This course is designed to introduce students to the politics, history and social processes of sub-Saharan Africa. The first half of the course provides historical context for understanding the precolonial, colonial and postcolonial history of the continent. The second half of the course focuses on contemporary issues in Africa, including topics related to identity, customary authority, markets, violence, elections, democracy and authoritarianism. In addition to learning about the histories and trajectories of individual countries, the course will also focus on sub-regional and cross-national similarities and differences, as well as contextualize African politics in a larger global history.