

Econ 487a. Political Economy of AIDS in Africa

Day / time: T 3:30-5:20pm

Course Type: Undergraduate

Course term: Fall

Not offered

Year: 2015

Instructor(s): [Nicoli Nattrass](#)

The drivers of HIV prevalence and national policy responses to the epidemic vary across the world, including in Africa (the epicenter of the epidemic). The origin of AIDS in Africa and discovery in America has strongly influenced how the epidemic is perceived and the international response to it.

This course explores the behavioral, political and structural aspects of the epidemic, focusing on the hyper-epidemic countries of Southern Africa, but in a global context. Topics include the origins of HIV and people's responses to it (including conspiracy theory); cultural, behavioral and economic drivers of HIV prevalence; demographic modelling of the HIV epidemic and related interventions, AIDS denialism in South Africa and its global linkages; and the political-economy of national policy responses.

Students will be expected to write several short essays on the readings and to produce a research paper. The following books are required reading (additional readings will also be provided): Jacques Pepin, 2012, *The Origins of AIDS* (Cambridge University Press); Nicoli Nattrass, 2012, *The AIDS Conspiracy. Science Fights Back* (Columbia University Press); Victoria Harden. 2012, *AIDS at 30: A History* (Potomac Books) and Jonny Steinberg. 2008, *Sizwe's Test* (Jonathan Ball).

[Also EP&E 365a, INTS 347a, GLOBL 313a, and PLSC 417a]

Semester offered: Not offered

Undergrad Course Category: Development
Health

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