INR 3253: International Politics of Africa
Spring 2016

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I. University Course Catalog Description

The broad structures and processes of international politics and foreign policy in Africa, with particular attention on U.S.-African relations.

II. Course Objectives

This class will be considerably more involved than "learning about Africa." This is an international relations class, and the primary purpose of the class will be to introduce students to the study of international relations and politics as an academic and scientific enterprise. Accordingly, the texts will be very challenging, and students should be prepared to do far more than simply memorize facts about people, places, things, or events. Be prepared to critically assess politics and to learn about the different methods that social scientists use to study them.

Specifically, students should expect to:

1. Learn about different issues in international politics, specifically as they related to Africa.
2. Explore how social scientists construct testable (and falsifiable) hypotheses related to politics.
3. Assess the appropriateness of different methods and data used to answer research questions.
4. Apply social science research methods while making informed arguments related to current events.
5. Utilize social science theories to explain important political phenomena.

III. Course Prerequisites

ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I.

Students are expected to enter the class with a basic understanding of the main concepts and theories of international relations. Ancillary readings meant to improve students' grasp of these concepts and theories can suggested by the instructor on request. Students are also expected to either enter the class with or quickly develop a knowledge of Africa's geography, including the location of all countries, the continent's major cities, regions, terrain, bodies of water, and other important features.

IV. Course Credits

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V. Required Texts and Materials

https://www.issafrica.org/iss-today/ (read daily briefs)

French, Howard. 2014. *China's Second Continent*. Vintage.

Lindberg, Staffan. 2006. *Democracy and Elections in Africa*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Moyo, Dambisa. 2010. *Dead Aid: Why Aid is not Working and How there is a Better Way for Africa*. Farrar, Staus, & Giroux.

Williams, Paul. 2011. *War and Conflict in Africa*. Polity. (1st Edition)

Students will also be responsible for numerous readings from academic journals, think tank reports, news periodicals, etc., as specified in the syllabus, the course schedule, or disseminated during the semester. Especially important Given the desire to keep this class relevant to current events, some readings will not be announced until deep into the semester.

VI. Disclaimer about Course Demands

This class will be both reading and writing intensive and students should be prepared to complete assignments throughout the entirety of the course. By design, students cannot complete the class "early," regardless of their pace and performance, and are required to complete weekly assignments.

The class will include six required modules and a final exam. The first covers the syllabus, course requirements, and multiple course "primers." The second, a "short module" will provide a quick introduction to the types of assignments that are required by focusing on a specific subject: the challenges of the Ebola and HIV viruses. Four modules will then be centered on each of the books.

As needed, the instructor will offer a brief "Post-Mortem" lecture after grading the components of each module. This will effectively be a mini-lecture that specifically responds to issues that were common across the class. Consequently, it is important for students to work at a similar pace and complete assignments at a similar time, and late submissions cannot be accepted. Any post-mortem lectures will be especially important for the final exam.

Second, students should fully commit to the module they are currently assigned. Any extra time should be committed to reviewing the material and working on the written assignments. In other words, efforts should focus on doing the work well, not simply getting it done. That said, although modules may not yet be available, students are free to "read ahead" and finish the books early (though assignments will not be available early). Students that read ahead are strongly encouraged to keep detailed notes so that they can review prior to taking associated quizzes and completing any necessary written assignments.

VII. Assignments and Grade Calculation

*NOTE: Completely disregard the "ASSIGNMENTS" and "TOTAL" columns in the gradebook.

Assessment	Available	Due Dates	Weight
Module 1: Syllabus and Primers	January 11	January 15	10%
Module 2: Short Module HIV & Ebola	January 11		15%
Quiz on Garrett		January 22	
Quiz on Lecture & CDC Readings		January 22	
Essay		January 25	
Module 3: War and Conflict	January 15		15%
Quizzes for Intro & Part I		January 29	
Quizzes for Part II		February 5	
Quizzes for Part III		February 12	
Essay		February 15	
Module 4: Dead Aid	February 5		15%
Quizzes for Lecture, Intro, & Part 1		February 19	
Quiz for Part II		February 26	
Essay		March 4	
Module 5: Democracy and Elections	February 26		15%
Quizzes for Lecture & Chapters 1-3		March 11	
Quizzes for Chapters 4-6		March 18	
Essay		March 25	
Module 6: China's Second Continent	March 11		15%
Lecture & Data Assignment			
Quizzes for Lecture & Part 1		April 1	
Quizzes for Part 2		April 8	
Quizzes for Part 3		April 15	
Essay		April 22	
Final Exam	April 28	May 4	15%

The grade for each module will be evenly split between the quizzes and the essays. Keep in mind that the value of any single quiz will be worth around 1-2% of the semester grade, while each essay is worth 7.5%. The essays should be taken very seriously and should represent the absolute best work of the student.

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
84-86.99	B
80-83.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
74-76.99	C
70-73.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
64-66.99	D
60-63.99	D-
0 – 59.99	F

VIII. Grade Dissemination

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. Assume each component of the grade will be graded one week after submission. You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. If the grade is not available online, assume your assignment has not been graded. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/.

IX. Course Policies

Late Work Policy: Materials turned in late will be assessed a penalty of 10% for each day past due, beginning at 1 minute past the announced deadline. Make up exams will be allowed only when the student can document an extraordinary circumstance that can verify there were unable to attend.

Extra Credit Policy: One extra credit opportunity will be announced during the first week.

Grades of "Incomplete": The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Rewrite Policy: No rewrites are available in this class.

Essay Commentary Policy: Commentary on essays will be delivered in written format, at the end of the essay. However, upon request, an alternate delivery method can be used.

X. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: The instructor will make a strong effort to respond to all emails by 5:00 p.m. the day the message is received.

- All emails should include "INR 3253" or another indicator in the subject line that identifies the message as relevant to the class. I will prioritize emails coming from students enrolled in the class. In other words, EMAILS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT LINE WILL LIKELY HAVE A DELAYED RESPONSE.
- Emails should include a salutation.
- Students, per university policy, are required to correspond with their official Knights email address.
- Students should first consult the syllabus regarding basic requirements (this will usually save you time).

XI. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken during each session but will not represent a formal part of students' grades. However, failure to attend class will have an adverse influence on students' grade in at least three ways. First, lectures will not be simply "from the book" and will include important information that will be needed for to succeed in the class's graded components. Second, students are expected to regularly contribute to classroom discussions. Participation will

be monitored throughout the class. Third, attendance will be a factor in eligibility for any extra credit, out of classroom review sessions, and rescheduling a missed lecture.

Academic Conduct Policy: Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

Turinitin.com: In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit http://www.turnitin.com. Essays are due at turnitin.com the same day as in class.

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.