

POL 544A: International Relations of Sub-Saharan Africa Fall 2018

Course Description

This course is intended to be a survey of the literature addressing international politics in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Beginning with pre-colonial contexts and working through to present challenges facing African states and the international community more broadly, we will learn about a variety of topics concerning African politics. In particular, we will consider how factors such as the design of domestic political institutions, conflict, international influence, and human security concerns affect domestic outcomes and relations between African states and with other governments outside the region. Although the course does not regularly delve into specific countries or topics in considerable detail, students will have the opportunity to study a country and topic of interest when completing class assignments.

Instructor Information

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Course Format and Teaching Methods

This course is taught entirely online, including weekly lectures from the instructor as well as discussions amongst the students. The readings (save for the book you need to buy) and lectures (plus podcasts and videos) for this course can be accessed through D2L, and will be posted at the start of each week. In addition to participating in the online discussion forum, you will be expected to write a set of short papers, culminating in a larger writing project at the end of the session.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes

- Develop an extensive knowledge of politics, both within and between African countries, as well as with other actors and states beyond the region.
- Gain an increased awareness and understanding of current events in and policies towards Sub-Saharan African states.
- Nurture critical thinking skills by assessing applicability of general theories from international relations to specific cases in Africa.

Required/Recommended Knowledge

While this course does not have any prerequisites, it would benefit students to have a basic background in general international relations theories as well as a passing familiarity with applied statistics in the social sciences.

Grading Policy

University policy regarding grades and grading systems is available at:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm>

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies which are available at

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm#I> and

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm#W> respectively.

A breakdown of final grade calculations is as follows:

Participation = 35%

Short Papers = 30%

Final Paper = 35%

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

A: 90-100

B: 80-89.9

C: 70-79.9

D: 60-69.9

E: 59.9 and below

Participation

Your participation grade depends on the degree to which you engage in thoughtful conversation on the online discussion forum. "Thoughtful conversation" involves posting one original response to the discussion question of the week (minimum 300 words), as well as responding to at least one of your peers' original posts (minimum 100 words). You are also expected to respond to questions posed by your peers in response to your original post – these responses must go beyond simply stating that you agree and/or that they made a good point. Instead, ideally you would ask a question that would prompt them to think further about an aspect of their response and/or offer an alternative viewpoint. **To receive full points your response to the week's question must engage (and properly cite) material from the week's readings.** All

contributions to the discussion forum are expected to be courteous and collegial in tone and content, and should address topics not previously raised by others – so you have an incentive to participate early! Participation in each discussion forum is worth 5 percent of your final grade (7 modules = 35 percent total). The forum opens on Thursdays at noon and closes to original posts & comments to a peer at 11:59 pm Sundays, but you will be able to reply to your peers' comments on your original post until Monday at 11:59 pm. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Weekly participation points are determined in the following manner:

Original post and response to comments on it: 4 points

Response to another peer's post: 1 point

Short Papers

You are expected to write two short (1000-1400 words, double-spaced) papers about a country in Sub-Saharan Africa that is of interest to you. Choose wisely, as this country will be the subject of all your writing assignments for this course. Good papers will engage relevant course readings and all references must be cited appropriately. Each short paper is worth 15 percent of your final grade. Papers must be turned in by 11:59 pm on Sunday MST. Late assignments will be accepted, but at a penalty of one letter grade for each day it is late – *even if it's only a few minutes late*. Paper assignments are explained in greater detail under the weekly modules, but an overview is as follows:

Paper #1: assess the domestic political institutions and the colonial experience of your chosen country. Situate this analysis in the context of colonial histories and institutional legacies of Sub-Saharan Africa more generally.

Due at the end of WEEK 3

Paper #2: discuss the nature of post-independence conflict(s) in your chosen country. Who were/are the domestic actors involved? Did other countries join in the fighting? What was/is the nature of international involvement, especially in terms of peacekeeping and post-conflict statebuilding?

Due in the middle of WEEK 6

Final Paper

This exercise is aimed at encouraging you to think about your country of interest in the broader context of international politics in Sub-Saharan Africa. Provided you make a solid effort in writing the two short papers, the final paper should be an easy task to complete. This is a longer paper (2500-3000 words, double-

spaced) and is worth 35 percent of your final grade. It involves applying content from the readings of the course to your country of interest. Good papers will identify general themes and findings from the literature concerning Sub-Saharan Africa more broadly, and will discuss these with respect to the country you chose. This paper should be particularly aimed at addressing ways in which the international community, and the U.S. in particular, has and/or should engage with the country you chose to address issues of human security, political and economic development, etc.

This paper is DUE AT THE END OF WEEK 8 (Sunday at 11:59 pm MST), and is worth 35 percent of your final grade. A penalty of one letter grade will be assessed for each day that your paper is late – *even if it's only a few minutes late*. Papers turned in one week or more after the due date will not be accepted.

Late Work Policy

As a rule, work will not be accepted beyond the terms described in this syllabus, except in case of documented emergency or illness. You may petition the professor in writing for an exception if you feel you have a compelling reason for turning work in late. Again, the discussion forum for original posts closes 11:59 pm on Sundays (responses to peers' comments on your post must be completed by 11:59 pm Mondays) and no submissions after that time will be accepted because an important part of this exercise is to engage *with each other* in addition to with the week's material.

"Classroom" Behavior

To foster a positive learning environment, students must conduct themselves respectfully in online discussions. Any comments that are derogatory or threatening will not be tolerated, and appropriate action will be taken through University channels. The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self.

See: <http://policy.arizona.edu/threatening-behavior-students>.

Student Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students

are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog.

See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism available at: <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.

Violations of academic integrity are not tolerated. The first such violation in this class will result in a failing grade for the assignment, and a subsequent violation will lead to a failing grade for the course. Even in your discussion posts, if you are drawing material verbatim from an outside source, that material must be properly presented and documented in the post.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Confidentiality of Student Records

<http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Additional Resources for Students

UA Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment policy:

<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/aaindex.html>

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Course Materials

All assigned articles and book chapters (aside from those in the required books) will be made available to students on the course website. It is expected that you will have read the assigned material by the start of class each week. Course lectures will incorporate ideas and findings from the assigned material, and your participation grade will benefit greatly from being familiar with the material and being able to incorporate it directly into your discussion comments.

Required book

Harbeson, John W. and Donald Rothchild, eds. 2017. *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. **6th edition.**

Recommended books

Please ask the professor for an extensive list of additional books on a variety of topics covered during this course.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1 (10/22-10/28): (PRE-)COLONIAL AFRICA

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. "Power and Space in Precolonial Africa," in *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*.

Crowder, Michael. 1964. "Indirect Rule: French and British Style." *Africa* 34: 197-205.

Young, Crawford. 2017. "The Heritage of Colonialism," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 2.

Lecture: "Africa before and during colonialism"

Video: "Africa... States of Independence: The Scramble for Africa" (al Jazeera)

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 2 (10/29-11/4): INDEPENDENCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Bratton, Michael and Nicholas van de Walle. 1994. "Neopatrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa." *World Politics* 46(4): 453-489.

Englebert, Pierre. 2000. "Pre-Colonial Institutions, Post-Colonial States, and Economic Development in Tropical Africa." *Political Research Quarterly*, 53(1): 7-36.

Harbeson, John W. 2017. "Democracy and the State in Sub-Saharan Africa," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 7.

Lectures: "African struggles for independence" and "Comparative institutional design of African states"

Podcast: "Institutions and Democracy in Africa"

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 3 (11/5-11/11): CIVIL CONFLICT IN AFRICA

Short paper #1 (domestic institutions in the context of colonial history) due Sunday, November 11th by 11:59 pm MST.

Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2002. "On the Incidence of Civil War in Africa." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46(1): 13-28.

Gettleman, Jeffrey. 2010. "Africa's Forever Wars: Why the Continent's Conflicts Never End." *Foreign Policy*. March/April.

Reyntjens, Filip. 2017. "Instability in the Great Lakes Region," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 10.

Lectures: "Civil wars in Africa" and "Other forms of civil conflict in Africa"

Podcast: "Vigilante Groups and Counterinsurgencies in Africa"

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 4 (11/12-11/18): INTERNATIONAL DYNAMICS OF AFRICAN CONFLICT

Manning, Carrie and Louis-Alexandre Berg. 2017. "Bilateral vs. Multilateral Peacebuilding in Africa," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 13.

Reno, William. 2017. "The International Factor in African Warfare," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 8.

Zartman, I. William. 2017. "The Diplomacy of African Conflicts," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 12.

Lectures: "Interstate wars in Africa" and "International involvement in conflicts"

Podcast: "Peacebuilders: International Interventions"

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 5 (11/19-11/25): REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Engel, Ulf. 2017. "The African Union's Peace and Security Architecture – from Aspiration to Operationalization," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 14.

Taylor, Ian. 2017. "The Sad Story of 'Africa Rising' and the Continent's Romance with the BRICS," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 5.

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2014. "The Case for Aid." *Foreign Policy*, 21 January 2014.

Easterly, William. 2014. "Aid Amnesia." *Foreign Policy*, 23 January 2014.

Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. "Why Foreign Aid is Hurting Africa." *The Wall Street Journal*, 21 March 2009.

Lectures: "African regional organizations" and "International interests in Africa"

Podcast: "How Africa's historic free trade agreement will change the continent"

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 6 (11/26-12/2): U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

*Short paper #2 (post-independence conflicts) due **Wednesday, November 28th** by 11:59 pm MST.*

Griffiths, Robert J. 2017. *US Security Cooperation with Africa: Political and Policy Challenges*. Chapters 3 & 4 (available on D2L)

Friend, Alice Hunt and Jamie D. Wise. 2018. "The Evolution of U.S. Defense Posture in North and West Africa." *CSIS Briefs*, August 2018.

Lectures: "US interests and involvement in Africa after the Cold War" and "The Obama Administration's Programs and Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa"

Podcasts: "Powering Innovation and Growth in Africa" and "Africa and the New Administration" (for this podcast, feel free to skip ahead and start from minute 7)

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 7 (12/3-12/9): HUMAN SECURITY CONCERNS

Poku, Nana K., Neil Renwick, and Jaoa Gomes Porto. 2007. "Human Security and Development in Africa." *International Affairs* 83(6): 1155-1170.

Jacobsen, Karen. 2002. "Can Refugees Benefit the State? Refugee Resources and African Statebuilding." *Journal of Modern African Studies*: 577-596.

Tripp, Aili Mari. 2017. "In Pursuit of Autonomy: Civil Society and the State in Africa," in *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Chapter 6.

Lecture: "Human Security in Africa"

Video: "Human Security – A New Response to Complex Threats"

Podcast: "Peacebuilders: Refugees and Migration"

Discussion begins on Thursday at noon and runs through Sunday at 11:59 pm MST (You have until Monday at 11:59 pm to reply to anyone who commented on your original response to the discussion question). You must post an original response to the discussion question, a response to a post by a peer, and answer your peers if/when they comment on your post.

WEEK 8 (12/10-12/16): WRITING WEEK

Final paper is due Sunday, December 16th at 11:59 pm MST.