

Area Study 3: African Studies

The class is focused on explaining and understanding the particular dynamics of African societies and polities, in a comparative context. The participants are invited to learn about the main factors influencing African politics, as well as their impact on the political and economic development of African societies.

A significant emphasis is placed on the history and the impact of colonialism, as well as the influence that Cold War and post-colonial dynamics have played in shaping the development of African societies and economies. The class explores the factors that influenced political instability and conflict, framing them in various theoretical frameworks. Moreover, the normative and moral elements present in the major debates on the development of African societies is not ignored. The course also emphasizes the recent political developments and tries to highlight the material and ideal factors underscoring African development in the 21st century.