CHINA AND INDIA IN AFRICA
AFS 3317

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African & African Diaspora Studies

The relations of China and India with continental Africa have recently garnered analytic attention in the 21st century. This is reflected in the media’s characterization of China and India’s respective engagements with the continent as a “new scramble for Africa” reminiscent of the West’s colonial engagement with Africa. The linkage of these two countries with Africa is however not new. Archeological evidence of Sino-African trade dating back to the Song, Ming and Qing Dynasties are proof of a history that hasn’t been fully studied. In addition, China, under Mao Zedong, also played a central role in decolonization and early ideological influences in sub-Saharan Africa’s post-colonial era. Furthermore, the Indian diaspora in Africa which is among the largest in the world is a direct result of indentured servitude during colonialism in settler colonies such as South Africa. As the economies and global influence of these two countries have increased over the past couple of decades, so has there been a revival of their relations with Africa. This course will provide a balanced and nuanced understanding of the historic and contemporary dynamics of the China-in Africa and India-in Africa stories.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this course students will be able to:
- Recall key events in the historical relationship between Africa and China and India;
- Analyze the competing interpretations of these relationships within the dominant liberal discourse;
- Critically evaluate the notion of neo-colonialism within the context of China and India’s respective relations with sub-Saharan Africa;
- Demonstrate an understanding of how issues of development, culture and human rights are affected by the influence of China and India;
- Demonstrate an expansion of understanding of African contemporary issues;
- Feel more engaged with African concerns as they relate to China and India’s role.

GLOBAL LEARNING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this course:
- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how issues of economy, development, culture and human rights in Africa are affected by the influence of China and India (global awareness).
- Students will be able to analyze from various theoretical perspectives and contexts, and within local, global, international and intercultural levels of analysis, the relations between Africa and China and India (global perspective).
- Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to apply knowledge gained from the class in real life problem solving of local, global, international and intercultural issues pertaining to China and India’s relations with Africa (global engagement),

This syllabus cannot be copied without the instructor’s express consent.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation (10%)
Participation is a crucial part of this course. Your thoughts, ideas, and critiques help to animate the learning process within and outside the classroom. Questions you may raise or ideas you have about given topics will challenge us all to think actively and critically.

Reading: A strong classroom discussion is based on the careful reading of the assigned texts for the session. Taking brief, scholarly notes on readings is highly recommended and encouraged. Students must reflect on the set of readings, thinking about connections between author’s arguments, points of convergence or difference etc.

Listening: Students must be able to re-state classmates’ contributions in order to recognize and accept the reformulation of their ideas. Listening allows students to build on or challenge other’s ideas respectfully within the flow of ideas under discussion.

Speaking: Students must address their remarks to the class and not solely to the instructor. Students should be wary of how often their contributions to discussions and how these add to the tone of the class.

Reflecting: During and after class, students are expected to reflect on how their ideas have been challenged and/or confirmed by classmates, readings, videos, or the instructor.

Bring the key texts: under consideration for the session(s) to class.

Video Documentary Review (25%)
Students are required to write a review on the two videos listed below. Both videos are available on the web assisted platform of this course via blackboard. Each review should be two pages long (double spaced, font 12 Times New Roman) and will be a synopsis of the video. The review’s analysis should apply concepts learnt in class and should reflect their relevance to course objectives.

Videos (Subject to change)
When China Met Africa
Freedom Now: Colonial Rule Is Overthrown in India and Africa

Research Assignment (20%)
An assignment will be administered to the students where they will be asked to analyze the theoretical context of historical and contemporary engagements between China and India in comparison with the dominant theories of international engagements and relations.

Exam (20%)
A take-home exam will be given. You will be given one week to respond to a question or questions (4-5 double-spaced, typed pages), documenting your answers with references to appropriate readings and other class materials. No late exam will be accepted, but for exceptional medical or emergency circumstances that can be clearly documented to the Professor in writing.

Research Paper (25%)
Students will write an 8-10 page paper on an issue of their choice pertaining to the relations between China and Africa or India and Africa. The paper should focus on a particular topic, theoretical question, or a specific country of interest to the student. Students will turn in a one
page proposal, including a list of five scholarly sources (not including class sources) that they intend to examine in order to write their paper. In addition to the five outside sources, students will be required to integrate insights from at least 3 other class sources when writing their paper. Students will all give a short class presentation during one of the last two class sessions. Attendance of the last two class sessions is mandatory.

**COURSE READINGS**

Required Readings are indicated for each week of class.

**Required Textbooks**


Mawdsley, Emma and McCann, Gerard (2011) India in Africa: Changing Geographies of Power, Pambazuka Press, cape Town, Dakar, Nairobi and Oxford


**SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND CLASSES**

**Week 1: Introduction**


**Week 2: Pre-Colonial Engagement – Trade and Cultural Exchange during Pre-colonial times.**

The Indian Ocean Slave Trade. Oriental Influences in Language and Culture.

Mazrui, Ali “Africa and Other Civilizations” [in Harbeson and Rothschild “Africa in World Politics”]

**Week 3: Colonial Engagement – China and India in Africa during the Colonial Period.**


**Week 4: China and India’s Influence in Independence and Nationalist Movements**


Crawley, Aidan M. (1965) “Communism and African Independence” African Affairs, Vol. 64,
Week 5: China’s Development Cooperation in Africa: Historical and Cultural Perspectives  

Cyril Obi “African oil in the energy security calculations of China and India

Week 7: South – South cooperation: The Role of China and India in Africa. The rhetoric and rituals of South-South development.

Week 8: China and India’s Security Relationships with Africa. China and India’s Military Engagements in Africa
Alex Vines “India’s Security Concerns in the Western Indian Ocean” [in Mawdsley, Emma and McCann, Gerard (2011) India in Africa: Changing Geographies of Power, Pambazuka Press, Cape Town, Dakar, Nairobi and Oxford]

Week 9: Human Rights in Africa. The Role of China and India

Week 10: Contemporary Influences in Culture and Language – Bollywood, Kung Fu cinema, Diet, Fashion and Consumerism.

Week 11: Chinese and Indian Diasporas in Africa
Jorgen Carling and Heidi Ostbo Haugen “Mixed Facts of a Popular Minority: Chinese migrants in Cape Verde.” [In Alden, Chris, Large, Daniel and Soares de Oliveira, Ricardo (eds) (2008)]

Week 12: Race Relations: China, India and Africa

Week 13: Conclusion, Summary and Course Review