In Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa we will explore the themes, issues, and trends that shape politics in Africa, across some 50 countries and nearly one billion people. I hope the course will inspire in you a lasting interest in African affairs. I also hope it will give you an opportunity to think critically about how context shapes political behavior and about how the sociopolitical world works. The material we will cover is organized around broad issues such as the foundations of contemporary African politics, the characteristics and consequences of leadership in Africa, the politics of identity, and economic and political change in Africa.