

**PSC 769**  
**Seminar in Advanced Studies in Comparative Politics: African Politics**  
Fall 2009  
R 5:30PM-8:20PM  
WRI B224

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### **Course Description and Learning Outcomes**

In the past two decades, spectacular political change has swept across Africa. At present, only a handful of African countries are not at least partial democracies. A number of countries have been able to maintain modest but consistent growth rates over several years, and some observers have expressed cautious optimism about Africa's future. On the other hand, African states have been notoriously weak and several have simply collapsed at some point during the post-independence period. Africa is the poorest region of the world and it has seen more civil conflict in the past two decades than any other region. This course will survey the broad themes and debates in the study of the politics of sub-Saharan Africa. The emergence of the African state will first be examined. The historical and geographic forces that have shaped this process will be explored. The nature and performance of the post-colonial state will be analyzed. In particular, the reasons for and implications of Africa's weak states will be examined. The sources of conflict will be emphasized. We will look at the attempts at economic and political reform and their effects. The role of international actors in Africa will be explored.

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. 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. Doctoral students should be well-placed to engage in the independent study of Africa.

### **Required Texts and Reading:**

Five books are required for this course. The rest of the readings are available electronically either through Google Scholar, the electronic databases from the library, or through Lied Library's electronic reserves. I will designate electronic reserve readings with an **R** in the list of readings. The web site for electronic reserves is: <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx>

Bratton, Michael, & Van de Walle, Nicolas. (1997) *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Herbst, Jeffrey. (2000) *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Van de Walle, Nicolas. (2001) *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bates, Robert. (2008) *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Moyo, Dambisa. (2009) *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is Another Way for Africa*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux

### Course Requirements

*Class participation and attendance.* Students must come to class prepared, having completed all of the required reading, and ready to actively discuss the material at hand. Each student must submit comments/questions on the assigned readings for six classes (not including the class you help facilitate). Please have them to me by 2:30 p.m. on the day of class.

Missing classes will have a deleterious effect on this portion of your grade. 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. **You must turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. Any exceptions must be cleared with me in advance. Students are not allowed to tape record, photograph, video tape or otherwise electronically record any of the class.** Of course, respect should be shown for all other class members at all times.

*Discussion papers.* Students are required to write three discussion papers. Discussion papers (approximately 7-8 pages) should analyze and critique, not just summarize, the assigned readings for a particular week. What are the authors' main arguments or findings? Are these arguments compelling? Why or why not? Are there flaws in the evidence, methodology or logic used to support these arguments? What are the implications of the author's findings? How does this relate to other material covered in the class? The discussion paper is due in class on the day we discuss the selected topic. Late papers will not be accepted.

*Facilitating class discussion.* Each student will be responsible for helping to facilitate class discussion on the assigned readings for one class. A sign-up sheet will be distributed during the first class to allow students to select the topics of most interest to them. Please have your written questions or comments to me by 2:30 p.m. on the day of class. Of course, everyone should read all assigned readings and come to class with questions and comments.

*Final Course Exercise:* Each student will present an overview of a reading they found especially compelling and explain what the implications of the reading's findings are for Africa's future economic and/or political development. Students must put their observations in the larger context of other readings. This final exercise will take place during the final examination period (Thursday Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.). Students cannot choose a reading from those assigned for the class they facilitated.

### Grades

Discussion papers (worth 20% each): 60%  
Class participation and discussion questions: 20%  
Facilitating class discussion: 10%  
Final Course Exercise: 10%

Please notify me of any planned absences for religious holidays or official extracurricular activity for UNLV by September 8, 2009.

**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.

### **Other Policies and Information**

The Departmental policy is that **no one can have any food or drink except water** in the seminar room.

**Rebelmail** is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. Students must use their rebelmail accounts when e-mailing me or I will be unable to respond. Please see [http://oit.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/forms/Rebelmail\\_2009\\_Flyer.pdf](http://oit.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/forms/Rebelmail_2009_Flyer.pdf) if you have not already set up a rebelmail account.

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, TDD (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

**Tutoring** -- The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>

**Academic Misconduct** – “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>.

**Copyright** – 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/>.

<b>Date</b>	
<b>Week 1</b>	
Thursday, August 27	<b>Class Introduction:</b> Read Syllabus Thoroughly Select Topic to Facilitate
<b>Week 2</b>	
Thursday, September 3	<p><b>Africa's Political Background</b></p> <p>A. Precolonial Africa and Political Organization Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 2, pp. 35-57.</p> <p>B. Colonialism and Colonial Legacies Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 3.</p> <p><b>R:</b> Boahen, Adu A. 1987 "The Colonial Impact," (Chapter 4) <i>African Perspectives on Colonialism</i> The Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore</p>
<b>Week 3</b>	
Thursday, September 10	<p><b>The Emergence of the Postcolonial State</b></p> <p>Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 4-7.</p> <p>Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist." <i>World Politics</i> (1982), 1-24.</p>
<b>Week 4</b>	
Thursday, September 17	<p><b>Neopatrimonialism</b></p> <p>Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. <i>Democratic Experiments in Africa</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter Two. pp. 61-96.</p> <p>Nicolas van de Walle, "Decision Making in Postcolonial Africa," in <i>African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), Chapter 3 (pp. 113-151).</p> <p>Jackson, Robert H. and Carl G. Rosberg. 1984. "Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa." <i>Comparative Politics</i>. 16 (4) pp. 421-442.</p> <p>Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin." <i>World Politics</i>. 55 (3) pp. 399-422.</p>
<b>Week 5</b>	
Thursday, September 24	<p><b>Ethnicity and Politics</b></p> <p><b>R:</b> Bates, Robert. 1986. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition, and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa", in Marion Doro and Newell Stultz (eds.) <i>Governing in Black Africa</i>, pp. 153-67. New York: Holmes &amp; Meier.</p> <p>Welsh, David. 1996. "Ethnicity in Sub-Saharan Africa" <i>International Affairs</i> 72(3):</p>

	<p>477-491.</p> <p><b>R:</b> Osaghae, Eghosa. 1999. "Conflict Research in Africa." <i>International Journal on World Peace</i> XVI(4):53-72.</p> <p>Lemarchand, René. 1998. "Genocide in the Great Lakes: Which Genocide, Whose Genocide?" <i>African Studies Review</i>, 41/1: 3-16.</p> <p>Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter Eight</p> <p>Posner, Daniel N. 2003. "The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Cleavages: The Case of Linguistic Divisions in Zambia." <i>Comparative Politics</i>. 35 (2) pp. 127-146.</p>
<b>Week 6</b>	
Thursday, October 1	<p><b>Conflict and Civil War</b></p> <p>David Laitin and James Fearon, "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War", <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 97, 1 (2003), pp. 75-90.</p> <p>Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler, "Greed and Grievance in Civil Wars," <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i> 56 (2004), 563-595.</p> <p>Will Reno, "Clandestine Economies, Violence and States in Africa," <i>Journal of International Affairs</i>, 53:2 (Spring 2000), 433-59.</p> <p>Stuart Kaufman. 2006. Symbolic Politics or Rational Choice: Testing Theories of Extreme Ethnic Violence. <i>International Security</i> 30(4): 45-86.</p> <p>Arman Grigorian and Stuart Kaufman. 2007. Hate Narratives and Ethnic Conflict. <i>International Security</i> 31(4): 180-191.</p>
<b>Week 7</b>	
Thursday, October 8	<p><b>Conflict and State Failure in Africa</b></p> <p>Robert H. Bates. 2008. <i>When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa</i>. Entire book.</p>
<b>Week 8</b>	
Thursday, October 15	<p><b>Democratic Transitions</b></p> <p>Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. <i>Democratic Experiments in Africa</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapters 1 and 3-6.</p>
<b>Week 9</b>	
Thursday, October 22	<p><b>Consolidation of Democracy</b></p> <p>Bratton, Michael and Nicolas van de Walle. 1997. <i>Democratic Experiments in Africa</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter Seven</p> <p>Staffan Lindberg, "Its Our Time to 'Chop': Do Elections in Africa Feed Neopatrimonialism rather than Counteract It?" <i>Democratization</i> 10 (2003), 121-40.</p> <p>Van de Walle, Nicolas. (2001). African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis,</p>

	<p>1979-1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.</p> <p>Bratton, Michael and Eric Chang, "State Building and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa: Forwards, Backwards or Together," <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>, 39, 9, 2006, 1059-1083.</p> <p>Ukoha Ukiwo. "Politics, ethno-religious conflicts and democratic consolidation in Nigeria." <i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i>, 41, 1 (2003), pp. 115–138.</p>
<b>Week 10</b>	
Thursday, October 29	<p><b>Political Institutions and Elections</b></p> <p><b>R:</b> Reynolds, Andrew and Timothy D. Sisk. 1998. "Elections and Electoral Systems: Implications for Conflict Management." In <i>Elections and Conflict Management in Africa</i>, edited by Andrew and Timothy D. Sisk.</p> <p>Horowitz, Donald L. 2003. "Electoral Systems: A Primer for Decision-Makers." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 14(4): 116-127.</p> <p>Lindberg, Staffan. 2006. "The Surprising Significance of African Elections." <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. 17(1): 140-151.</p> <p>Bratton, M. 2008. "Vote buying and violence in Nigerian election campaigns." <i>Electoral Studies</i>. 27 (2008), 621-632.</p> <p>Kuenzi, Michelle and Gina Lambright. "Voter Turnout in Africa's Multiparty Regimes." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i>. 2007 40 (6): 665-690.</p> <p>Daniel N. Posner and Daniel J. Young, "The Institutionalization of Political Power in Africa," <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 18, 3 (July 2007), pp. 126-140.</p>
<b>Week 11</b>	
Thursday, November 5	<p><b>Civil Society and Social Capital in Africa</b></p> <p>Mw Makumbe, John. 1998. "Is there a civil society in Africa?" <i>International Affairs</i> 74(2): 305-317.</p> <p>Frank Wittmann. 2008. "Politics, religion and the media: the transformation of the public sphere in Senegal." <i>Media, Culture &amp; Society</i> Vol. 30(4): 479–494</p> <p>Bjorn Harald Nordveit. 2008. "Producing Literacy and Civil Society: The Case of Senegal." <i>Comparative Education Review</i> 52(2): 175-198.</p> <p>Daniel Zerfu, Precious Zikhali and Innocent Kabenga. 2008. "Does Ethnicity Matter for Trust? Evidence from Africa." <i>Journal of African Economies</i>, Volume 18, Number 1, pp. 153–175.</p> <p>Lauren Morris MacLean, "Mediating ethnic conflict at the grassroots : the role of local associational life in shaping political values in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana." <i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i>, 42, 4 (2004), pp. 589–617.</p>
<b>Week 12</b>	

Thursday, November 12	<p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <p>Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 13 (Summer 1999), pp. 3-22.</p> <p>William Easterly and Ross Levine, "Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions," <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 112 (November 1997), pp. 1203-1250.</p> <p>Bloom, David, and Jeffrey Sachs. (1998) "Geography, Demography, and Economic Growth in Africa," <i>Brookings Papers on Economic Activity</i>, 1998(2): 207–273.</p> <p>Cristina Bodeaa and Ibrahim A. Elbadawib. 2008. "Political Violence and Underdevelopment." <i>Journal of African Economies</i>, VOLUME 17, AERC SUPPLEMENT 2, PP. ii50–ii96</p>
<b>Week 13</b>	
Thursday, November 19	<p><b>Economic Reform</b></p> <p>"How IMF, World Bank Failed Africa." (cover story) <i>New African</i>, Jan2007, Issue 458, p12-16, 5p</p> <p>Nicolas van de Walle, "Approaches to Africa's Permanent Crisis" and "Patterns in Reform Implementation, 1979-1999" in <i>African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press), pp. 20-112.</p> <p>Dani Rodrik. Goodbye Washington Consensus, Hello Washington Confusion? A Review of the World Bank's "Economic Growth in the 1990s: Learning from a Decade of Reform." 2006 <i>Journal of Economic Literature</i>, Vol. 44, No. 4, pp. 973-987</p> <p>Randall W. Stone "The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa," <i>American Political Science Review</i> Vol. 98, No. 4, pp. 577-591.</p> <p><b>R:</b> Thomas Callaghy Chapter 3, "Africa and the World Political Economy: Still Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place?." In <i>Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order</i>, edited by John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild.</p>
<b>Week 14</b>	
Thursday, November 26	<b>Thanksgiving Recess: No Classes</b>
<b>Week 15</b>	
Thursday, December 3	<p><b>International Intervention and Aid to Africa</b></p> <p>Van de Walle, Ch. 5, "The Crisis and Foreign Aid", pp. 188-234.</p> <p>Moyo, Dambisa. (2009) <i>Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is Another Way for Africa</i>. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Entire book.</p>
<b>Week 16</b>	
Thursday Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.	<b>Final Examination (Please see section on the Final Course Exercise.)</b>