COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers a broad overview of the trajectory of politics, society, and economic development in Africa. The course is divided into three parts. The first part of the course focuses on an analysis of the role that pre-colonial and colonial legacies have played in shaping the formation and consolidation of particular forms of political rule in Africa. We will then turn our attention to the evolution of state-society relations to explain both the persistence of authoritarianism as well as the transition to political liberalization in a number of African countries. In particular, we will investigate whether liberalization efforts are paving the way for democratization or simply reinforcing the power of incumbent authoritarian regimes. Why, for example, have some countries in Africa managed to consolidate authoritarian rule, while others have witnessed state failure resulting in civil conflicts? In tracing the underlying reasons behind the variations in the trajectory of state building, we will also examine the roots and evolution of the legitimating ideologies (i.e. nationalism) underpinning efforts at political consolidation in the continent.

In the second part of the course we will explore the impact of economic reforms and examine some of Africa’s key development and social challenges. We will also examine how shifts in global economic configurations are re-shaping political and economic developments at the level of the community. In particular, we will discuss the expansion of informal economies in parts of Africa that is engendering a new, and often more violent, form of “identity politics,” and the rise of social movements contesting state power. Finally, we will discuss the roots of rebel insurgencies and mass violence as an extreme form of the politicization of identity. We will conclude with an examination of the prospects of development, humanitarian interventions, and the prospects and challenges of post-conflict reconstruction.

Course Requirements and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>FEBRUARY 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>APRIL 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Take Home Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Note that:
The research paper must be handed in at the end of the lecture on **Wednesday, April 4th**. Late papers will lose 5 points per day, including weekends. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and with a medical note.

Detailed instructions for the take-home exam will be provided in class and through **myCourses**.

Attendance and participation in conferences that begin in the 3rd week of class are required.

Friday lectures will cease starting the 3rd week of class to make way for the convening of the discussion conferences.

**SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

All the readings noted on the syllabus are available online through **myCourses**. Students are expected to have done all the assigned readings before class and conferences.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Week 1 (Jan. 8, 10, 12)**

**African Politics from a Comparative Perspective**

*Course Overview*


**I. COLONIALIZATION AND THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA**

**Week 2 (Jan. 15, 17, 19)**

**Pre-Colonial Legacies and the Advent of Colonization**


Week 3 (Jan. 22, 24)

Colonial Rule, the Struggle for Decolonization and the African State

Crawford Young (1994). “Constructing the Bula Matari,” in The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective; New Haven: Yale University Press; Chapter 4, pp. 77-140


Recommended:


II. STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Week 4 (Jan. 29, 31)

State and Civil Society in the Post-Colonial Era


Week 5 (Feb. 5, 7)

Authoritarianism: Past and Present

Patrick Chabal and Jean-Pascal Daloz, Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument (2010), James Currey, Chapters 1-3. (Read Critically).


Recommended:


Week 6 (Feb. 12, 14)

Democratization, Conflict, and the Rise of “Hybrid Regimes”


Recommended:


Week 7 (Feb. 19, 21)

Nationalist Ideologies and State Militarism


Recommended:

Selection of speeches by Nelson Mandela, the Guardian Collection. Posted on Mycourses.

**Week 8 (Feb. 26, 28)**

**Economic Crisis and the Politics of Economic Reform**


Recommended:


(MIDTERM TO BE TAKEN IN CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28)

**WINTER STUDY BREAK, MARCH 5 -9**

**III. ECONOMIES, IDENTITIES AND CIVIL CONFLICT**

**Week 9 (Mar. 12-14)**

**Social Movements and Popular Mobilization**


**Week 10 (Mar. 19, 21)**

**Africa’s “Unconventional” Economies: The Politics of Informal Institutions**


Recommended:


Week 11 (Mar. 26-28)

Ethnicity and Religion in Africa’s Civil Conflicts


Recommended:


EASTER HOLIDY, FRIDAY, MARCH 30 – MONDAY, APRIL 2

Week 12 (Wednesday, April 4)

Violence, Rebel Insurgencies, and Civil Conflict


Recommended:

TERM PAPER DUE ON APRIL 4

Week 13 (April 9, 11)

Thinking about Africa’s Future: Development, Human Rights, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction


Recommended:


Week 14 (Monday, April 16: Last lecture)

Review lecture for the final exam.

RESOURCES ON AFRICA

It is important that you follow contemporary politics in Africa on a regular basis beyond the conventional media accounts. You will find the following online sources extremely helpful for your term paper and country profile briefing paper.

News and Information Sources available online include the following:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm
http://allafrica.com
http://www.africanews.org
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/africa/
http://www.afrika.no/
http://www.africapoliticsonline.com/
Recommended Sources for your term papers:

Students are urged to constantly peruse the following standard journals both for additional reading materials and research papers: Africa (London); African Affairs (London); Africa Contemporary Record (London); Africa Confidential (London); Africa Research Bulletin (London); African Studies Review (Atlanta); Africa Today (Bloomington); Comparative Politics (New York), Canadian Journal of African Studies