In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), agriculture plays a major social and economic role, providing employment for over 60% of the population and about 23% of the region’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A wide range of staple crops is grown, which includes fruits, oil crops, tuber/root crops, and cereal grains. The five major cereals—corn, millet, rice, sorghum, and wheat—account for nearly 50% of the total crop acreage in SSA. Of these, corn (or maize) is the most widely cultivated, accounting for 40% of the region’s cereal production, which is used mainly for human consumption. However, low average grain yields are still pervasive in farmers’ fields. The main production challenges include low soil fertility, weather-related hazards, overreliance on low-input and rain-fed farming, as well as pests and disease pressures. Two economically important foliar diseases, namely gray leaf spot (GLS) and maize streak disease (MSD), are particularly widespread in the region. In this seminar, I examine how climate change could reshape the status of these diseases in SSA.
References


4:10 pm | August 31st, 2020 | Plant Pathology 515, Fall 2020

Zoom Link and ID: [https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91621814000?pwd=MDVOY1pr5OQybDRaMXNvTVNxtS82UT09](https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91621814000?pwd=MDVOY1pr5OQybDRaMXNvTVNxtS82UT09)

Meeting ID: 916 2181 4000

Passcode: 5353

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