

African History through the lens of Economics

An Initiative by the Wheeler institute for Business and Development

Course Objective

The Wheeler Institute for Business and Development at the London Business School (LBS), is offering a virtual online course in African economic history.

This masterclass aims to familiarize students with insights of the recent, burgeoning literature on the impact of Africa's history on contemporary development. Despite Africa's recent growth miracle, there are vast regional -as well as ethnic and religious- inequalities that are linked to Africa's dark past: slavery, colonial extraction, violence, cold-war-fueled conflict. This masterclass will cover recent contributions in economic history that using geospatial data from anthropological maps, colonial archives, secondary sources, and other sources uncover the legacies of these phenomena. The course will be inter-disciplinary aiming to provide a forum of dialogue between economics, history, political science, cultural anthropology, even psychology.

There will be ten 90 minutes main lectures (with a small break), spread over 10 weeks every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am ET / 3pm GMT starting on 1st February. covering precolonial social and political organization, Africa's slave trades, the Scramble for Africa, colonization, independence movements, the Cold War, and the Third Wave of Democratization.

The lectures will be accompanied by ten supplementary special lectures (75 minutes), where guests will present inter-disciplinary research. The special session will zoom on issues, like prison labor, the role of private concessionary companies during colonization, Christian Missions, colonial tax policies, and delve into some country-cases.

There will also be plenary sessions, where guests will join the teaching team discussing the controversy regarding foreign aid's impact, the psychology of Africans in comparison to other continents, and the future of Africa.

Tentative Course Schedule

Lecture	Faculty Lead	Additional Session
1 Introduction. African Development and History <i>February 1, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Elias Papaioannou Guest lecture: Tanner Regan	Long-run trends of development in Africa <i>February 2, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Morten Jerven ▪ Ewout Frankema ▪ Marlous van Waijenburg
2 Precolonial Africa. Political Organization <i>February 8, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Stelios Michalopoulos	On Origins of African States <i>February 9, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ J. Fenske ▪ M. Alsan
3 Social Structure [kinship, family, social relations] <i>February 15, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Nathan Nunn	A Long-Run View of African History <i>February 16, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Christopher Ehret ▪ Awa Seck
4 The Slave Trades <i>February 22, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Nathan Nunn	The Slave Trades' Impact on Population and Africans <i>February 23, 11 am ET / 4 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patrick Manning ▪ Ugo Nwokeji
5 The Scramble for Africa <i>March 1, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Stelios Michalopoulos	A Closer Look at South Africa and Nigeria from Colonization <i>March 2, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Nigeria</u>: Nonso Obikili ▪ <u>South Africa</u>: Johan Fourie

6	Colonization I. Introduction. Human Capital and Infrastructure <i>March 8, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Elias Papaioannou and Leonard Wantchekon	On the Legacy of Christian Missions <i>March 9, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Etienne Le Rossignol ▪ Catherine Guirkinger
7	Colonization II. Infrastructure and Extraction <i>March 15, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Elias Papaioannou	Colonial Infrastructure and Repression <i>March 16, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roland Pongou ▪ Belinda Archibong
8	Colonization III. Decolonization and Early Independence <i>March 22, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Leonard Wantchekon	Colonial Taxation. Origins, Structure, and Implications. <i>March 23, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local state capacity. Jutta Bolt ▪ Taxation. Leigh Gardner
9	Cold War, Third Wave of Democratization, and Recent Progress <i>March 31, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Leonard Wantchekon [Simon Kuznetz Lecture, Yale Economic Growth Center]	Colonial Concessions <i>March 30, 12 pm ET / 5 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Giorgio Chiovelli ▪ Sara Lowes
10	Conclusion. Persistence and Opportunity. <i>April 5, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Full teaching team	Plenary Session 1 <i>April 6, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> Foreign Aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bill Easterly ▪ Celestin Monga
	Farewell: Looking Forward <i>April 12, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i>	Plenary Session 2. Africa's Latent Assets and the Future <i>April 12, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chima J. Korieh ▪ James Robinson 	Plenary Session 3 <i>April 13, 10 am ET / 3 pm GMT</i> Africa; WEIRD or Not? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joe Henrich

Please Note: A longer version of the course syllabus including a reading list will be shared with the attendees.

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