

AFRI 598  
Research Seminar in African Studies  
WINTER 2015  
McGill University  
African Studies Program

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:05-2:25 PM  
Sherbrooke 688, Rm 451

Instructor:  
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Desmond Tutu recently wrote,

I have always had hope in humankind. I know what marvellous things people can accomplish. I have also seen what mistakes they can make. Worse, they can be guilty of corruption and wickedness. In my lifetime, Africa has had its share of all of these. Its recent history is a mixed record of both achievement and disappointment. I have no doubt that this is true of every continent as well, which serves to make the point that in the end, we Africans are like everyone else. We are capable of the best and the worst (in Ellis, 2011).

The purpose of this class is to reflect on Tutu's exclamation, exploring some of the 'best' and 'worst' – the marvellous and the mistakes – that characterize Africa's history and contemporary 'place in the world'. We will explore many of the key issues facing the continent, historicizing them and understanding them in political economic context. Stephen Ellis (2011) comprehensive book, *Season of Rains: Africa in the World* will provide a general framework for discussion. Drawing on Ellis's work, each class will draw out several key topics that underlie persisting patterns of politics in Africa.

A few things to keep in mind about the nature/

Research Paper. While such responsibility may seem intimidating for some, you will be well supported through the process, and we will ensure a constructive, supportive environment.

Learning Outcomes:

The primary goal for the class is to further develop understanding and critical engagement with



- i. As mentioned in the Summary, the class is designed around Ellis' book, *Season of Rains*. Readings for each week include, first, a chapter of Ellis' book (listed as "Primary Reading" each week); and, second, readings pertaining to one or two selected key topics (listed under "Key Topics & Readings") that will be investigated more thoroughly.
- ii. In several cases, the reading list is too large and/or some

- In Middleton, J., & In Njogu, K. (2009). Chapter 6: Representations of Africa in the Western Media: Challenges and Opportunities. In Media and identity in Africa. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press for the International African Institute.
  - Video: Rusty Radiator Award <http://www.rustyradiator.com/#home>
- ii. Colonialism & its legacies
- Video (documentary) Nash, M., Julien, I., Salmon, C., Nedjari, A., Ramalho, A., Kellgren, N., Gladstone, P., Arts Council of England. (1996). Frantz Fanon: Black skin, white mask. San Francisco, CA: California Newsreel.
  - Fanon, F., Sartre, P., & Farrington, C. (1965). The wretched of the earth. New York: Grove Press, Inc. READ: Chapter 1: Concerning Violence. p.53; p.95-106

Recommended:

- Nkrumah, K. (1966). Neocolonialism: The last stage of imperialism. New York: International Publishers. READ: Introduction
- Mamdani, M. (1996) Citizen and subject: Contemporary Africa and the legacy of late colonialism. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press. READ: Introduction.
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## Week 4 (Jan 26/28): A World of Light & Shade Part II

### Primary Reading

n/a

### Key Topics & Readings

- i. Dependency, corruption & its allies
  - Chabal, P., & Daloz, J.-P. (1999). Africa works: Disorder as political instrument. London: International African Institute in association with James Currey, Oxford.
    - READ: Ch.8 (ab)use of corruption; Ch.9 The bounties of dependence

### Recommended:

- Bayart, J.F. (March 31, 2000). Africa in the world: a history of extraversion. African Affairs, 99, 395, 217.
  - Ferguson, J. (2006). Global shadows: Africa in the neoliberal world order. Durham [N.C.: Duke University Press. READ: Ch 8 Governing extraction: New Spatializations of Order and Disorder in Neoliberal Africa.
  - Bayart, J.F., Ellis, S., Hibou, B., & International African Institute. (1999). The criminalization of the state in Africa. London: International African Institute in association with J. Currey, Oxford. READ: selections TBD
  - Video (documentary): Stealing Africa OR Congo - Cotton gains
- ii. China at large!
    - Mohan, G., & Power, M. (January 01, 2008). New African Choices? The Politics of Chinese Engagement. Review of African Political Economy, 35, 114, 223-233.
    - Brautigam, D. (2009). The dragon's gift: The real story of China in Africa. Oxford: Oxford University Press. READ: Prologue & "Rogue Donor? Myths and Realities"

### Recommended:

- Gill, B., & Reilly, J. (June 07, 2007). The Tenuous Hold of China Inc. in Africa. The Washington Quarterly, 30, 3, 37-52.
- Large, D. (October 04, 2000). Beyond 'Dragon in the Bush': The Study of China Africa Relations. African Affairs, 100, 26, 45-61.
- Alden, C. (2007) China in Africa. London: Zed Books. READ: selections TBD
- Video: BBC The Chinese are coming! (Also, see Dambisa Moyo's "Schism" TED Talk)

## Week 5 (Feb 2 & 4): How to be a hegemon

### Primary Reading

- Haggmann & Peclard. "Introduction: Negotiating Statehood: Dynamics of Power and Domination in Africa". In *Negotiating Statehood: Dynamics of Power and Domination in Africa*
  - Kasfir, N. (January 01, 1998). Civil society, the state and democracy in Africa. *World & Comparative Politics*, 36, 2, 128-149.
  - Hydén, G., Leslie, M., & Ogundimu, F. F. (2007). *Media and democracy in Africa*. New Brunswick, N.J: Transaction Publishers. READ: Selections TBD
  - Bratton, M., & Van, W. N. (1997). *Democratic experiments in Africa: Regime transitions in comparative perspective*. Cambridge, U.K: Cambridge University Press. READ: 7 The Prospects of Democracy
  - Wasserman, H. (2011). *Popular media, democracy and development in Africa*. London: Routledge. READ: Selections TBD.
  - Barkan, J. D. (January 01, 2002). DEMOCRACY THE MANY FACES OF AFRICA- Democracy Across a Varied Continent. *Harvard International Review*, 2, 2, 22.
- ii. Ethnicity & politics of identity
- Chabal, P., & Daloz, J.P. (1999). *Africa works: Disorder as political instrument*. London: International African Institute in association with James Currey, Oxford. READ: Of Masks and Men: the Question of Identity
  - Hydén, G. (2006). *African politics in comparative perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. READ: Ch.9 Ethnicity & Conflict

Recommended:

- Fearon, J. D., & Laitin, D. D. (October 01, 2000). Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity. *International Organization*, 54, 845-877.

Week 6 (Feb9 & 11): Matters of State

Primary Reading

Ellis, Ch 5: Matters of State

Key Topics & Readings

- i. Limits of Sovereignty & International interventions
- Deng, F. M. (1996). *Sovereignty as responsibility: Conflict management in Africa*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution. READ: Preface.

NOTE: Students will be designated groups according to the following categories, and will be responsible for respective readings and summarizing key issues to the larger class

a. Military & Peacekeeping

- DE, W. A. A. L. A. L. E. X. (January 01, 2009). Mission without end? Peacekeeping in the African political marketplace. *International Affairs*, 85, 1, 99-113.
- Badescu, C., & Bergholm, L. (January 01, 2009). The Responsibility To Protect and the Conflict in Darfur: The Big Lie. *Security Dialogue*, 40, 287-309.

b. International Crises

- Akhavan, P. (January 01, 2001). Beyond Impunity: Can International Criminal Justice Prevent Future Atrocities?. *American Journal of International Law*, 36, 7-
- Stephen A. Lomony. Blog Post: "Is the International Criminal Court really picking on Africa?" <http://africanarguments.org/2013/04/16/the-international-criminal>



## Week 8 (Feb 24 & 26): Money & Land Part II

### Primary Reading

n/a

### Key Topics & Readings

- i. Politics of neoliberal conservation & displacement
  - Video: Place without People
  - Büscher, B., & Fletcher, R. (2014). Accumulation by Conservation. *New Political Economy*, (ahead-of-print), 1-26.
  - Arsel, M., & Büscher, B. (January 01, 2012). Nature™ Inc.: Changes and Continuities in Neoliberal Conservation and Market-based Environmental Policy. *Development and Change*, 43, 1, 53-78.

### Recommended:

- Igoe, J., & Brockington, D. (January 01, 2007). Neoliberal Conservation: A Brief Introduction. *Conservation and Society*, 5, 4, 43-49.
- Azarya, V. (November 01, 2004). Globalization and International Tourism in Developing Countries: Marginality as a Commercial Commodity. *Current Sociology*, 52, 6, 949-967.
- Other readings TBD, including selections from
  - Dowie, M. (2009). *Conservation refugees: The hundred-year conflict between global conservation and native peoples*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.
  - Honey, M. (1999). *Ecotourism and sustainable development: Who owns paradise?*. Washington, D.C: Island Press.
  - Nelson, F. (2010). *Community rights, conservation and contested land: The politics of natural resource governance in Africa*. London: Earthscan.
  - Brockington, D., Duffy, R., & Igoe, J. (2008). *Nature unbound: Conservation, capitalism and the future of protected areas*. London: Earthscan.
- ii. 'Suffering for territory', indigeneity, & resistance
  - Hodgson, D. L. (2011). *Being Maasai, becoming indigenous: Postcolonial politics in a neoliberal world*. Bloomington, Indiana University Press. Selections TBD.
  - Nelson, F. (2010). *Community rights, conservation and contested land: The politics of natural resource governance in Africa*. London: Earthscan. READING 14 Democratizing natural resource governance: Searching for institutional change

### Recommended:

- Moore, D. S. (2005). *Suffering for territory: Race, place, and power in Zimbabwe*. Durham: Duke University Press. READING Introduction: Situated Struggles
- Galaty, J. (2013). "Land Grabbing in the East African Rangelands". Scoones, I., Catley, A., & Lind, J. (2013) *Pastoralism and development in Africa: Dynamic change at the margins*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

## Week 9 (March 2 & 4)

NO CLASSES – READING BREAK!!

## Week 10-13 (March 9 to April 1): Student-identified research topics & presentations

## Key Topics & Readings

TO BE DETERMINED BY STUDENTS.

Note: each student must identify at least 2 primary readings related to their topic, which must be circulated to everyone at least one week prior to the presentation date. These readings will help foster/facilitate critical discussion following your presentation.

## Week 14 (April 6 & 8): Twenty-first Century Development

### Primary Reading

Ellis, Chapter 6: Twenty-first Century Development

### Key Topics & Readings

#### i. Postdevelopment & social movements

NOTE: this class may include a guest presentation from a Africa Diaspora researcher/activist who will share about his experience with international alliances and social movements in Africa.

- Matthews, S. (March 01, 2004). Postdevelopment theory and the question of alternatives: a view from Africa. *Third World Quarterly*, 25, 2, 373-384.
- Ellis, S., & Kessel, I. (2009). *Movers and shakers: Social movements in Africa*. Brill.  
READ: selections TBDEscobar, A. (1992). "Imagining a postdevelopment era? Critical Thought, Development and Social Movements". *Social Text*, 32, 2056.

#### Recommended:

- Ziai, A. (2007). *Exploring postdevelopment: Theory and practice, problems and perspectives*. London: Routledge. READINGS: selections TBD.
- ii. 'Turbulent terrains': complexity, resistance, and new hope
  - Case Studies TBD
  - Ngoitiko et al. "Pastoral Activists: Negotiating power imbalances in the Tanzanian Serengeti". In Nelson, F. (2010). *Community rights, conservation and contested land: The politics of natural resource governance in Africa*. London: Earthscan.

\*\*\* FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 11:59PM ON MONDAY , APRIL 13th \*\*\*