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Modern Africa
Fall 2007

Lecturer: Dr. Abeer Bassiouny Arafa Ali Radwan
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Class: Mondays 15-19 (3-7 PM)
Discussion hours: During & After the class Monday 19-21 (7-9 PM)

Discussion or consultations regarding this course should be within the course or discussion hours time.. In case of need of a meeting an e-mail should be sent at least 2 days in advance

Overview and Objectives:

This course is an introductory to contemporary African politics. The main questions in this subject are: i) How the State has been formed in Africa? ii) What are the main problems that African States faces? iii) What are the roles of regional and International organizations & external factors in African Politics? iv) Why do some African countries suffer from high levels of political violence while others are spared?

In the course of the class we will see that there is in fact great variation within Africa in the strength of states, the levels of economic growth and the amount of violence; we will aim to explain that variation. The course introduces students to major economics and political problems this continent faces. Several case studies will be introduced either through text books, paperwork of the students or presentations. . . . This course will apply the tools of political science and economics to try to find some general answers to the African question; including comparative politics approach, economics indicators, and social quantitative & qualitative statistics, besides historical approach.

The Course is divided in 4 main parts (each will take 3 classes). In the first part we take a quick tour of Africa's recent political history, examining pre-colonial structure, the impact of colonialism and the form of post colonial states. We then examine, in the second part, the social forces that now shape contemporary politics, regional organization like the African Unity. The third part presents external role in African Politics through case studies of African states. With an understanding of the political background and the political forces in operation we then turn, the last part, to examine contemporary topics: the structure of states, policy choices and violent.

To achieve the objectives and to answer the questions of this course there are textbooks that will be introduced to the Student, plus proposed readings form journalists, writers, historian, economists and political scientists. Information from International & Regional African organizations will be a basic source of knowledge besides the daily follow up of contemporary Africa.

Course Outline

First Part: Introduction of African History & States

22/10/2007 Africa: Introduction- Workout of the class

Gordon, Ch. 2

Thomson, Ch. 1

29/10/2007 The Historical Context

Pre-colonial History

Gordon, Ch. 3

Thomson, Ch. 2

1or 2/11/2007 Heritage of Colonialism

Thomson, Ch. 3

Things Fall apart, entire

Second Part: How to do Politics in Africa (Diversity within Unity)?

5/11/2007 Ethnicity/Religion

Thomson, Ch. 4

Gordon, Ch. 7, 11

8 or 9/11/2007 Intro to African Politics/African International Relations

Gordon, Ch. 4.6

Thomson, Ch. 5

Harbeson & Rothchild, ch 8,9

12/11/2007 Africa: Legitimacy / poor economy:

Harbeson & Rothchild, ch 3,4

Thomson, Ch. 6

Gordon, Ch. 5

Film: Yesterday

Deadline for Paper Topic to be given to the Lecturer

19/11/2007

Midterm Exam

Third Part: Case Studies

26/11/2007 External Influence in African Politics and the Role of African Unity

Thomson, Ch. 7, 8, 9

Jonathan D. Rechner, From the OAU to the AU: a normative shift with implications for peacekeeping and conflict management, or just a name change?"

Film: Lumumba

3/12/2007: State Collapse/Rwanda

Thomson, Ch. 10

We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families, (entire)

Film: Ghosts of Rwanda

10/12/2007 South Africa

Gordon, Ch. 13

Harbeson & Rothchild, ch 7

Film: Bopha

Forth Part: Dealing with the African Problems: Challenges & Oppertunities:

17/12/2007 Conflict Management

Harbeson & Rothchild, ch 10,11,13

The Future of Conflict Resolution in Africa and the Role of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (Spiral-bound), Babacar Diouf

Paper Due!

7/1/2007 Democratization in Africa:

Harbeson & Rothchild, ch 12,14

Thomson, Ch. 11

Presentations of students' papers start

14/1/2008 Trends, Prospects and Problems:

Gordon, Ch. 14

Thomson, Ch. 12

The Organization of African Unity: An Analysis of Its Role, ch. 3 & ch.5

Presentations continue

21/1/2008 Revision & Reactions (Africa a continent to be saved?!)

NEPAD Official document

End of presentation

28/1/2008

Final Exam

Requirment: Assignments and Grading:

1) Readings: - this course is reading intensive. However, when I have assigned longer reading assignments it is because they consist of easier material, like a novel. If not, well, we are trying to study a whole continent in one class, aren't we???

Required readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. The exams and papers will require you have a strong comprehension of the material covered in both the readings and the lectures. During class meeting, students are welcome to present their knowledge or interests of the African continent in all fields (politics, art, literature, history, news, etc.). Internet access is essential for these materials.

The **required readings** for the course will consist of the chapters from the following books/articles which are available at the UNYT's **library**:

- *An Introduction to African Politics*, by Alex Thomson (Basic textbook)
- *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, by April Gordon and Donald Gordon (only chapters of the book).
- *Africa in World Politics: Post Cold War Challenges*, by John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild (Second edition, only chapters of the book,)
- *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families* – Gourevich (Novel)
- *Things Fall Apart* – Chinua Achebe (Novel)

- *From the OAU to the AU: a normative shift with implications for peacekeeping and conflict management, or just a name change*, Jonathan D. Rechner (Article can be emailed to you by Lecturer)
- *The organization of African Unity: An Analyses of its Role*, Naldi, Gino J (only chapters of the book)
- *The future of Conflict Resolution in Africa and the Role of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (Spiral- bound)*, Babacar Diouf, (Master thesis).
- *The New partnership for Africa's Development NEPAD* (Official document available on the Internet on <http://www.nepad.org>)

2) Listening: Focus on Africa. **You will be required to listen to Focus on Africa every day, Monday-Friday** <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm>. It's a 40 minute listen and will keep you well up to date with what is going on in the continent.

3) Visual Material: Africa has been marginalized on the media or on the culture encounter in general. Therefore, during the course we will be exposed to visual contact with the African life through some DVDs; documentaries and novel types.

4) Developing country expertise: Paper & Presentation: We expect that you will become our class expert for one African country. Therefore you will prepare an analytical paper in which you will respond to the state- civil society relationship in one African country of your choice. Writing a piece, by focusing your attention to a certain political concept you find relevant and can be applied (or tested) to your case study. The goal of this paper is to make qualified analyses of real politics of African countries. The paper should be typewritten and double spaced on ten pages using 1-inch margins and 12 font size. Deadline for delivering the paper is critical and should be respected. If you handout the paper in delay, there will have a late penalty (a grade deduction). After one week from the deadline, no paper will be accepted.

In the same time, by **presenting** the paper, a brief outline of the paper is due in class; For each of the topics that we will look at throughout the course of the term you should read up especially on the situation for your country for that topic. So if you become our expert on Uganda you should try to find out information for Uganda on each of the weekly topics: the class relations, the ethnic relations, the economic policies and so on. In developing this exercise you will be able to get more out of the readings and you will also be a resource for the rest of the class who will then be able to call on you for your evaluation of the situation in your country.

Your presentation will be a summary, if you may, of the research work you did on your country choice. You should check the internet libraries available to UNYU especially JESTOR, other internet resources and/or the following pages to find information on your country of choice.

5) Participation and Attendance: Participation extends beyond mere attendance. Active and constructive participation in class discussions is required as part of the course. At the beginning of the semester students will sign up to be discussion leaders for each week. Discussion leaders will give a brief summary of what they understood from the readings, as well as some questions with regards to these readings, and open up the discussion for the rest of the class.

In order to keep up with the course material you are required to attend class, and if you miss class on regular bases, you will not pass the course. Excused absences will be granted only in cases of documented emergency or illness, and only if you notify the instructor of your absence ahead of time. You are expected to participate actively in class discussions, with an emphasis on the quality over the quantity of your participation.

To further evaluate your participation in classes I may occasionally write pop-up quizzes or collect exercises we do in class or give a take-home test depending on readings we have done in class and the list of additional articles at the end of the syllabi.

6) Mid-term /Final Exam:

Two examinations will be taken, one during week seven of the course and a final exam covering all course content during the final examination period. Test format may combine a mixture of short and long essays questions covering *all* readings, lectures, hand-out and class discussion content.

7) The final grade will be calculated on the basis of the following:

Participation and attendance	15%
Mid-term exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Paper & Presentation	30 %

Here are some WebPages lists that can be useful for your research:

- <http://www.africa-union.org/>
- <http://www.nepad.org/>
- <http://us-africa.tripod.com/index.html>
- <http://www.people.africadatabase.org/>
- <http://www.africaaction.org/index.php>
- <http://www.africacenter.org/>
- http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_studies/AS.html
- <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html>
- <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/>
- <http://www.africaonline.com/site/>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm>
- <http://allafrica.com/>
- <http://www.africanews.org>
- <http://worldviews.igc.org/awpguide/>
- Country Pages: http://www.africa.upenn.edu//Home_Page/Country.html
- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The colonial Origins of Comperative Development: An Empirical Investigation." American Economic Review, http://econ-www.mit.edu/faculty/download_pdf.php?id=144
- Oyekan Owomoyela..1994. "With Friends like these... A critique of Pervasive Anti-Africanisms in Current African Studies Epistemology and Methodology," <http://www.jstor.org/view/00020206/ap020077/02a00040/0>
- Richard Joseph.2003. "Nation-State Trajectories in Africa", <http://journal.georgetown.edu/Issues/ws03/josephlocked.pdf>
- R.Jackson and C.Rosberg.1982. "Why Africa 's Weak States Persist" World Politics. 1-24, <http://www.jstor.org/view/00030554/di961041/96p0004s/0>
- William Miles and David Rochefort.1991. "Nationalism versus Ethnic Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa.", <http://www.jstor.org/view/00030554/di961041/96p0004s/0>
- Dan Posner, 2003. "The political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." UCLA: Working Paper, <http://www.globalization-africa.org/papers/20.pdf>
- Ideology and Inconsistency: The "Cross-Pressured" Nigerian Worker APSR, <http://www.jstor.org/view/00030554/di960960/96p0013y/0>

- Mike Lofchie.1972. “The Uganda Coup—Class Action by the Military,
“Journal of Modern African Studies,
<http://www.jstor.org/view/00030554/di960960/96p0013y/0>
- Stephen Ellis, 1988, “Religion and Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa”,
http://www.commissionforafrica.org/english/report/background/ellis_and_teer_haar_background.pdf
- Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a field Experiment in Benin,
<http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/faculty/wantchekon/research/client.pdf>
- The Impact of Structural Adjustment on Women: A Governance and Human Rights Agenda, <http://www.yale.edu/ycias/globalisation/abouhard.pdf>
- Bill easterly. 2003. “Can Foreign Aid Buy Growth” Journal of Economic Perspectives,
<http://www.nyu.edu/fas/institute/dri/Easterly/File/EasterlyJEP03.pdf>
- Economics and Violent Conflict,
www.preventconflict.org/portal/economics/Essay.pdf

List of African Countries to choose from

Algeria	Liberia
Angola	Libya
Benin	Madagascar
Botswana	Malawi
Burundi	Mali
Burkina Faso	Mauritania
Cameroon	Mauritius
Cape Verde	Morocco
Central African Republic	Mozambique
Chad	Namibia
Congo	Niger
Comoros	Nigeria
Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda (X)
Djibouti	São Tomé
DR Congo	Senegal
Egypt	Seychelles
Equatorial Guinea	Sierra Leone
Eritrea	Somalia
Ethiopia	South Africa (X)
Gabon	Sudan
Gambia	Swaziland
Ghana	Tanzania
Guinea	Togo
Guinea-Bissau	Tunisia
Kenya	Uganda
Lesotho	Zambia
	Zimbabwe

