

AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Spring 2022

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Sections: ECS4110 (3911); AFS4905 (1A26)
Credits: 4
Times/room: T and R P 5-6, MAT 0014
Office hours: T 3-4 PM and F 2-3 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Within today's seemingly global world, Africa is considered the least 'integrated' continent, due to its low shares in world trade and foreign direct investment, its poor transport and insufficient infrastructures, and its political and strategic marginalization. Yet, the African continent and people are also highly global in many significant economic dimensions, through internet connectivity, migration and remittances, aid and trade relationships, and in virtue of the lucrative investment opportunities provided to outsiders in the natural resource and other sectors.

This course provides an opportunity to carefully examine the African continent position globally, and pay attention to the economic and financial flows taking place in and out of Africa. We will examine the challenges posed by global economic trends and by a context of unequal power relationships among world nations, but also the options available to African nations to improve their position and get a 'fair and better deal'.

The course aims to equip students with the analytical and factual instruments to think critically of the various implications of *different modes of globalization*, rather than merely glorifying or demonizing global processes. The use of several case studies will help students place the broad issues into context.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Discuss both concepts and examples related to how African countries are impacted by, and in turn influence, patterns of global trade, investment, migration, aid and debt;
- Interpret and use basic data on African economies through tables and graphs;
- Examine competently and in depth one chosen context of African interaction with the global system;
- Work successfully on a group project and competently deliver an oral presentation.

PREREQUISITES

ECO 2013 and ECO 2023 (or equivalent for non Economics majors). This course is not normally suggested for first year students. Most students attending this course will be in their junior or senior year. If unsure as to whether this course is appropriate for you, please consult the instructor.

COURSE MATERIAL

- There is no textbook for this course. Course readings consist of journal articles, book chapters, and policy reports, which are available on the Canvas course site in E-Learning or through websites.
- The powerpoint files used in support of weekly lectures are posted few minutes before class, and are also part of the required course material.
- Please try to keep update with international and African affairs: useful internet sources are www.bbc.co.uk/africa and www.allafrica.com. *The Economist* also covers regularly African affairs.

COVID-RELATED POLICY:

This class is 100% face-to-face, however, given the high transmission rates of COVID viruses and variants, and in line with UF guidelines, class attendance is allowed remotely via Zoom. Students who test positive for COVID or other viruses, who have flu like symptoms or are otherwise sick should notify me by email at least 4 hours before class (or asap), specifying if they will join via Zoom. A written notification is required for each single class that is joined via Zoom. Remote class attendance is only allowed for the above circumstances and not for other reasons. Please check COVID-related policy under Module in Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. *Class attendance (10%):*

Attendance is essential and you are required to be in class (or on Zoom) on time. Attendance is taken at the start of each class: the Canvas system takes points off for both missed classes and late arrivals. Absence from class, as well as late arrival, can be justified with appropriate written documentation (see below attendance policy). If you missed a class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered – therefore make sure you have the contact details of at least one other student in the class.

I require utmost attention and respect in class: use of cell phones, email, texting and similar are simply NOT TOLERATED. You can use your electronic devices only to take notes: if you are caught using it for other reasons during classes, you will be given one warning, after which your grade will be lowered. Besides being attentive in class and taking notes, you should also contribute to class activities and discussions, and be ready to answer to questions about the day's reading.

2. *Two class tests (30% each, for a total of 60% of the final score)*

Class tests will consist of both short questions (to test breadth of knowledge) and essay or problem type of questions (to test depth of knowledge). Each test will cover approximately one half of the class material. Test dates are in the time schedule below. More details will be given in due time.

3. *Weekly postings (10 for 10% total)*

Every week (with few exceptions), there will be one question on the discussion board based on the weekly readings. Students are to respond to 10 of the questions following instructions. If more than 10 postings, only the best 10 will be graded. Weekly postings allow students to engage with the class material on a regular basis and think about some of the topics ahead of coming to class.

4. *Group project and presentation (20%)*

Groups (of about 4 students) will select a global issue and a geographical context to do research on. Each group will prepare a powerpoint or prezi and will give a presentation to the class. The purpose of these is to identify and work on interesting case studies that can illuminate the class material; and to learn how to work successfully in groups. Guidance on topics, expectations, and dates will be provided.

The final grade is determined according to the table:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Tot %	94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

Note: A grade of C– is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>; <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

UF POLICIES

Attendance: Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, & the 12-day rule. More info about attendance and make-up policies can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Academic Honesty: The University places a high premium on academic honesty. Accordingly, severe penalties are imposed for plagiarism and other instances of deception or fraud. The university's policies regarding intellectual honesty are detailed in the Student Honor Code (see <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/4041.pdf>).

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows: A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

- a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
- b. Submitting a document or assignment, which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code.

Important Tip: Do not copy text verbatim from any source (including your own previous work) unless you show the text as a quote with complete attribution.

If a student plagiarizes all or any part of any assignment, University policy suggests that instructors should impose a course grade penalty and report any incident of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. You should know that your work might be tested for its "originality" against a wide variety of databases by anti-plagiarism guardian sites to which the University subscribes, and negative reports from such sites constitute proof of plagiarism.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Students with disability: students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> for more information.

Counseling & Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Do you like courses with African content and you want to know more? The UF Center for African Studies is one of the very best in the US and provides many opportunities to undergraduates, such as:

- Dozens of courses each semester covering Africa from all disciplinary perspectives. This course counts for a Minor in African Studies, which is easy to add. Contact CAS Associate director Dr. Todd Leedy (427 Grinter; tleedy@africa.ufl.edu).
- Research opportunities under the guidance of experienced Faculty, including as part of the University Scholar Program (<http://www.scholars.ufl.edu/home.aspx>).
- Travel funds to attend conferences, study or do research in Africa; contact CAS Director, Dr. Brenda Chalfin (bchalfin@ufl.edu) if you want to apply for any specific Africa-related conference or project.

CLASS TIME SCHEDULE: The Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule during the semester.

1. Globalization: multiple dimensions, players, and outcomes

- *Jan 6:* Course overview and introduction
- *Jan 11:* Africa in a Globalized world
- *Jan 13:* Global players and their policies
- *Jan 18:* Unequal grounds: winners and losers in globalization
- *Jan 20:* Effects of world crises on African economies
- *Jan 25:* New takes on globalization
 - *Groups and topics selection for group project (in class)*

2. International trade

- *Jan 27:* Trade theories revisited
- *Feb 1st:* How African countries have used trade
- *Feb 3:* Is trade liberalization good or bad for Africa?

3. International Agricultural Markets and Food Supply

- *Feb 8:* Subsidies to agriculture: the good, the bad and the ugly
- *Feb 10:* Is trade liberalization good or bad for Africa's food security?
- *Feb 15:* Moving from traditional crops to high-value agricultural products
- *Feb 17:* Is Fair trade a valid option?
- **Feb 22: Class Test 1**

4. Foreign Direct Investment: mining, natural resources and manufacturing

- *Feb 24:* FDIs: global trends and African patterns
- *Mar 1st:* FDIs from within Africa: why are they so low?
- *Mar 3rd:* FDIs and AGOA
- **MARCH 5-13: SPRING BREAK**
- *Mar 15:* Investments from emerging countries, especially China

5. International migration and remittances

- *Mar 17:* Global and African trends in migration
- *Mar 22:* Does migration help development?
- *Mar 24:* The economic role of remittances
- *Mar 29:* Brain drain and brain gain

6. International Aid and Debt

- *Mar 31:* Major donors and the aid debate
- *Apr 5:* Scrutinizing international aid systems

- *Apr 7*: The issue of international debt
- *Apr 12*: Concluding reflections on aid and debt
- *Apr 14*: Recap of the material and course conclusions
- ***Apr 19*: Class Test 2**