



Institute of  
**African Studies**  
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

### **African Social and Political Thought**

Welcome to African Social and Political Thought. This course focuses on helping students understand various perspectives from which thought leaders in Africa have sought to provide ideas on the socio-economic and political development of the continent. Designed as an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary offering, this seminar presents the thoughts of leading thinkers in Africa such as Kwame Nkrumah, Obafemi Awolowo, Julius Nyerere, Sekou Touré, Thomas Sankara, Amílcar Cabral, Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, Claude Ake, Adebayo Adedeji and a host of others. A thematic approach will be adopted in presenting the ideas of these thinkers.

The main objectives are to locate the work of these thinkers within the development aspirations of Africans amidst competing social and political thought from outside the continent, assess their relevance in the search for development in Africa, and build skills in interpreting divergent thoughts from prescribed readings. This course is also aimed at providing students of African Studies with broad knowledge of previous and contemporary social and political thought originating from the continent. It will allow students to debate the age-old concern over the dichotomy between indigenous and exogenous social and political thought in terms of the most appropriate approach to fostering autonomous development in Africa.

The course will be in seminar format. This will take the form of active class participation by students, films, guest lectures from the wider Africanist community in North America and seminar presentations.