COURSE SYLLABUS

INR 3253
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF AFRICA

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University of Central Florida

Section:	0001
Term:	Fall 2011
Course Location:	CL1 0105
Course Time:	M,W,F 1:30pm - 2:20pm
Credits:	3 Credit Hours
Office Location:	311-D Phillips Hall
Office Hours:	M, W 10am – 1130am & 230pm – 4pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

> One of the tasks that an independent Africa had to undertake if it wanted to fulfill its historic duties was the creation of new political ideas and institutions that would unify, strengthen and fully liberate the continent into sovereignty and make its people prosperous and proud.
>
> Chinweizu
> *The West and the Rest of Us*

> Africa is at war. It is a war of cultures. It is a war between indigenous Africa and the forces of Western civilization. It takes the form of inefficiency, mismanagement, corruption and decay of the infrastructure. The crisis of efficiency in the continent is symptomatic of the failure of transplanted organs of the state and the economy.
>
> Ali A. Mazrui
> *The Africans*

The contemporary realities of the African continent cry out for understanding. Indeed, discourse on the current conditions in and among African states often cast overly simplistic images of famine, warfare and AIDS, while triggering loaded but increasingly commonplace questions such as: "Has the state in Africa failed?" "Can Africa even govern itself?" "Why can't African states harness the Continent's immense resources?" "Should Africa be recolonized?" The easiest answer is that, except in the case of the latter, there are no easy answers. Rather, as the Chinweizu and Mazrui comments above suggest, any understanding of the continent's political predicament is held hostage to grasping the cultural, historical and power complexities of the African state. Accordingly, *INR 3253* examines the major factors that have and continue to shape Africa's political reality. Specifically, this course explores the international politics of African states in their intra-continental *and* global dimensions.

The course embraces two fundamental assumptions in analyzing the international politics of Africa. First, the international politics of contemporary African states must be understood as a function

of the position Africa occupies within the global political economy. Second, the contemporary policies adopted by African states (and those they refuse to adopt) must be understood in the context of the worldview and cultural frames of reference adopted (and rejected) by African leaders in the decades following the end of colonialism. From these perspectives, the course concludes with an analysis of Africa's current condition in the global political economy from the perspective of its relationship with the West.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Relying on lectures by the professor, critical dialog, and student research, the course objective is that at the end of the semester students will have been provided with the ability to:

- Apply and critique the application of traditional and contemporary theories of international relations to the international politics of Africa;
- Grasp the extent to which the colonial experience shaped and continues to reverberate in contemporary international politics of Africa;
- Identify the role culture and worldview has played in the global and continental policies adopted by African leaders in the post-colonial era;
- Explore the contributions of African political thinkers to our understanding of the international politics of Africa
- Critically assess the impact of globalization on the development of the African state; and
- Articulate alternative models for exploring and explaining contemporary international politics of African states.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, Howard University Press, 1982. ISBN: 0-88258-096-5.

2. David Leonard & Scott Straus, Africa's Stalled Development: International Causes & Cures, Lynne Rienner, 2003. ISBN: 1-58826-116-6.

3. Thomas Krabacher, Global Studies: Africa, McGraw Hill, 13th Edition (expanded & updated). ISBN- 9780073527765.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Africa Human Rights Resource Center
- Africa Policy Information Center
- Africa South of the Sahara
- African Union
- Africanews
- All Africa

- Columbia University African Studies
- Economic Commission for Africa
- Flame: African Sisters Online
- Z-NET Africa Watch
- H(istory)-Africa
- H-African Politics
- National Summit on Africa
- University of Pennsylvania African Studies
- African Politics @ UW-Madison

Maps:
- http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/africa_pol_2003.jpg
- http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/africa_pol_2003.pdf

GRADE SCALE

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 or lower	F

ASSIGNMENT GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1.	Class Participation/Online Debates:	20 percent.
2.	Research Presentations:	20 percent.
3.	Research Proposal:	20 percent.
4.	Mid-Term Examination:	20 percent
5.	Final Essay Examination:	20 percent.
	Total:	100 percent

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS & PROTOCOLS

Class Participation:

Students are expected to consistently participate in class discussions. In order to do so, it is critical that all readings be completed before attending class. Please respect the views and opinions of other students.

Research Presentations:

Students will be assigned to one of the research themes listed below and will conduct two (2) PowerPoint presentations on the proposed topic. The specifics of the presentations will be left to students' creativity. However, they must last 15 minutes, include a 5-minute Q&A, and adhere to the guidelines below. Please also note that presentations will be graded on preparation, creativity and clarity of the research project.

The themes for the research projects are as follows:

1. Democratization & Democratic Elections:
   South Africa
   Democratic Republic of the Congo
   Zimbabwe
   Cote d'Ivoire
   Uganda
   Nigeria
   Botswana
2. Conflict & the Genocide/Refugee Crisis:
   Sudan (Darfur or Southern Sudan)
   Democratic Republic of the Congo
   Liberia
   Mauritania
   Sierra Leone
   Mozambique
   Uganda
3. Conflict Diamonds:
   Sierra Leone
   Angola
   Liberia
   Cote d'Ivoire
   Zimbabwe
   The United Nations (policies re: CDs)
   The African Union (policies re: CDs)
4. The HIV/AIDS Crisis:
   Botswana
   South Africa
   Zambia
   Zimbabwe
   Lesotho
   Nigeria
   Uganda
5. Impact of Structural Adjustment Programs:
   Ghana
   Senegal
   South Africa
   Nigeria
   Tanzania
   Kenya
   Zambia
6. "The Scramble" for African Oil:
   Nigeria
   Angola
   Sudan
   Libya
   Algeria
   Egypt
   Republic of Congo

Presentation I	
Content	**Format**
Working Title	1st slide. Slide must include a cover image and student information
Introduction of research & statement of the significance	2nd slide. Images optional. Slide text fonts should be either size 14 or 16.
Research question(s)	3rd Slide. Images optional. Slide text fonts should be either size 14 or 16.
Preliminary findings	2-4 slides. 1-2 images per slide.
Presentation II	
Content	**Format**
Key research findings	2-4 slides. 1-2 images per slide.
Description of key evidence	1-2 slides. Images optional.
Conclusions and personal observations	1-2 slides. 1 image per slide. Slides for personal observations optional
Annotative bibliography of scholarly sources	Final 4 slides. 1 source per slide. Slides must be size 12 font.

Research Proposal:

The general focus of the research proposal (including that of the presentation) will be a well-written document based on the content from the presentation (particularly number 2). Details will be discussed in class. However, research papers must adhere to these guidelines:

1. Be 7-10 double-spaced pages (including title page and bibliography page) with 1" margins.
2. Size 12, Times New Roman font.
3. Be written in MS Word, WordPerfect or Rich Text format.
4. Include short quotations, proper citations and a bibliography (Chicago/Turabian style only).
5. Use at least 4 scholarly sources, no online encyclopedias or websites. Scholarly articles from online library databases or online journals and newspapers are acceptable but must be approved.

There are no exceptions to these procedures and failure to follow them will result in an "F" for the assignment. **Please note that serious emphasis will be placed on sound writing. Therefore, along with content, all assignments will be evaluated on the basis of proper organization, correct documenting, grammar, punctuation, spelling and neatness. It is critical that you Proofread your work!!!** For assistance, students should refer to the writing format presented in:

1. Kate L. Turabian, A Manual For Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Latest Edition.
2. http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/guides/turabian.html
3. http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Regarding attendance:

1. Students are expected to punctually attend each and every class session unless otherwise directed or excused. The roll will be called at the beginning of each session.
2. Students are allowed three (3) unexcused absences. Any additional unexcused absence will automatically result in a drop in letter grade from the final averaged. Three unexcused tardies will be counted as an additional unexcused absence.

3. Excuses for medical reasons must be accompanied by a doctor's (or health professional's) signed statement on their business letterhead.
4. If you are not in class 15 minutes after the session has started, then you will be considered officially absent and prevented from attending class.

Regarding missed/late assignments and make-up examinations:

1. Students who miss an assignment as a result of an excused absence must submit the assignment upon return.
2. Students who miss an exam as a result of an excused absence must consult the professor **upon return** in order to schedule a make-up exam (within one week).
3. Students who miss an assignment for any unexcused reason will have three (3) days after the due date to submit it. Please note that the assignment grade will be dropped one letter for each day. No assignments will be accepted after the third day.
4. Students who miss the mid-term or the final examination for any unexcused reason will not be allowed a make-up.

Regarding class conduct:

1. Students caught cheating or found guilty of plagiarism will be automatically issued a grade of "F" for the course and pursued under any applicable university-level sanctions. Please note the following definitions of plagiarism:
   - Using another student's work, meaning anything from borrowing one phrase to copying an entire paper.
   - Submitting a paper or report (or any portion of such a paper) purchased from a commercial source.
   - Borrowing the exact words of another writer without acknowledging the debt by quotation mark and either a citation or an overt, explicit reference to the source in the body of your essay.
   - Borrowing the ideas of another writer by paraphrasing or rewording without acknowledging the source.
2. **SLEEPING IN CLASS AND CELLPHONE RINGERS ARE ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED!!!**
3. Use of laptops and other similar devices for coursework is encouraged. However, **EMAILING, TEXT MESSAGING AND ALL NON-COURSE RELATED WORK DURING CLASSTIME IS PROHIBITED**!!!
4. Please avoid all non-class related discussion.
5. Students violating these policies will be dismissed from class and given an unexcused absence for that day.
6. Please consult the University of Central Florida's "Golden Rule" policy. http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/

Additional Policies:

1. Students with disabilities and requiring alternative arrangements must register with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116. Students should then inform the instructor and provide any relevant documents.
2. Copyright notice: I have taken steps to ensure that all course material, including this syllabus and the lectures associated with this class, are protected by copyright law as my own original

expression. Students are authorized to take notes in class and thus create their own "derivative work" from my lecture, but this authorization extends only to your personal use. Reproduction, distribution, or publication (on-line or otherwise) of transcribed or taped versions of my lecture are not permitted without my expressed written consent.

3. The professor reserves the right to alter the syllabus as needed. Students will be notified accordingly.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK		TOPIC	REQUIRED READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	8-22	▪ Introduction ▪ Research Assignments	Rodney, Introduction
2	8-29	▪ African Politics in Context ▪ Pre-Colonial Political Realities	Rodney, Chapter 1, 1. Rodney, Chapter 2, 31.
3	9-5	▪ Imperialism, Colonialism & the Roots of Political Decline	**Video: Basil Davidson, Africa: "Kings and Cities."** Rodney, Chapter 3, 73. Rodney, Chapter 4, 93-113. Rodney, Chapter 5, 147.
4	9-12	▪ The Instruments of Colonialism: Explorers, Missionaries & Administrators	Rodney, Chapter 6, 203-238. **Video: Basil Davidson, Africa: "The Bible and the Gun" & "This Magnificent African Cake"**
5	9-19	▪ The Consequences of Colonialism: Africa in the Global Structure	**Audio: The BBC, The Story of Africa: "Between World Wars"** (link at bottom of page) Rodney, Chapter 6, 238-281. Leonard & Straus, Chapter 1, 1. Global Studies: Africa # 6. Inside Cape Town
6	9-26	▪ Neo-Colonialism & Post-colonial African Leadership	The Myth of Neo-colonialism. Leonard & Straus, Chapter 2, 21. **Video: Basil Davidson, Africa: "The Rise of Nationalism."**
7	10-3	▪ Neo-colonialism, Globalization & the International Political Economy	Leonard & Straus, Chapter 3, 37. **Video: Ali Mazrui, The Africans: "In Search of Stability"**
8	10-10	▪ Globalization & Crisis of the African State	Globalization As Neo-Colonialism **Video: Ali Mazrui, The Africans: "A Garden of Eden in Decay"** **MIDTERM EXAM**
9	10-17	▪ Globalization & Crisis of the African State	The Challenge of Globalization in Africa A Continent in Crisis: Africa and Globalization Global Studies: Africa # 7. The Ultimate Crop Rotation
10	10-24	▪ Challenges of African Foreign Policy: African & the U.S.	**Video: Lumumba**
11	10-31	▪ Challenges of African Foreign Policy: African & the U.S.	The New Military Frontier: Africa, Frida Berrigan Global Studies: Africa #8. Forget Depp: Somali Pirates Risk All for Riches, Women
12	11-7	▪ Crisis of the African State in the International Politics of Africa: Conceptualizing Conflict	Leonard & Straus, Chapter 4, 57. Leonard & Straus, Chapter 5, 83.
13	11-14	▪ Crisis of the African State in the International Politics of Africa: Conflict & Civil War	**Video: Sometimes in April**
14	11-21	▪ Crisis of the African State in the International Politics of Africa: Conflict & Civil War	**Video: Sudan Documentaries** Global Studies: Africa # 2. How Can Somalia Really Be Fixed? Global Studies: Africa # 11. In Algeria, a Tug of War for Young Minds
15	11-28	▪ International Politics of Africa in the Future	Global Studies: Africa # 10. In Obama's Rise, Kenyans See Lessons for Africa Global Studies: Africa # 3. Glaciers Are Dying
16	12-5		**FINAL EXAM – TBA**

All items subject to change. Students will be notified.