



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**  
**PPOL 702-10 (MODULE)**  
FALL 2006

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**Course Description:** This module will explore some of the research on the key issues of growth and poverty reduction in sub-Saharan Africa. It will examine a variety of empirical findings on these topics to better understand why Africa, and the international agencies tasked to promote development, has had so little success in the post-independence era. The course emphasizes international financial relations and institutions.

**Requirements:** One paper, 12-15 pages, double-spaced, due by November 30, on a topic of your choice. Topics and preliminary bibliographies must be approved prior to beginning work and must be submitted by Nov 1 via e-mail. The paper counts for 60 percent of your grade; the remainder of your grade is based on class presentations and participation.

**Readings:** The required books are Nicolas van de Walle's *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999* (2001) and William Easterly's *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (2001). The remaining required readings are available on the web, as are most of the suggested ones.

### **Class 1: Introduction to African Development: Why is Africa different?**

#### Required:

William Easterly, *The Elusive Quest for Growth* (2001), Ch 1.

Nicolas van de Walle, *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999* (2001), Introduction and Ch 1.

Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to write about Africa," *Granta* (2006),

<http://www.granta.com/extracts/2615>

### **Class 2: Africa's Slow-Growth Puzzle: Why have African economies stagnated?**

#### Required:

Easterly, *The Elusive Quest*, Ch 2 & 3

"What do we know about Economic Growth? Or, why don't we know very much?" by Charles Kenny and David Williams, *World Development*, (2001).

<http://charleskenny.blogspot.com/weblog/files/finpap.pdf>

#### Suggested:

Paul Collier and Jan Gunning, "Explaining African Economic Performance," WPS/97-2.2, Center for the Study of African Economies (1998).

[www.csae.ox.ac.uk/workingpapers/pdfs/9702text.pdf](http://www.csae.ox.ac.uk/workingpapers/pdfs/9702text.pdf)

Pierre Englebert, "Solving the Mystery of the AFRICA Dummy," *World Development*, Vol. 28, No. 10 (2000).

David Bloom and Jeffrey Sachs, "Geography, Demography, and Economic Growth in Africa," *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity* (1998).

### **Class 3: Governance and development: What is the role of the state?**

#### Required:

Van de Walle, *African Economies*, Ch 2-4, 6

Easterly, *The Elusive Quest*, Ch 11-12

*Can Africa Claim the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?*, World Bank, (2000) Ch 2, available on

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

#### Suggested:

Pierre Englebert, "The contemporary African state: neither African nor state," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 18, No 4, 1997.

Daniel Kaufmann, Aart Kraay, and Massimo Mastruzzi, *Governance Matters V: Governance Indicators for 1996–2005*, World Bank (September 15, 2006) available on [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

Richard Jeffries, "The State, Structural Adjustment, and Good Government," *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (1993).

#### **Class 4: The IFIs: What do the IMF and World Bank do?**

##### Required:

Easterly, *The Elusive Quest*, Ch 6

van de Walle, *African Economies*, Ch 5

*Can Africa Claim the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?* World Bank (2000), Executive summary

Glance through any recent “IMF Staff Country Report” for an African country. Try to interpret the jargon: what does the Fund think are the country’s key challenges?

##### Suggested:

Paul Mosley, “How to Confront the World Bank and Get Away with it: A Case Study of Kenya” in Chris Milner and A.J. Rayner (eds.), *Policy Adjustment in Africa*, MacMillan (1992).

Jessica Einhorn, “The World Bank’s Mission Creep,” *Foreign Affairs* (September 2001).

Sebastian Mallaby, “Saving the World Bank,” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2005).

#### **Class 5: The International Aid System: Why is it so broken?**

##### Required:

Nancy Birdsall, Seven Deadly Sins: Reflections on Donor Failings, CGD Working Paper Number 50 (2004), <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2737>

William Easterly, “The Cartel of Good Intentions: Markets vs. Bureaucracy in Foreign Aid,” CGD Working Paper 4 (2002)

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2786>

Nicholas Kristof, “Aid: Can It Work?” *New York Review of Books* (October 5, 2006)

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/19374>

##### Suggested:

Andrew Rogerson, “The International Aid System 2005-2010: Forces For and Against Change,” Overseas Development Institute, ODI Working Paper 235, 2004.

Tim Harford and Michael Klein, “The Market for Aid” and “The Future of Aid”, briefings available: <http://rru.worldbank.org/PublicPolicyJournal>

Jeffrey Sachs and colleagues, “Ending Africa's Poverty Trap,” Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, (2004),

<http://www.earthinstitute.columbia.edu/endingpoverty/documents/BPEA20041.pdf>

#### **Class 6: Debt: How helpful is debt relief for Africa?**

Required:

Easterly, *Elusive Quest*, Ch 7 and his “How Did Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Become Heavily Indebted? Reviewing Two Decades of Debt Relief,” *World Development*, Vol. 30, No. 10, 2002.

<http://www.nyu.edu/fas/institute/dri/Easterly/File/World.pdf>

Sachs, Jeffrey, “Resolving the Debt Crisis of Low-Income Countries,” *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2002.

[http://www.earth.columbia.edu/about/director/pubs/BPEA\\_Sachs1\\_2002.pdf](http://www.earth.columbia.edu/about/director/pubs/BPEA_Sachs1_2002.pdf)

Suggested:

Tim Allen and Diana Weinhold, “Dropping the Debt: Is it such a good idea?” *Journal of International Development*, Vol. 12, No. 6, 2000.

Nicolas Chauvin and Aart Kraay “What Has 100 Billion Dollars Worth of Debt Relief Done for Low-Income Countries?” World Bank, 2005.

[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=818504](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=818504)

**Class 7: Trade and Investment: How can private sector activity reduce poverty?**

Required:

Kym Anderson and Will Martin, “Agricultural Trade Reform and the Doha Development Agenda,” World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 3607, May 2005.

*World Development Report 2005: A Better Investment Climate for Everyone*, World Bank, (2004), executive summary

Suggested:

Oxfam, “Africa and the Doha Round,”

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/issues/trade/bp80\\_africa\\_doha.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/trade/bp80_africa_doha.htm)

Kimberly Elliott, “Looking For the Devil in the Doha Agricultural Negotiations,” CGD Brief, 2005, <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/5349>

Benn Eifert, Alan Gelb and Vijaya Ramachandran, “Business Environment and Comparative Advantage in Africa: Evidence from the Investment Climate Data,” CGD Working Paper 56, <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2732>