

Anthropology 140B: People and Cultures of Eastern and Southern Africa

Spring 2016, Monday and Wednesday, 12:10-2:00pm in Olson 223

Instructor: Christian Doll, cjdoll@ucdavis.edu



While often spoken of in broad terms, the African continent is one of the most heterogeneous places on earth, with a staggering array of cultures, histories, and languages. In this course, students will engage with this diversity while learning about themes that cut across the whole region. Each week of the course will focus on one topic in particular. Short lectures will present historical and theoretical background while readings and discussions will ground the weeks' topics in cases studies from eastern and southern Africa. Topics will include: the legacy of colonialism, gender and power, the African state, ethnic violence, witchcraft, and the anthropological critique of humanitarian intervention. To offer insights into the contemporary moment in Africa, two weeks of the course will focus on Africa's (and the world's) newest nation, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011.

GE Credit: Social Sciences, World Cultures, Writing Experience

Photo of a Dinka cattle keeper in Malek, South Sudan taken by Christian Doll