

African Politics 4401-01, Fall 2007
Meets TR 2-3:15, Paff. 111

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Objective: Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of current Sub-Saharan African political systems, their historic origins, & their current position both regionally & internationally. Students must be able to critically evaluate the roles of history, culture, gender, ethnicity, war, environmental degradation, migration patterns, religion & poverty in the state formation of African nations. Additionally, students must demonstrate knowledge of the historic & current relationship between Sub-Saharan Africa & the U.S.

Textbooks/Readings:

1. *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, 3rd ed. Gordon and Gordon, Boulder: Lynne Rienner 2001
2. *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families, Stories from Rwanda*, Philip Gourevitch, St. Martin's Press 1999.
3. Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*.
4. *Global Studies Africa*, 11th Edition, Duskin/McGraw-Hill, 2007.
5. There are extra readings available on WebCT for which students are responsible.
6. Each day there will be a brief discussion of current events in Africa. Thus students are expected to prepare themselves by keeping up on the news via the internet at www.africanews.org.

Evaluation: Students are expected to display this knowledge through assignments, class presentations and class discussions. This class is a combination lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Quizzes will be given if students come unprepared. Students are responsible for material in the text and readings even if not discussed in class.

A significant part of your grade in this course will be based on a semester long assignment and participation in the Southeast Model Africa Union. The SEMAU takes places this year 1-3 November in Atlanta.

1. Final essay exam (worth 150 pts.)
2. Online quizzes on WebCT (worth 130 pts.)
 - There will be **NO MAKE-UP** quizzes. **NO LATE QUIZZES.**
 - There are 14 quizzes, 10 questions each.
 - Lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
 - Each quiz is worth up to 10 points toward your final grade (13x10 pts .= 130 total points possible).
 - The quiz becomes available at 1:00 a.m. on the week it is due.
 - IT IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE after 11:59 p.m. on Sunday of that week. Except the last quiz which is due by Friday of that week at 5:00 p.m.
 - Don't push the time restriction because your watch may reflect a different time than your computer.
 - You have 10 minutes to complete the quiz.
 - **WARNING:** 10 minutes WILL NOT give you enough time to research the answer if you have not previously read the material.
 - Use your time wisely.

Quiz	Week	Chapter	Quiz	Week	Chapter
1	2	Chapters 1, 2 & Genographic Project Reader: pp. 2-8 NPR's series on poverty	8	9	Chapter 8, Blood on the Nile, In Niger, Trees and Crops Turn Back the Desert & Lions Reader: Article 1 (p. 255)
2	3	Chapter 3 Reader: Central Africa pp. 9-44 NPR's Talk of the Nation	9	10	Chapter 6 Reader: Article 5 (p. 266), Article 8 (p 274) & Article 10 (p. 280)
3	4	Chapter 4 Reader: East Africa (Part I) pp. 46-85	10	13	Chapters 9 & 11 Reader: North Africa pp. 102-148
4	5	Chapter 13 & Mozambique Reader: Southern Africa pp. 150-94	11	14	Chapter 7 Reader: West Africa (Part I) pp. 195-217, Article 12 (p. 288) & Article 9 (p. 277)
5	6	Handouts: The heart of whiteness Reader: Article 6 (p. 268)	12	15	Chapter 10 Reader: West Africa (Part II) pp. 218-54, Article 3 (p. 259) & Article 13 (p. 289)
6	7	Chapter 5	13	16	Chapter 14 & Democracy Article 4 (p. 261) and Article 7 (p. 271)
7	8	Reader: East Africa (Part II) 86-101, Article 2 (p. 257) & Article 11 (p. 286)	14	17	Chapter 12

3. Participation in the SEMAU--More information on these assignments will be provided in class.

- a. Resolution construction 30 pts.
- b. 10 page paper 50 pts.

Final grade based on total points available 360:

A= 90-100% or 324-360 pts.

B= 80-89% or 288-323 pts.

C= 70-79% or 252-287 pts.

D=60-69% or 216-251 pts.

F= below 60% or below 216 pts.

Absence Policy: Attendance is a requirement of this course. Therefore, any absence in excess of 5 may result in the student being dropped from the class. The professor also reserves the right to reduce a student's grade for excessive absences. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for class material. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings. Students will take turns leading discussions over news events. In addition, students are expected to participate in class discussion. You **MUST** come prepared to discuss the class material and current political events. If you do not understand the text, come prepared with questions. Grades on the cusp will be determined by participation.

General information:

- Rude behavior, as defined by the instructor, will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in the student being removed from the class. This rule applies to ALL forms of communication between the student and the instructor and between the student and his/her colleagues.
- **NO BEEPERS OR CELL PHONES IN CLASS** students whose phones or beepers interrupt class will be asked to leave. It is your responsibility to ensure this does not occur!
- **NO extra credit will be available.**
- **No late** quizzes/assignments will be accepted, no matter the reason.

- No grades can be discussed, posted, or given out via the email or the phone. The instructor can ONLY talk with the student regarding their grade. The instructor can discuss students' grades with other individuals only if written permission from the student is given to the professor.
- Students with special needs are required to present their material outlining their need to the instructor during the first week of class. Arranging with the instructor any special services is the student's responsibility.
- Students are expected to check the WebCT course page DAILY, including WebCT email and announcements.
- Students are expected to know how to use the WebCT. Failure of the student to use WebCT appropriately and correctly is completely the student's responsibility and will not be an acceptable excuse for failure to complete an assignment/quiz.
- This syllabus is not designed to cover every aspect of the course. In class/online instructions regarding the course, are equally important; therefore, any instructions given in class, but missed by the student, or misunderstood by the student, are the student's responsibility.
- Students do not have permission to use the course materials in any way other than as instructed by the professor.
- Students may not record or reproduce class materials without expressed written consent of the professor.

Professor reserves the right to make changes to the course, including the schedule.

Week 1 8/16	Introduction Module 1 Chapter 1 Reader: pp. 2-8	NO QUIZ
Week 2 8/21-23	Introduction/Geography Module 1 (including reading: Genographic Project) Chapter 2 Listen to NPR's series on poverty by Charlayne Hunter-Gault, at: http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5627611 Listen to: "The Missed Education of African Girls" "Land Ownership Elusive for South Africa's Poor" "AIDS Transforms Life, Family Structure in Lesotho" "In Africa, Overcoming the Risks of Childbirth" "In Tanzania, Women See a Path Out of Poverty" Read: "African Women and the Struggle Against Poverty"	Quiz 1
Week 3 8/28-30	Introduction/Historical Context Module 2 Chapter 3 Reader: Central Africa pp. 9-44 Listen to NPR's Talk of the Nation 8/10, http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5634432	Quiz 2
Week 4 9/4-6	Colonization and the Colonial Legacy Module 3 Chapter 4 Reader: East Africa (Part I) pp. 46-85	Quiz 3
Week 5 9/11-13	South Africa/Apartheid	Quiz 4

	Module 4 (including: Mozambique) Chapter 13 Reader: Southern Africa pp. 150-194	
Week 6 9/18-20	South Africa/Apartheid Module 4 Handouts: The heart of whiteness Reader: Article 6 (p. 268)	Quiz 5
Week 7 9/25-27	Economies of Africa Module 5 Chapter 5	Quiz 6
Week 8 10/2-4	Economies of Africa Module 5 Reader: East Africa (Part II) 86-101, Article 2 (p. 257) & Article 11 (p. 285)	Quiz 7
Week 9 10/9-11 Fall Break 10/11-12	Environmental Threats Module 6 (including: Blood on the Nile, In Niger, Trees and Crops Turn Back the Desert & Lions). Chapter 8 Reader: Article 1 (p. 255)	Quiz 8
Week 10 10/16-18	African International Relations Module 7 Chapter 6 Reader: Art. 5 (p. 266), Art. 8 (p. 273) & Art. 10 (p. 279)	Quiz 9
Week 11 10/23-25	Model AU preparation	Resolutions due 10/25
Week 12 10/30	Model AU preparation	AU 11/1-3
Week 13 11/6-8	Religion/Family and Kinship Module 8 Chapters 9 & 11 Reader: North Africa pp. 102-148	Quiz 10
Week 14 11/13-15	Population, Health, Urbanization Module 9 Chapter 7 Reader: West Africa (Part I) pp. 195-217, Art. 12 (p. 288) & Art. 9 (p. 276)	Quiz 11 Papers Due 11/15
Week 15 11/20 Thanksgiving break 11/21-23	Women and Development Module 10 Chapter 10 Reader: West Africa (Part II) pp. 218-254, Article 3 (p. 259) & Article 13 (p. 289)	Quiz 12
Week 16 11/27-29	Trends and Prospects/Democratization Module 11 (including: Democracy) Chapter 14 Article 4 (p. 261) and Article 7 (p. 271)	Quiz 13
Week 17 12/4 Last day of class	Literature Module 12 Chapter 12 Have Achebe/Gourevitch book read for final	Quiz 14 Quiz due by 12/7 at 5:00 p.m.

