

YEAR THREE: SEMESTER II**Core Courses**

SST8201: Taught Tutorial

SSR8203: Research Colloquium

SSR8204: Comprehensive Examinations 2 (Place specific)

Electives (None)

YEAR FOUR: SEMESTER I & II**Core Course**

SSR9101: Fieldwork Report

Electives (None)

YEAR FIVE: SEMESTER I**Core Course**

SSR9102: Research Colloquium

Electives (None)

YEAR FIVE: SEMESTER II**Core Course**

SSR9202: Research Colloquium

SSR 9203: Final Dissertation

Course Descriptions**SSR7104: Major Debates in the Study of Africa**

This course focuses on six key debates that have shaped the study of Africa in the post-colonial African academy. (1) Africa between geography and history (2) Slavery, global history of slavery, and the historicization of slave trade in relation to market and state formation (3) the relationship between colonialism and pre-colonialism, colonial modernity and pre-colonial tradition in different periods of colonial rule, particularly those identified as direct and indirect rule (4) The relationship between underdevelopment locally and development globally in the modern period (5) The nexus between culture and politics in the formation of nationalist thought and mobilization (6) The role of violence in the making of political communities in different post-colonial contexts.

SSC 7105: Pre-modern and modern political thought

This course surveys key themes and approaches in the history of pre modern to modern political thought. After clarifying the nexus between political theory and political philosophy, and presenting core questions in political theory, the course inquiries into some of the major themes of political thought, analytically dividing them into two paired broad categories: 'what is right' is 'what is good'; 'what is right/what is power'; 'what is power/what is willed; and what is good/what is rational.

SSR7106: The History of Economic Theory

This course will introduce the student to key schools of economic thought through an intensive reading of key texts and primary source documents of economic theory. The student will be encouraged to evaluate major economic theories in their own right and understand the key points of difference, methodological and conceptual, between schools of thought. The student will also be encouraged to formulate contemporary economic problems from the standpoint of different schools, thereby understanding the contemporary significance of each school of thought.

SSR 7205: Africa before Western Hegemony

This course aims to dispel the European idea of Africa as 'a continent without a history' by exploring the history of North, East, South, and West Africa before the emergence of European power. It describes key states and the relations they had within the African continent. By exploring the oceanic history of Africa and the historical dynamics that relate it to the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Mediterranean Sea, the course will also explore the ways in which African history is marked by continental dynamics and states that function inside and outside the continent.

SSR7206 Theories of Culture and Society

The seminar introduces students to the theoretical study of modern culture, drawing from different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. Our aim is to explore various understandings and approaches to the ways in which culture is fundamentally implicated in questions of power, ideology, language, identity, gender, media, representation and knowledge production. While the course is broad in scope, particular attention will be devoted, when possible, to writers from Africa and writing about Africa. Covering a variety of schools of thought and authors, our explorations will be primarily guided by theoretical concerns arising out of the experience of colonialism and its afterlife.

SSR7207: Feminist Political Economy

This course illuminates the role of gender in determining and influencing social/political relationships and structures of power, and the differential economic effects that result from these structures and relationships. Methodological in nature, it brings feminist pedagogical tools into the deconstruction and reframing of basic neoliberal assumptions, illuminating the contribution of Feminist Political Economy to the political economy approach in the study of society and social

reproduction. Focusing on women, feminist political economy also extends its critiques to society as a whole and reinstates a gendered focus on the politics of everyday life. Topics and debates explored include: feminist agrarian relations; the state/household/market nexus in relation to gendered/reproductive labour; shifts in labour regimes under capitalism; social welfare regimes, transnational activism, social movements and feminist resistance.

SSR8102: Colonialism, Post-colonialism and Decolonisation

This course explores theoretical perspectives on decolonisation as articulated in anti-colonial, postcolonial and decolonial thought. It aims at providing some basic understandings of themes, ideas and approaches of a variety of responses to colonialism and its legacy, from different geopolitical contexts and cultural traditions. We will focus in particular on thought emerging from anticolonial and decolonization struggles in Africa, the Americas, Middle East and South-East Asia.

SSC8103: Thematic Seminar: Cultural Studies

This seminar will be crafted and presented by a visiting scholar. Its subject matter and thus the reading list will correspond to the specialization of the scholar in question and will be formulated by the visiting scholar in consultation with the Curriculum Committee of MISR. It will thus change every time a new scholar is invited to visit and teach at MISR.

SSE8104: Statistical Methods

The course is focused on how to design and conduct statistical enquiries and developing appropriate statistical research designs for various types of studies. It also focuses on how to develop and apply various sampling methods and techniques, various data collection methods and techniques, construction of various types of data collection tools, and basic skills in quantitative data analysis, interpretation and presentation. It explores mainstream literature in the quantitatively oriented social sciences.

SSE8103: International Political Economy

The course is a survey of classic and emerging research in International/Global Political Economy (IPE/GPE). Key areas will include: Theories of IPE; Globalization and new constitutionalisms; Transnational corporations (TNCs), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and global restructuring of production; global trade and changing dynamics; international financial institutions and the debt regime; national fiscal policies; International

labor regimes; Gender and race in IPE; Climate change and climate justice; and global development trends. Broadly, the course deals with an overview of the history of the field and introduces the main analytical frameworks and methods of inquiry, and is concerned with the dominant substantive issues that concern IPE theorists and students in politics, trade, finance, investment, sovereignty, environment, development.

SSE8105: Late Industrialization

This course examines the uneven process of industrialization at different historical times and geographical spaces of the world. Using as a launch pad the classic British industrialization, its various understanding and theorization, the course addresses exogenous and indigenous environments that were responsible for the late industrialization in such countries as Germany, Japan, India and China. It also examines varied experiences of the East Asian 'Tigers', Latin America and Africa. In the case of Africa, focus is on the varied historical industrialization experiences of countries informed by the nature of their economies, principally; mineral revenue, peasant, and settler economies. Topics explored include: markets, property rights regimes, and the state, foreign versus local sources of capital, education, and agriculture.

SSH8103: Gender in History

This course introduces students to the study of gender in history through an interdisciplinary array of theoretical, literary, feminist, historical, and methodological debates on gender ideologies and practices in Africa over different historical moments. Thematically, the course is divided into two parts: the first part, focuses on intellectual genealogies and critiques of feminist theoretical perspectives and writings; discusses the tensions between Western Feminisms and "Third World" Feminisms; and consider issues of colonialism and postcolonialism, situated knowledge and differences. The second half of the course analyses case studies on gender in Africa, paying attention to discourses, successes, challenges and methodologies that women from Africa have used to negotiate and resist patriarchy.

SSH8104: Slavery and Slave Trade

The course traces the origin, development and expansion of slavery and slave trade and consider their implications on a global scale. It examines different forms of slavery including household, military and plantation slaveries, and different forms of slave trades such as African, trans-Saharan, Trans-Atlantic, and trans-Indian Ocean. In doing so, it introduces

students to the methodological significance of thinking of the slave trade in geographical (the Sahara, the Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean) as well as temporal terms (modern vs. pre-modern, capitalist vs. pre-capitalist, state-based vs. market-based).

SSH8105: Thematic Seminar in Historical Studies

This seminar will be given by a visiting scholar. Its subject matter and thus the reading list will correspond to the specialization of the scholar in question and will be formulated by the visiting scholar in consultation with the Curriculum Committee of MISR. It will thus change every time a new scholar is invited to visit and teach at MISR.

SSH8109: Historical Research and Sources in African History

This course introduces students to the debates in the writing of history focusing in particular on questions of historical evidence, approaches and narratives. It explores the connection between historical contexts and the constitution of particular sources, and how these inform historical production. Each week the focus will be on a different type of source and on the debates around theory collection and use. Exploring the political implications of historical work and the struggle over knowledge, power, the production of history and its decolonization, the course will pay attention to the role contingency plays in the creation of historical sources and their use, as well as the politics of power embedded in any given history.

SSH8106: Historical Research and Sources in African History

This course introduces students to the debates in the writing of history focusing in particular on questions of historical evidence, approaches and narratives. It explores the connection between historical contexts and the constitution of particular sources, and how these inform historical production. Each week the focus will be on a different type of source and on the debates around theory collection and use. Exploring the political implications of historical work and the struggle over knowledge, power, the production of history and its decolonization, the course will pay attention to the role contingency plays in the creation of historical sources and their use, as well as the politics of power embedded in any given history.

SSP8104: Power, Society and Custom Before and After Colonialism

This course introduces to students how African

customs and societies have been structured by the colonial encounter through the use of bureaucracies, customs, laws, religion, race, gender, ethnicity and African hierarchies to shape African societies. The course will also look at how Africa customs and societies in general have been invented, examining the role of Western social science disciplines such as Anthropology, History and Demography. The last two sections of the course will focus on Africans' resistance to categories created by colonial powers and the legacy that the colonial restructuring of Africa has for state-society interaction in contemporary Africa.

SSP 8102 Contemporary Western Social and Political Thought

The seminar introduces students to key questions and issues that have shaped critiques of modernity internal to Western social and political theory in the modern and contemporary periods. We will start by reflecting on methods, exploring such issues as the nature of meaning and interpretation, in the traditions of historicism, genealogy, hermeneutics, and deconstruction. After introducing social contract theory and its relevance to the justification of the modern state, we shall then consider how understandings of politics, society, economy, culture, history, and gender came to be articulated in positions within the West that are, in different ways, critical of modernity.

SSP8103: Human Rights and Politics

This course introduces students to critiques and debates foregrounding the political rather than the normative framing of human rights. It intervenes in two epistemological directions: one covering the philosophical basis of human right discourse and the Euro-modern assumptions underpinning it, and another covering a Third World decolonial critique of rights. The course adopts structural analytics. Students shall gain an understanding of the primacy of human rights as both an organizing discourse and hegemonic order in the context of shifting state sovereignties, and will develop an understanding of the political economy of human rights in Africa. Through a thematic focus on power, morality, ethics, difference, sovereignty, and universalism, the readings critically examine liberal assumptions underlying rights in particular relation to emancipatory possibilities in postcolonial Africa.

SSR8201: Research Language

MISR requires that a student attain research competence in one language other than the language of instruction, English. This may be demonstrated by an examination or by a qualification from another

institution or school. MISR is committed to the fundamental importance of language skills for research, whether for primary research, for gaining access to secondary literatures in a language other than English, or to utilize works in other intellectual traditions. Language training is considered integral to a student's program of graduate training.

SSC8204: Studies in Contemporary African Popular Arts and Cultures

This course examines scholarly literature in contemporary Africa popular arts and cultural forms, paying close attention to artistic, social, and cultural expressions of individuals and their communities variously defined. It also analyzes how production, expression, mediation, and channels are pertinent in these forms and expressions for the artists and their communities at the local, national, and global levels. A related issue will concern the designation of these forms as African arts and popular cultures and the current intellectual and scholarly interest in African popular arts and cultures that draw from a range of expressive fields and media: literature, art, music, film, theater, architecture, among others.

SSC8205: Development, Culture & Social Change

This course interrogates major development programs and projects through which governments and other actors in the 'development industry' have intended to induce social change in colonial and post-colonial societies in the developing world, with a particular focus on Africa. It will begin by looking at how societies were socially, culturally and politically constituted prior to colonial rule to understand the impact of colonial attempts at "modernization." Its focus will then shift to the post-colonial period and the numerous similar attempts that have been made and continue to be made to transform societies from 'backwardness' to 'modernity'.

SSC8206 Gender, Culture and Modernity

This course analyzes the intersections between gender, culture and modernity. It also aims at interrogating how gender has been understood in different cultures in Africa and in the 'Third World' 55 and how modernism, modernity, and the processes and outcome of modernization have affected the debate on gender. Discussions will consider how modernity grapples with the effects of globalization, multiculturalism, alternative modernities, and traditional gender norms.

SSC8207: Ethnographic and Interdisciplinary Methods in Social Studies

This course introduces students to ethnographic and other methods of the social sciences, connecting core methodological issues to their philosophical roots. After critically engaging the foundational issues in both general philosophy of science and philosophy of the social sciences, the course reviews selected methods and techniques that researchers could employ at varied levels, ranging from formulation of hypotheses through data collection to the write-up stage. It then proceeds to address the connection between modern methods and theories on the one hand, and the cultural presuppositions linked to the colonial experience that inform them, exploring the potential of decolonizing methodologies.

SSC8203: African Literature and the Critical Traditions

This course introduces students to the critical discourses that have shaped the scholarship of African literature from Enlightenment and empire to the present. Students will engage with the question of African literature, through examination of questions of author and authorship, orality and literacy, text and textuality, as well as genre, institution, and tradition. Likewise, they will attend to the ways in which African and Africanist academies and institutions, from colonial times, have shaped the critical discourses of African literature - empire, colonialism and decolonization in the context of Western hegemony.

SSE8203: Thematic Seminar in Political Economy

This seminar will be crafted and presented by a visiting scholar. Its subject matter and thus the reading list will correspond to the specialization of the scholar in question and will be formulated by the visiting scholar in consultation with the Curriculum Committee of MISR. It will thus change every time a new scholar is invited to visit and teach at MISR.

SSE8205: The Agrarian Question in Modern History

Through a political economy perspective, the course addresses the main theoretical and historical debates around the Agrarian Questions and explores different trajectories of agrarian change in the modern era. Debates explored are situated mainly in Africa but also in Latin America, India and China. Key distinctions elaborated include agrarian transitions from above versus from below, and those based on large plantation or capitalist agriculture versus

those based on small peasant or community-based agriculture. The course also assesses the impact of colonialism and post-independence agrarian policies on the nature of social relations and forces of production, as well as on the modes of political organization of land-based social relations and contemporary agrarian structures in the Global South.

SSH8204: History and Historicism

This course will introduce students to key texts in the 18th century formation of historical thought and the late 20th century critique of historicism. It will also introduce students to key debates in contemporary historical writing on structure and agency, teleology, historical difference, orientalism, subaltern history, and decolonisation. Readings will consider theoretical/methodological texts in conjunction with illustrations of how the same event or place can be understood through the frame of different kinds of historical narratives.

SSP8204: The Modern State and the Colonial Subject

This seminar on the development of legal thought on the colonial subject will introduce the student to an intensive comparative study of the changing technologies of colonial power ranging from 1491 to apartheid in modern South Africa and Israel. It will read and discuss texts focusing on the 16th and 17th century conquest of native peoples in the New World, the conquest of southern and tropical Africa from the 17th to the 20th centuries, and the theories of power and subjection.

SSP8205: Thematic Seminar in Political Studies

This seminar will be given by a visiting scholar. Its subject matter and thus the reading list will correspond to the specialization of the scholar in question and will be formulated by the visiting scholar in consultation with the Curriculum Committee of MISR. It will thus change every time a new scholar is invited to visit and teach at MISR.

SSR8102: Research Colloquium

After completing two years of Coursework, the student will join a research Colloquium which will bring together all third-year students with the entire Ph.D. teaching team for the full third year. The student will spend the third year preparing to take two Comprehensive Exams, one thematic, and the other place-specific.

SSR8103: Comprehensive Examinations 1 (Thematic Bibliographies)

In the *thematic* exam, the student is expected to have an understanding of scholarly debates that have informed the development of literature on the student's chosen theme globally. In the place-specific exam, the student focuses on the scholarly literature on at least three themes on the country/region (e.g., Uganda, Ethiopia/Eritrea) of his/her specialization. The student is guided in this by a Reading Committee. The Reading Committee is dissolved as soon as the student passes the Comprehensive Exams and is granted the MPhil.

SST8201: Taught Tutorial

This course offers a dynamic learning experience that combines one-on-one interactions with an expert mentor, targeted readings, discussions, and skill-building activities. Through this tutorial, students will develop advanced research competencies and refine their scholarly pursuits.

SSR8103: Research Colloquium

SSR8204: Comprehensive Examinations 2: Place Specific

In the place-specific exam, the student focuses on the scholarly literature on at least three themes on the country/region (e.g., Uganda, Ethiopia/Eritrea) of his/her specialization. The student is guided in this by a Reading Committee. The Reading Committee is dissolved as soon as the student passes the Comprehensive Exams and is granted the MPhil.