Thiong’o (Kenya)
Chinua Achebe (Nigeria)
Hama Tuma  http://www.hamatuma.com/ (Ethiopia)

Also check out:

Chris Abani (Nigeria;  Grace Land  is alternately funny and harrowing)
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria)
Neshani Andreas (Namibia;  The Purple Violet of Oshaantu  is on Googlebooks)
 Mongo Beti (Cameroon)
Chenjerai Hove (Zimbabwe,  Bones  is his most noted work)
Wole Soyinka (Nigeria)
Flora Nwapa (Nigeria)
Tanure Ojaide (Nigeria)
Tsi Tsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe)
Buchi Emecheta (Nigeria)
Nadine Gordimer (South Africa)
Athol Fugard (South Africa)
Alan Paton (South Africa)

But to get a real feel for options, go to the Heinemann African Writers Series site:
  http://www.heinemann.co.uk/Series/Secondary/AfricanWritersSeries
  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Writers_Series

For those who read French:
  http://www.bu.edu/abroad/syllabi/ft_400.pdf