SA.550 (AFRICA)

SA.550.100. Democracy, Political Reform and Civil Society in Africa. 4 Credits.
This course analyzes the democratization of politics in African states by focusing on the relationship of civil society groups to political elites and formal political institutions. After reviewing independence movements, the course concentrates on the revival of democratic governance from the mid-nineties to the present. Students will assess if and how political parties, international donors, and indigenous civil society groups contribute to increasing accountability and good governance. Classes will include case studies and interviews with international and African actors engaged in the practical work of democratic reform in Africa.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.780.740[C]

SA.550.101. Conflict and the African Great Lakes. 4 Credits.
Africa’s Great Lakes region has become synonymous with conflict. Over the last five decades, this region has seen genocides, ethnic violence, land disputes, civil war, cross border conflict and a multi-national war. Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have been affected by one or many of these destabilizing factors. The course introduces students to the main issues affecting peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.780.734[C]

Making US Policy in Africa examines the interagency US policymaking process guiding the implementation of African strategic policy by focusing on concrete case studies and interviews with guest speakers from key agencies. It begins with an overview summarizing the evolution of American policy process as it applies to Africa. Subsequent classes assess the strategies, tools, and tactics deployed by agencies to achieve policy objectives in the areas of security, humanitarian crises response, and economic development. By studying case studies and interacting with guest speakers, students gain practical insights into how government institutions formulate and implement US policy in Africa. Institutions include the Departments of State, Defense, and Energy; USAID; Office of the US Trade Representative; and Congress. Evaluation of student performance is based on class participation, formal presentations, and three short professional policy memos analyzing US African policy.

Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.780.735[C]

SA.550.103. Contemporary African Politics. 4 Credits.
This course considers the origins and nature of political activities as well as some of the major themes, issues, and theories in the study of sub-Saharan Africa since independence. We will discuss broad trends and issues across the continent. At the same time, we will be attuned to the diversity of political, social, and economic life in Africa. The course analyzes the central themes and processes in African politics, including clientelism, ethnicity, authoritarianism and democracy. It also examines the challenges that specific African countries face in a number of important domains, including democracy and democratic backsliding, ethnic politics, economic development, civil war and post-conflict reconstruction, corruption and governance, and Africa's place in the international system.