

PO2D1-30 Politics in Eastern Africa

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Samuel Anim

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module offers historical, theoretical and comparative perspectives on the politics of eastern Africa (in particular Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda with some reference to other countries in the region such as Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan). The course addresses some of the 'big questions' regarding the nature of the post-colonial state in the region, the relationship between state and society, the political and socio-economic impact of international aid/interventions, and the causes and level of democratisation. Students will acquire an overview of key themes, but also be able to analyse debates with respect to individual country case studies.

NB: A number of important topics – such as the Rwandan genocide, civil war, etc. – are not covered to minimise overlap with PO390: Violence and Reconciliation in Eastern Africa.

Module aims

To provide students with theoretical, empirical, and comparative perspectives on politics in Eastern Africa as an entry point for understanding the continent more broadly.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

First Term

Week 1: Writing and Researching About Africa

Week 2: The Colonial State

Week 3: Decolonisation and Nationalist Histories

Week 4: Neopatrimonialism and the Post-Colonial State

Week 5: Structural Adjustments and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: Democratisation in East Africa

Week 8: Hybrid Regimes - the case of Rwanda

Week 9: Hybrid Regimes - the case of Kenya

Week 10: Hybrid regimes - the case of Uganda

Second Term

Week 11: Gender Quotas

Week 12: Judges and the Judiciary

Week 13: Civil Society and Political Resistance

Week 14: Social Media and the Public Sphere

Week 15: Ethnicity and Politics

Week 16: Reading Week

Week 17: Religion and Neo-Pentecostalism

Week 18: Climate Change and Energy Politics

Week 19: China in East Africa

Week 20: The War on Terror

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand and apply different theories and concepts to the East African context.
- Develop reading comprehension through a rigorous and critical engagement with core texts.
- Learn to develop arguments using a range of sources, including secondary literature, newspaper articles, and government and non-government reports.
- Develop academic writing skills through the preparation of summative assessments.
- Develop an ability to write analytically for a non-academic audience through the writing of an opinion piece or blog.
- Develop group working and debating skills through seminar discussions.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

Develop an understanding of East African history and politics.

Be able to apply different theories to the East African context.
Be able to compare within and across countries.
Be able to work with peers in seminars.
Be able to develop an argument and to present in academic and non-academic writing.

Transferable skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following key skills:

Reading comprehension.
Synthesis of different materials
Critical analysis
Oral presentation
Develop your group working skills through seminar discussions
Academic writing
Writing for a non-academic audience

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	264 hours (88%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

TBC

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
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Assessment component

To be selected from list or negotiated. 2500 word essay relating to term 1 content.	40%		Yes (extension)
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Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

To be selected from list or negotiated. 3000 word essay relating to term 2 content.	50%		Yes (extension)
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Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

To be selected from list and students to also provide a headline. A 700 word opinion piece on a contemporary issue for a non-specialist/general audience.	10%		Yes (extension)
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Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Students will gain written feedback on their formative essay, and assessed work, and will be able to discuss this with the module leader during advice and feedback hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics
- Year 2 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 2 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 2 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 2 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 2 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics