

**HIST32221**

# **AFRICA AND DEVELOPMENT**

## **A Political History of the Social Sciences**



**Course convener:**

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- The module provides a critical history of the concept of ‘development’ and its mobilisation in colonial and postcolonial Africa.
- It combines intellectual history with concepts and perspectives from anthropology, sociology and postcolonial theory.
- It explores how African intellectuals have used the social sciences to analyse their societies, conceptualise their place in the world and imagine alternative political and economic orders.
- Topics discussed include the history of anthropology, demography, African socialism, neo-colonialism, and African perspectives on decoloniality.

**Zoom consultation, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (11:00-12:00)**

<https://zoom.us/j/2049478456>

Meeting ID: 204 947 8456

Passcode: 151871

## Assessment

- Primary source analysis (40% of final mark)
- Final essay (60% of final mark)

### The programme at a glance:

1. **‘Development’** and the construction of ‘Africa’; 2. **Anthropology**, part 1: the science of ‘the other’; 3. Anthropology, part 2: African voices on fieldwork and culture; 4. **Demography**: the politics of counting people; 5. **Historiography**: nation-building and political communities; 6. **Political economy**, part 1: dreams of growth and modernisation; 7. **Pan-Africanism**: breaking down disciplinary barriers; 8. **African socialism**: theory; 9. African socialism: political cultures; 10. Political economy, part 2: Structural adjustment and its discontents; 11. **Beyond development?** Vernacular critiques of capitalism.

### Relevant readings:

- Apter, A. 1999. ‘Africa, Empire, and Anthropology: A Philological Exploration of Anthropology's Heart of Darkness’, *Annual Review of Anthropology*.
- Cooper, F. and R. Packard (eds.). 1997. *International Development and the Social Sciences: Essays on the History and Politics of Knowledge*.
- Decker, C. and McMahon, E. 2021. *The Idea of Development in Africa: A History*.
- Escobar, A. 1995. *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*.
- Falola, T. 2022. *Decolonizing African Knowledge: Autoethnography and African Epistemologies*.
- Ferguson, J. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*.
- Hodge, J.H., G. Hodl and M. Kopf (eds.) 2014. *Developing Africa: Concepts and Practices in Twentieth-Century Colonialism*.
- Lal, P. 2015. *African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania: Between the Village and the World*.
- Maxwell, D. 2016. ‘The Creation of Lubaland: Missionary Science and Christian Literacy in the Making of the Luba Katanga in Belgian Congo’, *Journal of Eastern African Studies*.
- Mayer, A. 2016. *Naija Marxisms: Revolutionary Thought in Nigeria*.
- Mbembe, A. 2021. *Out of the Dark Night: Essays in Decolonization*.
- Mkandawire, T. 2001. ‘Thinking about Developmental States in Africa’, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*.
- Mudimbe, V. Y. 1988. *The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge*.
- Nkrumah, K. 1965. *Neo-colonialism The Last Stage of Imperialism*.
- Reid, R. 2014. ‘Ghosts in the Academy: Historians and Historical Consciousness in the Making of Modern Uganda’, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.
- Serra, G. 2022. ‘Economic Inequality and Political Imagination in Ghana: J.B. Danquah on Land, Poverty and Community’, *Global Intellectual History*.
- Straker, J. 2009. *Youth, Nationalism and the Guinea Revolution*.
- Tilley, H. 2011. *Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge*.
- Uvin, P. 2001. ‘On Counting, Categorizing and Violence in Burundi and Rwanda’. In D.I. Kertzer and D. Arel (eds.) *Census and Identity: The Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Language in National Censuses*.

Possible **dissertation topics** include selected aspects of Sub-Saharan Africa’s political, economic and intellectual history from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present, as well as studies of the history of social knowledge and the social sciences, with particular emphasis on their political implications.