Despite persistent bias about it, Africa's cultural complexity, social dynamism, and political/economic struggle have tremendous relevance for the study of global trends at the start of the twenty-first century. The central purpose of this course is to demonstrate that relevance by investigating the cultural, historical, economic, and political dimensions of change in Africa.

As such, it is an explicitly interdisciplinary study, involving as it does articulation of Geography with anthropology, political science, history, and economics. Themes include but are not limited to deconstruction of the tribal narrative and the scarcity narrative as they have been deployed by outside interests to justify exploitation of Africa and neglect of the consequences of doing so.

To assess the unique character of Africa's environmental issues
To appreciate the diversity of African regional cultures
To explore Africa's indigenous histories
To understand the social, political, and economic impacts of colonialism and Cold War in Africa
To consider the demographic outlook for contemporary development in various regions of Africa

None

As noted on course syllabus

None noted