Global Society and Cultural Change: NGOs and the Response to AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

This course introduces basic concepts, theories, and methods from the social sciences and exposes students to the history and contemporary reality of sub-Saharan Africa through the lens of the global response to AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing on literature from Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology (with a little History and Epidemiology thrown in), we explore the emerging shape of “global society,” especially the multitude of public health experts, international organizations, foundations, and NGOs of all sizes and shapes attempting to influence the course of AIDS prevention, care, and treatment across Africa.

Course Requirements: The course is, by design, light on reading and heavy on research and writing. We have three lecture hours and two section hours a week, to leave time for films, outside speakers, and student panels reporting on research. One section hour a week will be devoted to student projects, giving students feedback on their writing, and having them share their research. There will be three one-hour, in-class exams (each 10% of the grade) and a map test (5%). The research paper (18-25 pages, parts due in installments over the course of the semester) will be 35% of the grade, and section participation (including completion of writing assignments) 30%.

Research and Writing: The course has a structured format for research and writing. After three weeks of intensive exploration guided by the GSIs, students will select for comparative analysis: two organizations working on AIDS (WHO, UNAIDS; World Bank); two AIDS interventions (e.g. condom distribution, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, male circumcision, or abstinence and partner reduction); two international AIDS campaigns or projects; programs for two target groups (e.g. women, orphans, truck drivers, prostitutes); two AIDS NGOs or donors (e.g. Gates Foundation vs. World Vision); two research efforts (the search for an HIV vaccine vs. for a vaginal microbicide); or two donor countries (e.g., Norway vs. Germany). Whatever students select will inevitably lead them to information about other dimensions (what international organizations and NGOs have which kinds of programs and projects); or for those focusing on two NGOs, why Médecins Sans Frontières [Doctors Without Borders] vs. the Clinton Foundation have chosen the projects and interventions they have, and why they work in the countries where they do).

Students will be responsible for turning in memos and annotated readings, and then draft sections of the paper on an assigned schedule so that they can get feedback from the GSIs about how to structure and organize an original research paper. Ideally each section will have students working on several different dimensions of the epidemic and responses to the epidemic, so that they will begin to see connections among their projects. To bring everyone up to speed quickly, we will supply a partial list of AIDS organizations, programs, and interventions, as well as listserves that disseminate AIDS research. We will make these resources available on bSpace.

Readings: All required readings are available in a reader from University Copy Service, 2425 Channing Way. Readings and other materials are also posted on the bSpace web site.
Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 (Jan 19-21) Global Society and African AIDS


Week 2 (January 24-28) African History: Colonial Patterns and Their Aftermaths

Peter J. Schraeder, *African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation* (2nd edition), Ch 1 (Introduction pp 1-14) and Ch. 3 (pp. 49-61).

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996) Ch. 1 (pp. 3-8 and 16-top of 27) and Ch. 2 (pp. 37-61).

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*, ch 8 (pp. 115-135) and ch 15 (pp. 225-234).

Monday, January 31  Map Test in lecture

Week 3 (Jan 31-February 4) The AIDS Crisis: Disease and Society


Monday February 7  1st Assignment due in section

Week 4  (February 7-11)  Sex, Gender, and AIDS in Africa


Wednesday February 16  1st Short Exam

Week 5 (February 14-18) AIDS and Sex: Why Behavior Is Hard to Change


Monday February 21, President’s Day Holiday

Week 6 (Feb 23-25)  New Politics, Old Patterns: Patron-Client Ties in the NGO World


Monday February 28   2nd Assignment due in section
Week 7  (February 28-March 4)  **The NGO Revolution**


Week 8  (March 7-11)  **AIDS and Global Social Movements**


**March 14**  3rd Assignment due in section

Week 9  (March 14-18)  **Governance, Governments, and “Governmentality”**


**Mon, Mar 21 – Fri, Mar 25 – Spring Break**

**Wednesday March 30, 2nd Short Exam**

Week 10  (March 28-April 1)  **Unanticipated Effects of AIDS Interventions**


Week 11 (April 4-8) **The Nation State Regime: Successes and Failures**


**Monday April 11  4th Assignment (paper draft!) due in section**

Week 12 (April 11-15) **Responses to the Epidemic–Inventing Interventions**


**No Class, No Sections Monday April 18**

Week 13 (April 20-22) **AIDS Interventions: What Makes Interventions “Successful”?**


Friday April 29  3rd Short Exam

Week 14  (April 25-April 29)  Cautious Conclusions about Desperate Problems


Friday, May 6  5th Assignment (final, revised paper) due in 410 Barrows before 3pm

Week 15 (May 2-6)  R&R Week (no class, no sections, unless you want a party!)

Key Dates

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