

PSC 407Z
Special Topics in Comparative Politics: Sub-Saharan Africa
Fall 2005
TR 5:30PM-6:45PM
WRI C237

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Course Description

In this course we will study political development in the independent states 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.

Course Outline

1. AFRICAN POLITICAL HISTORY: AN OVERVIEW
 - (a) Background and Context
 - (b) Colonialism: Comparative Political Forms
 - (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
 - (f) Political Parties

4. DEMOCRATIZATION
 - (a) Political Protest and Reform
 - (b) Regime Transition (including Founding Elections)
 - (c) Explaining Regime Transition
 - (d) Regime Consolidation (including Second Elections)

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:

Naomi Chazan et.al. Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa, 3rd Edition (Boulder, Co.: Lynne Rienner Press, 1999)

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

Michael Bratton and Nicolas van de Walle Democratic Experiments in Africa (New York Cambridge University Press, 1997)

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>

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	25	100
Paper Presentation	5	20
Paper	20	80
Final	25	100
Total	100	400

In other words, quizzes count for 15% of your grade, the mid term for 25%, the paper for 20%, the presentation for 5%, attendance for 5%, participation for 5%, and the final examination for 25%. **The final examination will be cumulative.**

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 26, 2005**).

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.

The Term-Paper

The term-paper should compare political institutions and political processes in one African country before and after founding elections (i.e. open, multiparty elections) held since 1990. The paper should address the following questions: Through which political institutions was political power exercised under the old regime? To what extent was political participation and political competition permitted? What political reforms were introduced? Did the country have free and fair elections? Did the country have a democratic transition? What factors account for transition outcomes in this country? What is the evidence, if any, of the consolidation of the new regime?

Students may choose their case from any sub-Saharan African country that is not a case study covered in class, though information is more likely to be available for the larger and more politically prominent countries. The text, citations, and bibliography of the paper must show evidence of research from numerous sources. Beyond books on the recent political history of the country, students may also wish to consult [Africa South of the Sahara](#), [Africa News](#), [Africa Report](#), [Africa Confidential](#), [African Affairs](#), and [The Journal of Modern African Studies](#).

The ten-page paper should be typed, double-spaced (font size = 12) and properly footnoted whenever you cite or quote a source. The paper grade will be based on the quality of the ideas and how well one covers the topics and questions outlined above as well as 1) writing style and grammar, 2) organization, 3) cited work, and 4) incorporation of class material. I expect to see original research, expressed in your own words. Points will be deducted for incorrect grammar, misspelling, and typographical errors; any evidence of plagiarism will warrant a grade of zero. The term-paper is due, without exception, in class on November 29, 2005. **No extensions will be granted.** Four points will be subtracted from your grade for each day that the paper is late. All students will also do a paper presentation for the class.

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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, the University encourages you to visit its copyright website at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

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 407Z 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. If you are habitually late, the participation and attendance portions 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. Engaging in these behaviors will result in a drop in the student's grade. **You must turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. If you look at your cell phone during a quiz or exam, you will receive a zero for that quiz or exam.**

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.

Learning Enhancement Services (LES) is the office to provide Disability Services. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, suite 137. The phone number is 702-895-0866, or TTD 702-895-0652, or you may visit the website at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les.

Academic Honesty:

All breaches in academic honesty will be handled in accordance with the UNLV Student Conduct Code and Policies, which can be accessed at <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife>.

Schedule

Date	
Week 1	
Tuesday, 8/30	Class Introduction
Thursday, 9/1	U.S. and Africa R or Internet: Rothchild, Donald. 2001 “The U.S. Foreign Policy Trajectory in Africa.”
Week 2	
Tuesday, 9/6	Africa’s Political Background Handout: Griffiths, <i>The Atlas of African Affairs</i> , Chs. 2, 3, 14-17, 42 Chazan pp. 26-30, pp. 75-85
Thursday, 9/8	Colonialism Chazan, pp. 42-46, 251-261 R: Boahen, Chapter 4
Week 3	
Tuesday, 9/13	African Nationalism R: Boahen Chapter 3
Thursday, 9/15	Political Independence Chazan, pp. 46-69
Week 4	
Tuesday, 9/20	Personal Rule Bratton and van de Walle, Chapt. 2, pp. 61-82 Chazan, Chapter 6
Thursday, 9/22	Quiz 1 One Party States Chazan, Chapter 5
Week 5	
Tuesday, 9/27	Ethnicity, Identities and Conflict Chazan, pp. 107-118 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.” Handout: Griffiths, Chs. 10, 23
Thursday, 9/29	Ethnicity, Identities and Conflict (cont.) Social Class, Religion and Other Identities Chazan, pp. 97-102 Chazan, pp. 119-130
Week 6	
Tuesday, 10/4	Civil Society Chazan, pp. 79-97 R: Mw Makumbe, John. 1998. “Is there a civil society in Africa?” <i>International Affairs</i> 74(2): 305-317.
Thursday, 10/6	Military Interventions 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.

	R: Hutchful, Eboe, 1997 “Militarism and Problems of Democratic Transition.”
Week 7	
Tuesday, 10/11	Quiz 2 Political Stability Achebe, whole book
Thursday, 10/13	Review for the Midterm Examination
Week 8	
Tuesday, 10/18	Midterm Examination
Thursday, 10/20	Political Protest and Reform Bratton/van de Walle, Ch.3
Week 9	
Tuesday, 10/25	Competitive Elections Bratton/van de Walle, Intro, pp.196-210
Thursday, 10/27	Explaining Regime Transitions Bratton/van de Walle, Chs. 4 and 6
Week 10	
Tuesday, 11/1	Consolidating Democracy Bratton/van de Walle, Ch. 7
Thursday, 11/3	Constitutions: Political Institutions R: Reynolds, Andrew and Timothy D. Sisk 1998 “Elections and Electoral Systems: Implications for Conflict Management.”
Week 11	
Tuesday, 11/8	Poverty and Economic Decline Chazan, pp. 239-243, 263-275, 325-333 Handout: Griffiths Chs. 12, 40, 41, 43
Thursday, 11/10	Policy Reform and Economic Recovery Chazan, pp. 333-353 Griffiths, Chs. 47-49
Week 12	
Tuesday, 11/15	Quiz 3 Case Study: South Africa Chazan, pp.465-484
Thursday, 11/17	Case Study: Senegal R: Kuenzi, “From ‘Semi-Democracy’ to Democracy? The Implications of the Senegalese Presidential Election of 2000”
Week 13	
Tuesday, 11/22	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.
Thursday, 11/24	Thanksgiving; no class.
Week 14	
Tuesday, 11/29	Paper Presentations Paper Due
Thursday, 12/1	Paper Presentations
Week 15	

Tuesday, 12/6	Finish Paper Presentations Prospects for the future R: Chege, Michael. 1994. "What's Right with Africa?" <i>Current History</i> 93(May):193-197.
Thursday, 12/8	Review for the Final Exam
Week 16	
Thursday, December 15, 6 p.m.	FINAL EXAMINATION