

SYLLABUS

Contemporary Africa

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Title	Contemporary Africa
Credit	3 ECTS
Lecturer	Morten Bøås (PhD), Research Professor, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
Language	English
Classroom work	academic hours
Independent work	academic hours
Mode of examination	essay
Annotation	<p>Africa is currently standing at a crossroads. Relatively high African growth rates in combination with the increased institutional strength, credibility and legitimacy of the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States have led to greater confidence in Africa's ability to deal with its challenges. However, the continent is also confronted with significant security challenges that have severe ramifications across several countries and regions. In particular, the Sahel region has become the new epicentre of conflict in Africa, and the outcome of the conflict is still far from certain: a decisive military victory is unlikely in this desert and mountainous region. This course will therefore not only offer a state-of-the art based understanding of African politics, but will also analyse trends, scenarios and dynamics in contemporary Africa of 2019, describing and identifying issues and hotspots by focusing on three interlinked regional scenarios: West Africa and the Sahel; Central Africa; and Southern Africa.</p>

LIST OF Lectures

1) Understanding African politics

Ch. 2, 3 and 4, Englebert & Dunn (2013)

Ch. 2 Bøås and Dunn (2007); Ch. 2 (Bøås and Dunn (2013), Bøås and Dunn 2017, ch.1

2) West-Africa and the Sahel

Bøås (2005, 2015); Bøås and Torheim (2013); Ch. 3 and 6 Bøås and Dunn (2013)

3) Central Africa

Bøås (2008); Ch. 5 Bøås and Dunn (2013); Autuserre (2012)

4) Southern Africa & Summing-up

Bøås (with) Hentz 2013)

Literature

Severine Autuserre, 'Dangerous tales – dominant narratives on the Congo and their unintended consequences', *African Affairs*, vol. 111, no. 443, pp. 202-222, 2012.

Morten Bøås, 'The Liberian civil war: new war/old war?', *Global Society*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2005, pp. 73-88.

Morten Bøås, 'Just another day - the North Kivu security predicament after the 2006 Congolese elections', *African Security*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 53-68, 2008.

Morten Bøås, 'Crime, coping and resistance in the Mali-Sahel periphery', *African Security*, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 299-319, 2015.

Morten Bøås and Kevin C. Dunn (eds) *African Guerrillas: Raging Against the Machine*, Lynne Rienner: Boulder, 2007.

Morten Bøås and Kevin C. Dunn, *Politics of Origin in Africa: Autochthony, Citizenship and Conflict*, Zed Books: London, 2013.

Morten Bøås and Kevin C. Dunn (eds) (2017) *Africa's Insurgents: Navigating an Evolving Landscape*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner (vii + 285 pages).

Morten Bøås and Liv Elin Torheim, 'The trouble in Mali – corruption, collusion, resistance', *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 34, no. 7, pp. 1279-1292, 2013.

Morten Bøås with James J. Hentz, *African Security in 2013: a Year of Disequilibrium?* (Noref Report, April 2013).

Pierre Englebort and Kevin C. Dunn, *Inside African Politics*, Lynne Rienner: Boulder, 2013.

Information about easily accessible websites with relevant material that can be downloaded for free will be given throughout the lectures