

# **African Political Economy**

## **Course Outline for 2019**

### **AXL 3200F**

**Course Convenor: Dr June Bam-Hutchison**

**Lecturers: Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza & Dr June Bam-Hutchison**

**Times: Wednesday 2pm – 3pm**

**Fridays 11am – 12pm**

**Venue: Hoerikwaggo 6A**

*What is the course about?*

This third year level course aims to introduce students to critical debates in the political economy of Africa, with specific reference to Sub-Saharan Africa. It focuses on a particular debate that can be traced to Giovanni Arrighi's critique of the classical model as articulated by Arthur Lewis. The debate was taken a step further by a group of white South Africans, who had received their training in Britain and Europe. They developed a strongly Marxist theory under the theme of "articulation of modes of production". There was also a group of African and Latin American scholars that got involved in the debate, with a focus on the rest of the global South.

At the heart of these debates was Archie Mafeje. In the early 1980s, he embarked on a thoroughgoing critique of the South African Marxist scholars. Mafeje later extended his critique to African and Latin American scholars with Marxist leanings. Not only did he subject this scholarship to a searching critique, he also explored alternative ways of theorization that would take into account the material conditions of Africa.

Students will engage with these debates, paying particular attention to a critical examination of Mafeje's contribution.

*What are the learning outcomes for students?*

- a. Students will be exposed to critical debates concerning the political economy of Africa. They will get a clear understanding of Arthur Lewis' classical model of development and Giovanni Arrighi's critique of this model.
- b. Students will be exposed to the contribution of South African scholars and African scholar (Samir Amin) to this debate and be able to understand and analyze the "articulation of modes of production" position.
- c. Students will be exposed to one of the foremost African thinkers, Archie Mafeje, whose work remains hidden in South African scholarship. They will be expected to understand and analyze Mafeje's work in the context of contemporary South Africa, and be able to apply his theories to current debates.
- d. Students will acquire a critical perspective on Eurocentrism in the present curriculum and obtain the necessary skills to interrogate curricula across educational institutions.
- e. Students will gain a solid grasp of Afrocentric approaches to knowledge, and begin to formulate such approaches themselves.

*Assessment*

Coursework: two extended essays (3000 words each, 20% each); tutorial assignments (10%)  
Exam Essay: 50%

*Lectures & Tutorials*

2 lectures per week

1 combined tutorial & workshop session per week

**Contd./ overleaf**

### **Tutorials & Lab Sessions:**

Attendance at all lectures, tutorials and workshops is compulsory. Apologies for missed sessions will be accepted only when accompanied by a doctor's note. All tutorial assignments will be available on Vula.

### **Course Readings:**

All the required readings for the course are available on Vula (see lecture programme below). Weekly readings must be done in advance of lectures and tutorials. Additional readings are not provided, but you are encouraged to read them.

**Please Note:** It is the policy of Centre for African Studies not to grant extensions on due dates other than in the case of medical emergencies or on compassionate grounds. A doctor's note is required in the case of medical emergencies. Late work will be penalised by deducting 10% for each day overdue.

#### **Tutorials & Lab Schedule (Dr June Bam-Hutchison)**

	<b><u>Theme</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
<b><u>Lab 1</u></b>	<b>AFROCENTRIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION CONCEPTS, MODELS &amp; THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS OF ANALYSIS (EPISTEMOLOGIES)</b>	<b><u>18 Feb</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 1 &amp; Lab 2</u></b>	<b>AFROCENTRIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION CONCEPTS, MODELS &amp; THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS OF ANALYSIS (EPISTEMOLOGIES)</b>	<b><u>25 Feb – 28 Feb</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 2 &amp; Lab 3</u></b>	<b>HISTORICISING EUROCENTRIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION CONCEPTS, MODELS &amp; THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS OF ANALYSIS</b>	<b><u>4-8 March</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 3 &amp; Lab 4</u></b>	<b>'ARTICULATION OF MODES OF PRODUCTION' THEORY</b>	<b><u>11-15 March</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 4 &amp; Lab 5</u></b>	<b>'MODE OF PRODUCTION' DEBATES</b>	<b><u>18-22 March</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 5 &amp; Lab 6</u></b>	<b>ARTICULATION OF MODES OF PRODUCTION &amp; AFRICENTRIC DEBATES</b>	<b><u>25-29 March</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 6 &amp; Lab 7</u></b>	<b>TROUBLING 'TRIBE' &amp; 'TRIBALISM'</b>	<b><u>1-5 April</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 7 &amp; Lab 8</u></b>	<b>THE LAND &amp; AGRARIAN QUESTION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</b>	<b><u>8-12 April</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 8 &amp; Lab 9</u></b>	<b>CASE STUDY: DEMOCRACY AND THE LAND QUESTION</b>	<b><u>22-26 April</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 9 &amp; Lab 10</u></b>	<b>AFRICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY, FEMINIST AND DECOLONIAL THEORY AND CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGES</b>	<b><u>29 April – 3 May</u></b>
<b><u>Tutorial 10 &amp; Lab 11</u></b>	<b>MAFEJE IN PRACTICE: PROBLEMATISING EPISTEMOLOGIES &amp; RESEARCH ETHICS</b>	<b><u>6-10 May</u></b>

## SECTION 1

### AFROCENTRIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION CONCEPTS, MODELS & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS OF ANALYSIS (EPISTEMOLOGIES)

#### Week 1 (11 February – 15 February)

##### **Key Readings:**

- Mafeje, A., 1976. The problem of anthropology in historical perspective: An inquiry into the growth of the social sciences. *Canadian Journal of African Studies/La Revue canadienne des études africaines*, 10(2), pp.307-333.
- Magoqwana, Babalwa. 2018. Repositioning uMakhulu as an Institution of Knowledge, in Bam, June. Ntsebeza, L and Zinn. A. *Whose History Counts? Decolonising Pre-colonial African History*, SunMedia
- Mudimbe, V.Y., 1988. *The invention of Africa* (p. 160). Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (pp1-44; 188-213)

##### **Further Reading:**

- Mazrui, A.A., 2005. The re-invention of Africa: Edward Said, VY Mudimbe, and beyond. *Research in African Literatures*, pp.68-82.
- Sharp, J., 2011. Mafeje and Langa: the start of an intellectual's journey. *The Postcolonial Turn: Re-Imagining Anthropology and Africa, Bamenda: Langaa/Leiden: African Studies Centre*, pp.71-88.

#### Week 2 (18 – 22 February)

##### **Key readings:**

- Mafeje, A., 1991. *The Theory and Ethnography of African Social Formations: the case of the interlacustrine kingdoms*. African Books Collective.
- Adesina, J.O., 2008. Archie Mafeje and the pursuit of endogeny: Against alterity and extroversion. *Africa Development*, 33(4).
- Mafeje, A., 1978. *Science, ideology and development: three essays on development theory*. Nordiska Afrikainstitutet. (pp 26-30; 48-49; 64-85)

##### **Further Reading:**

- Chabal, P., 1981. The social and political thought of Amilcar Cabral: A reassessment. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 19(1), pp.31-56.
- Nyoka, B., 2012. Mafeje and 'Authentic Interlocutors': an appraisal of his epistemology. *African Sociological Review/Revue Africaine de Sociologie*, 16(1), pp.4-18.

## **SECTION 2**

### **HISTORICISING EUROCENTRIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION CONCEPTS, MODELS & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS OF ANALYSIS**

#### **Week 3 (25 February – 1 March)**

**Key readings:**

- Arrighi, G., 1990. The three hegemonies of historical capitalism. *Review (Fernand Braudel Center)*, pp.365-408
- Jessop, R., 1990. Mode of production. In *Marxian Economics*(pp. 289-296). Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- Lewis, W.A., 1954. Economic development with unlimited supplies of labour. *The Manchester School*, 22(2), pp.139-191.

**Further Reading:**

- Laibman, D., 1984. Modes of production and theories of transition. *Science & Society*, pp.257-294.
- Lewis, A. (1979). *The dual economy revisited. The Manchester School*, 47(3): 211-229.
- West, E.G., 1969. The political economy of alienation: Karl Marx and Adam Smith. *Oxford Economic Papers*, 21(1), pp.1-23.

#### **Week 4 (4 – 8 March)**

### **'ARTICULATION OF MODES OF PRODUCTION' THEORY**

**Key readings:**

- Hall, S., 1985. Signification, representation, ideology: Althusser and the post-structuralist debates. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 2(2), pp.91-114.
- Hirst, P.Q. and Hindess, B., 1975. *Pre-capitalist modes of production*. Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- Marx, K., 2010. A contribution to the critique of political economy. In *Marx Today* (pp. 91-94). Palgrave Macmillan, New York.

**Further Reading:**

- Rey, P.P., 1975. *The lineage mode of production*. Group.

#### **Week 5 (11 – 15 March)**

### **'ARTICULATION OF MODES OF PRODUCTION' THEORY IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT**

**Key readings:**

Freund, B., 1985. The modes of production debate in African studies. *Canadian Journal of African Studies/La Revue canadienne des études africaines*, 19(1), pp.23-29.  
Legassick, M. and Wolpe, H., 1976. The Bantustans and capital accumulation in South Africa. *Review of African Political Economy*, 3(7), pp.87-107.  
Morris, Mike. "Social history and the transition to capitalism in the South African countryside." (1988): 60-72.  
Wolpe, H. ed., 1980. *The Articulation of Modes of Production: essays from economy and society*. Routledge.

**Further Reading:**

Beinart, W., 2011. *Political Economy of Pondoland, 1860-1930*. Cambridge University Press.  
Bonner, P.L., 1978. Classes, the mode of production and the state in pre-colonial Swaziland. In *Collected Seminar Papers. Institute of Commonwealth Studies* (Vol. 22, pp. 31-41). Institute of Commonwealth Studies.  
Harries, P., 1985. Modes of production and modes of analysis: the South African case. *Canadian Journal of African Studies/La Revue canadienne des études africaines*, 19(1), pp.30-37.

**SUBMIT ESSAY!**

**Essay 1 (3000 words) due on 15 March**

*Critically discuss key concepts of Afrocentric approaches reflected in the writings of Mudimbe, Mazrui and Mafeje to knowledge on Africa and its political and economic development.*

**SECTION 3: 'MODE OF PRODUCTION' DEBATES**

**Week 6 (18 – 22 March)**

**DEBATES ON SOCIAL FORMATIONS & ETHNOGRAPHY**

**Key readings:**

Amin, S., 1974. Modes of production and social formations. *Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies*, 4(3).  
Mafeje, A. (1991) *The Theory and Ethnography of African Social Formations: The Case of the Interlacustrine Kingdoms*. London: Codesria.

**Further Reading:**

Hendricks, F., 2008. The Mafeje affair: the University of Cape Town and apartheid. *African Studies*, 67(3), pp.423-451.

**Week 7 (25 March – 29 March)**

**ARTICULATION OF MODES OF PRODUCTION & AFRICENTRIC DEBATES**

**Key readings:**

Amin, S., 1985. Modes of Production, History and unequal development. *Science & Society*, pp.194-207.  
Guy, J., 1987. Analysing pre-capitalist societies in Southern Africa. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 14(1), pp.18-37.

Mafeje, A., 1981. On the articulation of modes of production. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 8(1), pp.123-138.

***Further Reading:***

Amin, S., 1974. Accumulation and development: a theoretical model. *Review of African Political Economy*, 1(1), pp.9-26.

Peires, J.B., 1993. Paradigm deleted: the materialist interpretation of the Mfecane. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 19(2), pp.295-313.

**Week 8 (1 – 5 April)**

**TROUBLING 'TRIBE' & 'TRIBALISM'**

**Key readings:**

Mafeje, A., 1971. The ideology of 'tribalism'. *The journal of modern African studies*, 9(2), pp.253-261.

Ekeh, P.P., 1990. Social anthropology and two contrasting uses of tribalism in Africa. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 32(4), pp.660-700.

***Further Reading:***

Wilson, M. and Mafeje, A., 1963. *Langa: a study of social groups in an African township* (p. 74). Cape Town: Oxford University Press

**Week 9 (8-12 April)**

**THE LAND & AGRARIAN QUESTION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

***Key Readings:***

Mafeje, A., 2003. *The agrarian question, access to land, and peasant responses in sub-Saharan Africa*. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Moyo, S., 2004. African land questions, the state and agrarian transition: Contradictions of neoliberal land reforms. *African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Harare*.

Mpofu, B., 2014. The contribution of Archie Mafeje to the debate on land reform in Africa. *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies-Multi-, Inter-and Transdisciplinarity*, 9(1), pp.69-83.

Shivji, I., 1975. Peasants and class alliances. *Review of African Political Economy*, 2(3), pp.10-18.

***Further Reading:***

Mafeje, A., 1973. *Agrarian revolution and the land question in Buganda* (No. 32).

Mafeje, A., 1985. Peasants in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Africa Development/Afrique et Développement*, 10(3), pp.28-39.

**ESSAY DUE!**

**12 April**

(3000 words) *Discuss how Archie Mafeje critically engages with the Eurocentric theoretical frameworks of political and economic analysis of sub-Saharan Africa on 'modes of*

production'. Draw your evidence for your argument from the different readings by and on Mafeje's scholarship and his debates with fellow theorists in answering your question.

## VACATION 12 – 22 APRIL

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### SECTION 4: APPLYING & CRITIQUING THEORY IN PRACTICE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Week 10 (22 April – 26 April)

#### CASE STUDY: DEMOCRACY AND THE LAND QUESTION

**Key readings:**

Ntsebeza, L., 2016. What Can We Learn from Archie Mafeje about the Road to Democracy in South Africa?. *Development and Change*, 47(4), pp.918-936.

Ntsebeza, L., 2005. *Democracy compromised: Chiefs and the politics of the land in South Africa*. Brill, Leiden

Ntsebeza, L. and Hall, R. eds., 2007. *The land question in South Africa: The challenge of transformation and redistribution*. HSRC press.

Guest lecturer: Dr Fani Ncapayi (CALUSA)

**Further Reading:**

Magubane, B., 1986. The political economy of the South African revolution. *African Journal of Political Economy/Revue Africaine d'Economie Politique*, 1(1), pp.1-28.

Magubane, Z., 2004. The revolution betrayed? Globalization, neoliberalism, and the post-apartheid state. *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, 103(4), pp.657-671.

Week 11 (29 April – 3 May)

#### AFRICAN POLITICAL ECONOMY, FEMINIST AND DECOLONIAL THEORY AND CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGES

Grosfoguel, R., 2011. Decolonizing post-colonial studies and paradigms of political-economy: Transmodernity, decolonial thinking, and global coloniality. *Transmodernity: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World*, 1(1).

Mackintosh, M., 1977. Reproduction and Patriarchy: A Critique of Claude Meillassoux, "Femmes, Greniers Et Capitaux"[1]. *Capital & Class*, 1(2), pp.119-127.

Molyneux, M., 1978. Androcentrism in Marxist Anthropology: A critique of Emmanuel Terray's 'Historical Materialism and Segmentary Lineage-Based Societies'. *Critique of Anthropology*, 3(9-10), pp.55-81.



**Further Reading:**

Peterson, V.S., 2006. How (the meaning of) gender matters in political economy. In *Key Debates in New Political Economy*(pp. 87-113). Routledge.

**Week 12 (6 – 10 May)**

**MAFEJE IN PRACTICE: PROBLEMATISING EPISTEMOLOGIES & RESEARCH ETHICS**

**Key readings:**

Maseko, Pamela. 'Language as Source of Revitalisation and Reclamation of Indigenous Epistemologies: Contesting Assumptions and Re-imagining Women Identities in (African) Xhosa Society' in Bam, June. Ntsebeza, L. Zinn, A. *Whose History Counts? Decolonising Pre-colonial African History*, SunMedia.

The Missing Idiom of African Historiography: African Historical Writing in Walter Rubusana's Zemk'inkomo Magwalandini Nomalanga Mkhize in Bam, June. Ntsebeza, L. Zinn, A. *Whose History Counts? Decolonising Pre-colonial African History*, SunMedia.

Guest lecturer: Kershan Pancham

**Further Reading:**

**CONSOLIDATION**

**Exam Essay (5000 words) due on 07 June**

*What are the new economic and political challenges in contemporary southern Africa today? Critically evaluate the key theoretical contributions of Archie Mafeje in helping us to understand and address these challenges?*