

PSC/AAS 407T
Politics of Africa
Fall 2008
TR 02:30 PM-03:45 PM WRI C237

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Course Description

In this course we will study political development in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. We will analyze political conflict and change in terms of the economic, social and historical contexts of major African countries and regions. Special emphasis will be given to problems of political institution-building and democracy. We will take a comparative approach by explaining key political similarities and differences across African countries.

In this course, students will come to understand the historical, economic and social forces that have shaped political change and conflict in Africa. They will be able to identify and describe the most important political institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. They will also gain in-depth knowledge of the nature of political development in one sub-Saharan African country. By the end of the course, students will be able to better analyze events as they unfold in Africa and identify the complex set of variables that help drive these events.

Course Outline

1. AFRICAN POLITICAL HISTORY: AN OVERVIEW
 - (a) Background and Context
 - (b) Colonialism
 - (c) African Nationalism
 - (d) Political Independence

2. SOURCES OF POLITICAL CONFLICT
 - (a) Ethnicity
 - (b) Religion
 - (c) Social Class

3. THE INSTITUTIONS OF AFRICAN POLITICS
 - (a) Civil Society
 - (b) Personal Rule
 - (c) One Party States
 - (d) Military Intervention and Rule
 - (e) Constitutions

4. DEMOCRATIZATION
 - (a) Regime Transition
 - (b) Regime Consolidation

5. THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - (a) Poverty and Economic Decline

(b) Policy Reform and Economic Recovery?

6. CASE STUDIES

Course Requirements

Required Texts and Reading:

Peter J. Schaefer. African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation 2nd Edition (Wadsworth 2004)

Chinua Achebe. The Anthills of the Savannah (New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1987)

Reserve Readings (electronic): I will designate reserve readings with an **R** in the list of readings. The web site is: <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx> The readings are listed in alphabetical order by title.

Handouts

Grades

The total number of points that can be achieved in this course is 400. The points are allocated in the following way:

	Percent	Points
Participation	5	20
Attendance	5	20
Quizzes	15	60
Midterm	30	120
Paper	15	60
Final	30	120
Total	100	400

In other words, quizzes count for 15% of your grade, the mid term for 30%, the paper for 15%, attendance for 5%, participation for 5%, and the final examination for 30%.

According to the point system, final grades will be assigned in the following way:

- A 374 points to 400 points
- A- 358 points to 373 points
- B+ 346 points to 357points
- B 330 points to 345 points
- B- 318 points to 329 points
- C+ 306 points to 317 points
- C 290 points to 305 points
- C- 278 points to 289 points
- D+ 266 points to 277 points
- D 250 points to 265 points
- D- 238 points to 249 points
- F 237 points and below

Exams

Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of extreme circumstances. The student must be able to provide documentation that the absence is for a reason recognized by the university (e.g., illness, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday) and make arrangements with me **prior** to the scheduled exam date. If it is absolutely impossible to make prior arrangements with me, students must contact me as soon as possible about the situation. (Please notify me of any planned absences for religious holidays or official extracurricular activity for UNLV by September 11, 2008).

Quizzes

Three quizzes will be administered during the course. **The quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class.** Students may drop their lowest quiz score. Since the lowest quiz score can be dropped and students know in advance the dates of the quizzes, **no makeup quizzes will be administered.**

Quizzes and exams will be based on material covered during class in lectures, films, class discussions or class presentations and from the required readings. I will periodically introduce current event articles or materials as they relate to the topics and concepts being covered in class. Students will, of course, be responsible for this material as well as material covered in films, guest lectures and student presentations.

Paper

A paper is due in class on **November 20, 2008. No extensions will be granted.** Three points will be subtracted from your grade for each day that the paper is late. You are expected to make use of the writing center so that your paper is free of grammatical errors and clearly written and organized. You will be given a handout with a description of the paper topic and requirements.

Attendance, Participation and General Expectations

Attendance will be taken at each class. Students may miss 3 classes without losing attendance points. Because students are already allowed 3 absences, 3 points will be subtracted from the attendance points for every absence beyond 3, whatever the reason for the absence. Attending class is a very important part of the learning process. If anyone foresees the possibility of missing class more than three times, she/he should consider taking PSC/AAS 407T when she/he will be able to attend all of the classes. **Signing the attendance sheet for another student is a form of fraud,** and anyone participating in this activity will be penalized.

Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged. Of course, participation should be constructive, and all comments should be relevant to the material being covered in class. Students must **do all of the reading!** I will call on students in class and expect their answers to reflect familiarity with the ideas and information in the readings. Respect should be shown for all other class members at all times. Inappropriate and disruptive participation/behavior will result in a drop in the student's grade and perhaps even expulsion from the class. If you are habitually late, the attendance portion of your course grade will be marked down substantially.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive promptly and have a collegial demeanor. Students are not allowed to sleep, read newspapers, listen to headphones, or talk to others during class. Arriving late, leaving early, or interrupting class with a cell phone or other electronic device will also result in a drop in the student's grade. Engaging in these behaviors will result in a drop in the student's grade and perhaps even expulsion from the class. **You must turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. Any exceptions must be cleared with me in advance. If you look at your cell phone during a**

quiz or exam, you will receive a zero for that quiz or exam. Students are not allowed to tape record, photograph, video tape or otherwise electronically record any of the class.

I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus. Students will be responsible for knowing any changes made to the syllabus during class time whether they were in attendance or not. The instructor’s lecture notes are not available to students; it is the student’s responsibility to obtain class notes from a classmate, should class be missed.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.”

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: “Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources.” See the “Student Academic Misconduct Policy” (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/misconductPolicy.html>

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>.

Schedule

Date	
Week 1	
Tuesday, 8/26	Class Introduction; Read the syllabus thoroughly!
Thursday, 8/28	Africa’s Political Background Schraeder, Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2	
Tuesday, 9/2	U.S. and Africa R or Internet: Kraxberger, Brennan M. The United States and Africa: Shifting Geopolitics in an "Age of Terror" <i>Africa Today</i> - Volume 52, Number 1, Fall 2005, pp. 47-68

Thursday, 9/4	Colonialism Schraeder, Chapter 3; R: “The Colonial Impact,” Boahen, Chapter 4
Week 3	
Tuesday, 9/9	Colonialism (continued) Schraeder, Chapter 3; R: “The Colonial Impact,” Boahen, Chapter 4
Thursday, 9/11	African Nationalism and Political Independence Schraeder, Chapter 4; R: “The Operation of the Colonial System,” Boahen Chapter 3
Week 4	
Tuesday, 9/16	The Economy of Affection and Personal Rule R: Goran Hyden, Chapter 4, “The Economy of Affection” R: Goran Hyden, Chapter 5, “Big Man Rule”
Thursday, 9/18	Quiz 1 The Rise of Authoritarianism Schraeder, Chapter 8
Week 5	
Tuesday, 9/23	Military Interventions Schraeder, Chapter 9 R: Jenkins and Kposowa, 1992 “The Political Origins of African Military Coups: Ethnic Competition, Military Centrality, and the Struggle over the Postcolonial State.” <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 36(3): 271-291.
Thursday, 9/25	Ethnicity, Class, Other Identities and Conflict Schraeder, Chapter 5 R: Osaghae, Eghosa. 1999. “Conflict Research in Africa.” <i>International Journal on World Peace</i> XVI(4):53-72. R: Welsh, David. 1996 “Ethnicity in Sub-Saharan Africa.” <i>International Affairs</i> 72(3): 477-491. R: Bates, Robert. 1986. “Modernization, Ethnic Competition, and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa.”
Week 6	
Tuesday, 9/30	Case Study: Rwanda R: Berkeley B, “Road to a genocide,” <i>DISSENT</i> 49 (1): 69-78 WIN 2002
Thursday, 10/2	Case Study: Darfur and Sudan R: Mahmoud, Mahgoub El-Tigani, “Inside Darfur: Ethnic Genocide by a Governance Crisis,” <i>Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East - Volume 24, Number 2, 2004</i> , pp. 3-17
Week 7	
Tuesday, 10/7	Quiz 2 Catch Up
Thursday, 10/9	Review for the Midterm Examination
Week 8	
Tuesday, 10/14	Midterm Examination
Thursday, 10/16	Civil Society R: Mw Makumbe, John. 1998. “Is there a civil society in Africa?” <i>International Affairs</i> 74(2): 305-317.
Week 9	
Tuesday, 10/21	Political Stability Achebe, whole book

Thursday, 10/23	Paths to Development Schraeder, Chapter 6
Week 10	
Tuesday, 10/28	Democratization Schraeder, Chapter 10
Thursday, 10/30	Consolidating Democracy R: Bratton M, Mattes R “Support for democracy in Africa: Intrinsic or instrumental?” BRITISH JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 31: 447-474 Part 3, JUL 2001 R: Nicolas Van de Walle, ‘Africa’s Range of Regimes: Elections without Democracy,’ <i>Journal of Democracy</i> Vol.13, No.2 (2002), pp.66-80.
Week 11	
Tuesday, 11/4	Constitutions: Political Institutions R: Reynolds, Andrew and Timothy D. Sisk 1998 “Elections and Electoral Systems: Implications for Conflict Management.”
Thursday, 11/6	Poverty, Economic Decline and Reform Schraeder, Chapter 14 R: Chapter 3, “Africa and the World Political Economy: More Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place,” Thomas Callaghy Handout
Week 12	
Tuesday, 11/11	Veteran’s Day Recess
Thursday, 11/13	Quiz 3 Case Study: South Africa R: Chapter 13, “South Africa: The Possibilities and Limits of Transforming State and Society,” Chazan et al.
Week 13	
Tuesday, 11/18	Case Study: Senegal R: Kuenzi, “From ‘Semi-Democracy’ to Democracy? The Implications of the Senegalese Presidential Election of 2000”
Thursday, 11/20	Paper Due Failed States R: Orogun, Paul S. 2002 “Crisis of Government, Ethnic Schisms, Civil War, and Regional Destablization of the Democratic Republic of Congo.” <i>World Affairs</i> 165(1): 25-41. R: Fatah, Ali A. 2002 “Somalia’s Traditional Clan-Based System Holds Key to the Country’s Future Stability.” <i>The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs</i> 21(2): 59-60.
Week 14	
Tuesday, 11/25	Catch Up
Thursday, 11/27	Thanksgiving Recess
Week 15	
Tuesday, 12/2	Prospects for the future R: “Challenges of a ‘Frontier’ Region,” Joseph, Richard A. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Volume 19, Number 2, April 2008, pp. 94-108
Thursday, 12/4	Review for the Final Exam
Week 16	
Tuesday December 9 3:10 PM	FINAL EXAMINATION

