

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

KENYA SEMESTER PROGRAM

COURSE OUTLINE

GOV 326: Critical Issues in Socio-Economic Development in Kenya

Joshua M Kivuva, Ph.D.

**Department of Political Science and Public Administration,
University of Nairobi**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the critical issues that underpin Kenya's socio-political and economic development. The course looks at the nature, structure and processes of governance and how the same have impacted on Kenya's development. Specifically, the course seeks to enable the student understand Kenya's current social-economic and political developments from a historical perspective.

Owing to the recent post-election violence in the country, the course will premise Kenya's development discourses around the so called 'historical injustices' that were at the root of the violence. The course, for example, will address Agenda 4 items in the National Accord, and discuss these 'historical injustices' behind the post-election violence. For this reason the student is encouraged to keep abreast with the current social political and economic development discourses in the country.

The course looks at the concept of development from a variety of broad perspectives. The areas explored in the course include the constitutional, electoral politics, civil society, political and economic mismanagement, corruption; the role of women, institutional reforms, democratization, and human rights and how they have influenced development.

General Approach:

This is an interactive class and hence the full participation of each student is expected. We will take a student centered approach and hence student's personal opinions and views are as important as any other course reading. Students are particularly encouraged to voice their views and expressions on the various weekly discussions freely. It is nevertheless expected that each student will read the week's readings to facilitate a more meaningful discussion. Class discussions will form a major element of each class session. Depending on the size of the class/ student enrolled, we will divide the class into groups and discussions/assignments will be done in these groups.

Each week we will meet for 4.5 hours divided into two blocks/sessions of 3 hours and 1.5 hours. Ideally, we will have formal lectures during the 3 hour block and then have

class/group discussions during the other 1.5 hour session. However, we will be flexible enough to meet the needs of the majority of the students.

Class discussions and group work (if any) will be based on pre-identified and agreed upon topics. Students will be allowed to choose topics of their choice. The grading of this section will follow the same rubrics identified in the grading section below.

Learning Objectives

The course has three broad objectives:

1. To familiarize the student with Kenya's socio-economic and political formation through an in-depth study of selected critical issues in her political, economic and social development. The purpose is to use Kenya's historical development to explain the current development problems.
2. To supplement the students' understanding of Kenya through their experience and observation while in the country.
3. To prepare the student for future comprehensive study and interest in African studies.

To simplify the content, the course is divided into five main sections

- i. The pre- and colonial Kenya
- ii. Nationalism and the fight for independence
- iii. The Kenyatta regime (Kenyatta's economic policy)
- iv. Moi's two regimes (the pre and post multiparty periods)
- v. The Kibaki regime (including the post 2007 election violence).

In each one of these sections we will emphasize on an important aspect of the period. In the weekly breakdown (below), a more detailed analysis of what is covered is provided to the students.

Course Requirements

There will be three very short assignments and one term essay/group work (depending on the size of the class) for the course. The details for both the term essay and the three assignments will be given in class separately. There will be no end of term exam. The three short assignments will account for fifty percent of the course marks while the term essay (and its presentation, depending on the class size) will account for the other 50%. The essays/group work will be graded based on:

1. Content, in-depth understanding and the articulation of the relevant issues
2. How well the presentation is made (clarity, audibility etc)
3. If it is a group presentation, the extent to which each member of the group participated.

Required Books:

There is not a required book for this class. However, the following books can provide the student with a fairly good understanding of the course content. Since many of these books (and other similar ones) are available in area libraries it is not advisable to buy them.

1. Ahluwalia D.P. 1996. *Post-Colonialism and the Politics of Kenya*, New York, Nova Science Publications.
2. Kyle K., (1999). *The Politics of the Independence of Kenya*, New York, Saint Martins Press Inc.
3. Ogot B. A. & Ochieng W. R. (eds.) 1995. *Decolonization and Independence in Kenya: 1940-1993*. EAPH, Nairobi.
4. Leys, C. (1975). *Underdevelopment in Kenya: The Political Economy of Neo-Colonialism*, London: Heinemann.
5. Barkan J. (ed.) 1994. *Beyond Capitalism vs. Socialism in Kenya and Tanzania*, Educational Publishers, Nairobi.
6. Oyugi W. Wanyande P, & Odhiambi-Mbai, (eds.), 2003. *The Politics of Transition in Kenya: From KANU to NARC*. Heinrich Boll Foundation, Nairobi

Breakdown of Lectures

Week 1: Introduction and Overview of the Course

During the first week we will have a broad overview of the course starting with the struggle for independence; the Mau Mau rebellion and its aftermath, post Mau Mau district based parties, the role of Kenyatta, (and other nationalist leaders such as Mboya, Ngala, Odinga, Muliro, Moi); The Lancaster House Conferences; pre-independence elections, independence and the institutions of government, the Majimbo constitution, Kenyatta's struggles to control the KANU; Dissidents within KANU, and the Kenyatta Succession. We will also address the post independence Development Agenda; Kenya's ideology of development, the role of MNCs and Foreign capital, African Socialism, Capitalism and Economic Development, the role of NGOs and Civil Society. The last part of the week will introduce students to the politics of democratization in Kenya and end with the 2007 post-election violence.

Week 2: The Kenyan State, Ideology and the politics of Economic Development

This section will cover Kenyatta's economic policy at independence; Sessional paper no. 10 on African Socialism and its application to planning in Kenya; the era of Reform; Kenyatta's capitalism, his policies on and relations with foreign capital; capitalism vs. socialism debate and Kenya People's Union Alternative to KANU's capitalism. Finally we will look at the famous Kenyan debates on local capital.

Reading

1. Colin Leys. 1976. "The Overdeveloped Post Colonial State: A Re-evaluation"
2. Rafael Kaplinsky, 1980. Capitalist Accumulation in the Periphery: the Kenyan Case Re-examined"
3. Beckman, B, "Imperialism and Capitalist Transformation: Critique of a Kenyan Debate"

Week 3: Policy making and Economic Development.

This week will discuss the objectives of Kenya's policy formulation, its implementation and results. Kenya's public policy making will be divided into three phases:

Phase 1: 1963-69 (or the Kenyatta era)

Phase 2: 1970-91 (the Single-Party Era)

Phase 3: 1991-Present (the Multi-Party Era). This section will interrogate Kibaki's development policy which seems geared towards steering Kenya towards the non-traditional allies such as China, Libya and Iran.

Reading

1. Ochieng W. "Structural and Political Changes" in Ochieng and Ogot Ch. 4
2. Maxon R. and Ndege P. "The Economics of Structural Adjustments", in ibid. Ch. 6
3. Ogot BA. "The Politics of Populism" in Ibid Ch. 7

Week 4: The Role of Civil Society and NGOs in Kenya's Development

Here we will interrogate the role of the civil society in Kenya's development particularly the role of the civil society in Kenya's Second Liberation and the democratization process of the 1990s. This section will interrogate the role of women groups in Kenya's development, particularly in the rural areas.

Week 5: Kenya's Regional Policy and Economic development

Here we will look at the role of regional economic organizations to Kenya's development. We will look at Kenya's policy/national interest within the East African Region as well as her relations with Uganda, Kenya's most important trading partner.

Week 6: Post 2007 Election Violence and its Impact on Kenya's Development.

This section addresses issues related to the 2007 post election violence. They include the National Accord that ended the violence and the 4 Agenda Items that had to be addressed if the country was to avoid a repeat of the violence in 2012. We familiarize ourselves with the 4 Agenda items in the National Accord and interrogate the slow pace/the politics of their implementation to date.

Week 7: Revision and Presentations of Projects/group work and Term Essays