POLI352: International Policy/Foreign Policy: Africa  
*McGill University, Montréal, Canada*  
Wednesdays and Fridays 01:05 PM-02:25 PM  
CRN 25210 **POLI 352-001** (3 credits) from September 5, 2017 – December 7, 2017, STBIO S1/3  
**Professor:** Daniel Douek, PhD ([daniel.douek@mcgill.ca](mailto:daniel.douek@mcgill.ca))  
**Teaching Assistants:** Shwetha Govindan ([shwetha.govindan@gmail.com](mailto:shwetha.govindan@gmail.com)) and Lucy Mackrell ([lucymackrell@gmail.com](mailto:lucymackrell@gmail.com))  
Office Hours TBA

### Course Objectives

This is a course on the International Relations of Africa. Africa has often been ignored by the international relations (IR) subfield of political science, while political science mostly analyzes Africa from a comparative politics lens. Yet Africa, the second largest continent, has more states than any other continent on the globe, and there is much we can learn about IR from studying Africa. This course will give a tour of African IR, grounded in pre-colonial, and especially colonial and post-colonial history. Colonialism is rarely studied or understood as an IR phenomenon, yet it has been critical to Africa’s political trajectory, and has defined Africa’s relationship to the Western powers and the rest of the world in ways that still echo today. In this class, we shall trace colonialism’s evolution from the Berlin Conference through the Cold War, until its demise in 1994, when South Africa transitioned to democracy. We will also examine the modes of overt and covert violence that characterized colonialism, and the various anti-colonial resistance movements that emerged across Africa. We will further explore concepts and processes such as international political economy, post-colonial warfare, gender, Islamist militancy, the War on Terror, China’s growing role on the continent, and human security. Please note that because North Africa and the Maghreb are adequately covered in other courses at McGill, this course will focus only on sub-Saharan Africa.

### Assignments and Grading:

1. **Mid-Term Exam (in class, 13 October): 25%**  
   - A combination of essay- and short-answer questions  
   - Will test your knowledge and understanding of BOTH lectures and readings
2. **Research Essay (due in class, November 29): 35%**  
   - Suggested topics and writing guidelines will be posted on MyCourses by 15 October  
   - You can also choose your own topic if you wish- in that case, you must get it approved by your TA  
   - 10-12 pages, plus bibliography and citations (double-spaced; 12-point font)  
   - 10% of the grade will be deducted per day late
3. **Final Exam (to be scheduled by the University during the exam period): 30%**  
   - Format to be announced in class
4. **TA Conference Attendance and Participation: 10%**  
   - Show up and participate; unjustified absence in 3 or more conferences will cause you to lose the entire 10%
Requirements

- **Come to class prepared:** Do all the assigned readings before class. This is important so you can follow the lectures, which will build on (rather than just review) the readings, and for participation in your conferences.

- **Attend class and take notes:** The lectures will not be recorded, and they will go far beyond the material in the textbook, so you will need to absorb and retain the lecture contents in order to succeed.

- **Check the course website regularly:** I will post assignments, announcements, and other key features of the course on our website. I will remind you about this in class, but it is your responsibility to keep up with any and all online aspects of the course.

- **Keep up with the news:** One of the most useful things about political science is that it helps us to understand current events. You'll get more out of this class if you read the news about Africa regularly. Good news sources include allAfrica.com, Mail and Guardian online (South Africa), Africa Confidential, New York Times, BBC World, Al-Jazeera, and the Economist, among others.

**Email:** Your TA is your first point of contact for the course and you should direct questions to her first. However, I am also available. I will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours during weekdays (I'm often offline on weekends). If you have a lengthy question, please come to my office hours instead of emailing. Note that I will not be able to summarize readings or tell you what you missed if you were absent. Please also bear in mind that even if you feel your situation is urgent, I may not reply right away.

**Required Text:** The course pack, for purchase at the bookstore. Recommended readings are **not** mandatory; they are intended to give you further perspective, and to serve as possible sources for your research essay.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Late work submitted without a doctor’s note will be accepted with a penalty of 10% per day late. Excuses without a doctor’s note will not be accepted. **Make-up assignments will be offered only if a student misses an exam for a valid medical reason backed up by a doctor’s note.**

**Students with disabilities** should register with the Office for Students with Disabilities and follow its procedures for obtaining assistance. If you need any assistance or modifications relating to disabilities, please come see me as early as possible in the semester and I will work with you and the Office for Students with Disabilities to accommodate your needs appropriately and fairly. The OSD can be reached at 514-398-6009 (http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/). However, please remember that the OSD has no authority to approve changes to course assignment due dates or exam dates, to devise alternative assignments or waive course requirements. If you should have any reason to miss a substantial part of the course, or if you are unable to complete any course assignments or requirements for any reason, it is your responsibility to inform the Course Professor (and not just OSD or your TA) of your situation as soon as possible.

**Fair Warnings:** Lateness is disruptive. Please do not arrive to class late. You may take notes on a laptop computer, but be sure to **switch off your ringer** and put away all cell phones and other electronics before the start of class. **Texting and using social media in the classroom is incredibly disruptive** for student and teacher alike; I ask you all to refrain from electronically distracting yourselves, and in return, I pledge to make our class as riveting as I possibly can.

**Language of Submission:**
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

**Academic Integrity:**
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

THE CLASS

Week 1) 6 & 8 September: Situating Africa in the International State System


Recommended:


Week 2) 13 & 15 September: The Impacts of European Colonization


Week 3) 20 & 22 September: African Independence and the Congo Crisis


Recommended:
Williams, Susan. 2011. Who Killed Hammarskjold? The UN, the Cold War, and White Supremacy in Africa (London: Hurst Publishers)

Week 4) 27 & 29 September: French and Portuguese Responses to African Independence

Recommended:
Film: Death in Geneva: The Poisoning of Felix Moumié

Week 5) 4 & 6 October: Armed Struggles Against Colonialism

Recommended:
White, Aaronette M. 2008. “Fanon and the African Woman Combatant: Updating Fanon’s Psychological Perspectives on Anti-Colonial and Post-Colonial Wars”, Ch.5 in Alfred Nhema and

**Week 6) 11 October: Proxy Wars, Coup-Proofing, and the Internal Security Dilemma**


**Recommended:**


**13 October: Midterm Exam in Class**

**Week 7) 18 & 20 October: Apartheid South Africa’s “Total Strategy”**


**Recommended:**


**Week 8) 25 & 27 October: Late Colonialism and the Cold War in Southern Africa**


**Recommended:**


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**Week 9) 1 & 3 November: Africa in the International Political Economy**


**Recommended:**
 Rodney, Ch.5, “Africa’s Contribution to the Capitalist Development of Europe- The Colonial Period”, pp.162-222


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**Week 10) 8 & 10 November: International Dimensions of the Rwandan Genocide**


**Recommended:**


**Week 11) 15 & 17 November: Configurations of Violence in Post-Cold War Africa**


**Recommended:**


[Video Clip on Rape as an Instrument of War in DR Congo](#)


**Csete, Joanne, and Juliane Kippenberg. 2002.** “The War Within the War: Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Eastern Congo” (Human Rights Watch Report)


**Francis, David. 1999.** “Mercenary Intervention in Sierra Leone: Providing National Security or International Exploitation?” *Third World Quarterly* Vol.20 No.2, pp.319-338

**Week 12) 22 & 24 November: The Challenge of Islamist Radicalism**


**Recommended:**


**CTV (Video):** [Discussion on the Origins of Boko Haram in Nigeria](#) (2014)
Week 13) 29 November and 1 December: China and India’s Rising Influence

***Research Essays Due in class on 29 November


**Recommended:**


**Council on Foreign Relations Roundtable (with Deborah Brautigam and Adama Gaye):**
http://www.cfr.org/publication/12622/is_chinese_investment_good_for_africa.html

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**Final Lecture: 6 December: Human Security**


**Recommended:**


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***Final Exam to be scheduled by the University***

**Further Topics I Wish We Could Explore:** In a perfect world, we would have unlimited time to discuss all facets of African politics. It would be interesting if we could also examine such topics as:

- African multilateral institutions for security and trade; peacekeeping and the responsibility to protect;
- The International Criminal Court's involvement in Africa; the “old vs. new” civil wars debate; the secession of South Sudan and Eritrea and the creation of new states; and others. If you’re interested in one of these, they might make a good essay topic…
Scholarly journals and news sources with good coverage of sub-Saharan Africa include:

Journal of Southern African Studies
Journal of Modern African Studies
Journal of East African Studies
African Affairs
African Security Review
Review of African Political Economy
Politikon
Canadian Journal of African Studies
Journal of African Economies
Third World Quarterly
Comparative Politics
World Politics
Afrobarometer.org
Africa Today
African Journal of Political Science and International Relations