

**BURIED TREASURE, HIDDEN CURSE?**  
*Politics of Natural Resource Extraction in Africa*  
GOV 1029/AFRS 1029 – Fall 2018  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:15-2:40 in Sills 209

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Office Hours (Hubbard 209A):  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 – 5:00 PM  
or by appointment

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### **Course Synopsis**

Oil, diamonds, gold... riches in the midst of poverty. How can Africa boast so many natural resources and yet remain the poorest continent on earth? What is the "resource curse"? This course will begin by putting Africa in the context of global resource extraction, oil in particular. It will then establish Africa's long pre-colonial experience with trade in iron, gold, salt, and slaves. The colonial period deepened the reliance of many territories on specific resources, a pattern that continues to the present. The course will use Burkina Faso as a specific example of gold extraction, contrasting industrial and artisanal mining. A connection with a local Burkinabe gold miner will give the class a window into this way of life. Modern streams of prospectors throughout West Africa echo the California Gold Rush, but with important distinctions. An introduction to political science, it will highlight the interplay between national and foreign governments, international and domestic firms, local and migrant prospectors as they vie for access to valuable resources. Students will gain skills in library research, writing and revision, peer review and oral presentations.

### **Expectations**

This course does not require any prior exposure to the topics of Africa or resource extraction. It does ask for diligent attention to reading and written assignments, participation in class and readiness to learn. I expect no student to plagiarize and all to adhere strictly to the Academic Honor Code: <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>

### **Academic Resources**

- *Center for Learning and Teaching: Writing Project Workshops*  
Writing Assistants are available in the Writing Workshop to assist you at any phase of your writing process. A Writing Assistant can help you focus your ideas and map out a draft, read and respond to a completed draft, or edit and polish a nearly final draft. Be sure to allow adequate time after a conference to revise your work. You can reserve a 45-minute writing conference by going to the Writing Project website <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-project> and following the navigation links to the reservation calendar. To work on a paper longer than seven pages, it is wise to reserve two consecutive conference slots with the same Writing Assistant.
- *Library*  
Research and Instruction Librarian: **Barbara Levergood** - [blevergo@bowdoin.edu](mailto:blevergo@bowdoin.edu)  
[Citation Guide](#)

## Required Books

There are no required books for this course. The reading assignments are drawn from a variety of sources available on [e-reserves](#) [ER] or otherwise electronically as indicated in the course outline.

## Course Requirements

ASSIGNMENT	SKILL(S) DEVELOPED	DATE DUE	WEIGHT
Participation	Oral expression, risk-taking, peer support	All semester	10%
Response Paper (<2 pages)	Recognizing varieties of style/purpose; practicing clarity and voice	4 Sept	5%
Map Quiz	Memorization	11 Sept	5%
Source Compilation	Research, citation	21 Sept	5%
Data Exercise	Data gathering (5%), visualization (5%), description (5%) – Excel	2 Oct	10%
Literature Review (3 pages)	Reviewing literature, comparing theories	12 Oct	10%
Presentation	Public speaking (5%), organization (5%), visual presentation (5%) – PowerPoint	25 Oct 1-8 Nov	15%
Prospectus for Research Project (7 pages)	Designing research, revising literature review, planning for analysis	20 Nov	25%
Policy Memo (4 pages)	Summarizing, advocating, employing data in an argument	7 Dec	15%

**COURSE OUTLINE**

		Assignments	Pgs
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Thu 8/30	Session 1	Introduction <i>Blood Diamond</i> and <i>Black Panther</i>	
Tue 9/4	Session 2	<b>RESPONSE PAPER DUE</b> Excerpt from Prologue of J.S. Holliday, <i>The World Rushed In</i> . Simon & Schuster, 1981. [ER: 31-44]	14
		Emmanuel Freudenthal and Alloycious David, <a href="#">"How a Gold Mine has brought only Misery in Liberia"</a> <i>IRIN</i> (21 March 2017)	6
		Ken Saro-Wiwa, "Night Ride" in <i>Forest of Flowers</i> . Longman, 1995. [ER: 111-119]	9
<b>GLOBAL RESOURCES</b>			
Thu 9/6	Session 3	Terry Lynn Karl, "The Perils of the Petro-State: Reflections on the Paradox of Plenty" <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> 53, 1 (Fall 1999): 31-48 [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	18
		Shefa Siegel, "The Missing Ethics of Mining" <i>Ethics and International Affairs</i> 27, 1 (2013): 3-17. [Library Database: <i>ProQuest</i> ]	15
Tue 9/11	Session 4	<b>QUIZ – AFRICA MAP</b> Chris WJ Roberts, "The Other Resource Curse: Extractives as Development Panacea" <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> 28, 2 (June 2015): 283-307. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	25
		<b>IN-CLASS DATA ACTIVITY</b> (bring laptops)	
<b>RESOURCES IN AFRICA</b>			
Thu 9/13	Session 5	Martin Meredith, <i>The Fortunes of Africa</i> (2014): [ER]	
		- map (48-49), "Highways of the Desert" (70-79);	
		- "The Middle Passage" (116-128)	10
		- "The Gates of Africa" (183-197);	13
		<b>LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT – MEET IN ECR (H&amp;L BASEMENT)</b>	15
Tue 9/18	Session 6	Martin Meredith, <i>The Fortunes of Africa</i> (2014): [ER]	
		- "Unlocking the Congo" (283-289),	7
		- "Diamond Fever" (341-355)	16
		- "The Most Powerful Company in the World" (371-379),	10
		- "This Magnificent Cake" (383-389);	7
		- "Spheres of Interest" (390-395), p.442,	7
Thu 9/20	Session 7	Martin Meredith, <i>The Fortunes of Africa</i> (2014): [ER]	
		- "Bula Matari" (444-456);	13
		- "Platinum Life" (666-675)	10
<b>FRI 9/21</b>		<b>SOURCE COMPILATION DUE FRIDAY 9/21</b>	

Tue 9/25	Session 8	Tom Burgis, <i>The Looting Machine</i> (2015): [ER]	
		- "It is Forbidden to Piss in the Park" (29-60)	30
		- "Incubators of Poverty" (61-79)	20

### THEORIES ABOUT "THE RESOURCE CURSE"

Thu 9/27	Session 9	<i>Resources and Poverty, Resources and Politics</i>	
		Michael Ross, <a href="#">Extractive Sectors and the Poor</a> . Oxfam America Report (2001): 4-18. [scroll down black screen]	15
		Jeffrey Sachs and Andrew Warner, "The Curse of Natural Resources" <i>European Economic Review</i> 45, 4-6 (May 2001): 827-838. <i>Don't worry about the statistics; read for content.</i> [Library Database: <i>ScienceDirect</i> ]	12

Tue 10/2	Session 10	<i>Resources and Corruption</i>	
		Philippe Le Billon. "Natural Resources and Corruption in Post-War Transitions: Matters of Trust" <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 35, 5 (2014): 770-786. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	16
		Patrick Radden Keefe, " <a href="#">Buried Secrets</a> " <i>The New Yorker</i> (July 8, 2013)	15
		<b>DATA EXERCISE DUE</b>	

Thu 10/4	Session 11	<i>Resources and Conflict</i>	
		Paul Collier, "The Market for Civil War" <i>Foreign Policy</i> 136 (May 2003): 39-45. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	4
		Philippe Le Billon, "The Political Ecology of War: Natural Resources and Armed Conflict" <i>Political Geography</i> 20, 5 (2001): 561-84. [Library Database: <i>ScienceDirect</i> ]	20
		Michael Ross. 2004. "How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases" <i>International Organization</i> 58, 1 (2004): 35-67. [Library Database: <i>JSTOR</i> ]	34

Tue 10/9 **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**

Thu 10/11 Session 12 TBA

**\*FRI 10/12 LITERATURE REVIEW DUE**

### A CASE IN AFRICA: BURKINA FASO

Tue 10/16	Session 13	Pierre Englebert, "E Pluribus Unum?" Precolonial and Colonial History" pp. 9-36 and excerpts from "The Economy of Growth Amid Poverty" pp. 79-80, 96-100, plus Ethnic Map, p. 120 in <i>Burkina Faso: Unsteady Statehood in West Africa</i> . Westview Press, 1996. [ER]	35
Thu 10/18	Session 14	<i>Industrial Mining</i>	
		Burkina Faso – <a href="#">1996 Minerals Yearbook</a> (pp. 1-3) and <a href="#">2014 Minerals Yearbook</a> (pp. 5.1-5.2)	5
		<i>Skim</i> Excerpts: 1997 World Bank, <a href="#">Burkina Faso – Mining Sector Project</a> (pp. 1-15, 85-90) [continued...]	20

Skim Excerpts: recent World Bank [Mining Support Project](#) TBA  
 Sabine Luning, "Processing Promises of Gold: A Minefield of Company-Community Relations in Burkina Faso" *Africa Today* 58, 3 (Spring 2012): 23-39 [Library Database: *Academic Search Complete*] 16

Tue 10/23 Session 15 *Artisanal Mining*  
 Excerpts from 2008 CFC Report: [Small-Scale Mining in Africa](#): "Overview" (pp. 11-18), "ASM and Government," (pp. 29-35); "ASM Productivity", (pp. 39-47); "Certification of ASM Minerals (pp. 55-59), "Women, Gender and ASM" (pp. 61-64); "Alternative Livelihoods and Diversification" (pp. 65-68) [*Also see statistics and information for your country – pp. 81-95*] 36  
 Katja Werthmann, "Gold Rush in West Africa: The Appropriation of 'Natural' Resources: Non-industrial Mining in South-Western Burkina Faso" *Sociologus* 50, 1 (2000): 90-104. [Library Database: *JSTOR*] 14  
 Catherine Tomicic et. al. 2011. "Human Mercury Exposure Associated with Small-Scale Gold Mining in Burkina Faso" *International Archives of Occupational and Environmental Health* 84, 5 (May 2011): 539-546. 7  
 [Blackboard/Syllabus]

#### APPLYING THEORIES TO CASES

Thu 10/25 Session 16 **OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION DUE**

Tue 10/30 Session 17 Timothy Lim, "Comparing to Learn, Learning to Compare: An Introduction to Comparative Methods" in *Doing Comparative Politics* (Lynne Rienner, 2006), pp. 31-53. [ER] 22

#### STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Thu 11/1 Session 18 Presentations  
 Tue 11/6 Session 19 Presentations  
 Thu 11/8 Session 20 Presentations

#### WHAT TO DO?

Tue 11/13 Session 21 Erika Weinthal and Pauline Jones Luong. "Combating the Resource Curse: An Alternative Solution to Managing Mineral Wealth." *Perspectives on Politics* 4, 1 (March 2006): 35-53. [Library Database: *JSTOR*] 18  
 Hazel McFerson, "Extractive Industries and African Democracy: Can the 'Resource Curse' be Exorcised?" *International Studies Perspectives* 11, 4 (Nov 2010): 335-353. [Library Database: *Academic Search Complete*] 18  
 Thu 11/15 Session 22 Ian Bannon and Paul Collier, "Natural Resources and Conflict: What We Can Do" in *Natural Resources and Violent Conflict*, edited by Ian Bannon and Paul Collier, pp. 7-15 (not entire). World Bank. 2003. [ER] 8  
 Skim Global Witness activities: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/about-us/20-years-creating-change/>  
 [continued...]

		Philippe Le Billon, "Fatal Transactions: Conflict Diamonds and the (Anti)Terrorist Consumer," <i>Antipode</i> 38, 4 (Sept 2006): 778–801. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	24
		Gavin Hilson and Martin Clifford. 2010. "A 'Kimberly Protest': Diamond Mining, Export Sanctions, and Poverty in Akwatia, Ghana" <i>African Affairs</i> 109/436: 431-450. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	20
Tue 11/20	Session 20	<b>RESEARCH PROSPECTUS DUE</b>	
Thu 11/22	<b>NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</b>		
Tue 11/27	Session 24	Joseph Kirschke. 2014. "Mining Sector CSR: Responsible Returns in a Warm Investment Climate" <i>Engineering and Mining Journal</i> (September): 64-72	8
		Jen Moore. 2013. "Canadian Development Aid: No Longer Tied – Just Shackled to Corporate Mining Interests" <i>Canadian Dimension</i> 47, 6 (Nov/Dec 2013): 31-33 [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	3
		Hany Besada and Philip Martin, "Mining Codes in Africa: Emergence of a 'Fourth' Generation?" <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> 28, 2 (July 2015): 263-282. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	20
		Eleanor Fisher and John Childs, "An Ethical Turn in African Mining: Voluntary Regulation through Fair Trade" in Bryceson <i>et al</i> , eds. <i>Mining and Social Transformation in Africa</i> . New York: Routledge, 2014, pp. 130-147. [ER]	17
Thu 11/29	Session 25	Jesper Bosse Jonsson and Niels Fold, "Mining 'From Below': Taking Africa's Artisanal Miners Seriously" <i>Geography Compass</i> 5, 7 (July 2011): 479-493. [Library Database: <i>Academic Search Complete</i> ]	15
		Deborah Fahy Bryceson and Jesper Bosse Jonsson, "Mineralizing Africa and Artisanal Mining's Democratizing Influence" in Bryceson <i>et al</i> , eds. <i>Mining and Social Transformation in Africa</i> . New York: Routledge. 2014, pp. 1-11 (not entire). [ER]	12
		Deborah Fahy Bryceson and Eleanor Fisher, "Artisanal Mining's Democratizing Directions and Deviations" in Bryceson <i>et al</i> , eds. <i>Mining and Social Transformation in Africa</i> . (New York: Routledge, 2014, pp. 179-206. [ER]	27
Tue 12/4	Session 26	No readings; work on Policy Memo Samuel in Gaoua - TBA	
Thu 12/6	Session 27	Wrap-up	
*Fri 12/7	<b>POLICY MEMO DUE – 5:00 PM</b>		

**NO EXAM**

