University of Central Florida
College of Sciences
Department of Political Science

INR 3253 International Politics of Africa 3 hrs
Fall 2018 Semester (Days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Time 12:30 - 1:20PM, Venue CB1 O218)

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The best way of correspondence with me is through Webcourses@UCF, instead of UCF email account. Please use Inbox, a communication function in Canvas. I normally respond 24. If you send a message to my UCF email address, I will reply only to emails sent from UCF email account (No Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo mail, etc.).

Academic Activity:

All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To document that you began this course, please complete the academic activity exercise by the end of the first week (August 24th, at 11:59 pm) or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. Through Webcourse, please complete the students' activity exercise.

Grade Scale

Points	Letter Grade
940-1000	A
900-939	A-
890-899	B+
810-889	B
800-809	B-
790-799	C+
710-789	C
700-709	C-
690-699	D+
610-689	D
600-609	D-
0-599	F

Overview:

This class introduces you to African politics. The core questions that motivate the course are: (i) Why are state structures weaker in Africa than elsewhere? (ii) What accounts for Africa's slow economic growth? (iii) Why do some African countries suffer from high levels of political violence while others are spared? (iv) What is the nature of Africa's role in global politics? During the class, we will see that there is 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. To do so we will study many individual cases, but we will also stand back and try to apply the tools of political science and economics to try to find some general answers to these questions. The expectation is that, by the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of common trends in this part of the world which should help you in evaluating political behavior more generally.

Structure of the Course:

The course is structured in three parts. The first part provides the historical and political foundation on which African politics is unfolding. Here, we will take a quick tour of Africa's recent political history, specifically, colonialism. The second section examines the social forces that now shape African politics. We also take a close look at the origins and consequences of African democratization attempts in the early 1990s and thereafter. Finally, with an understanding of the political background and the political forces in operation we then turn to examine contemporary topics: the structure of states, policy choices and violent conflict. We analyze the immediate and long-term consequences of violence and civil war.

Requirements

Reading & Class Participation (150 points—15%) You will be expected to have completed the required readings for the week before you attend section for that week. You must do the readings carefully and reflectively. Regarding the readings, ask yourself: are the claims in the text surprising? Is the reading answering the questions you hoped it would answer? If not, is it answering exciting questions than you had thought of? Next, ask yourself: what types of evidence or arguments would you need to see to be convinced of the results? When you come across issues that you disagree with or are not persuaded by, write them down and bring them along to class for discussion. Also note when you are pleasantly surprised, when the author produced a convincing argument that you had not thought of. Your ability to comment on the readings in class, show a demonstration that you have done the readings, ask thoughtful questions, and respond to such questions from the instructor or your colleagues will positively impact your class participation grade.

Map Quiz. (100 points--10%) We will have a short in-class quiz in Week 4. This will not be "concepts" quiz but a "basic facts" quiz. These basic facts will be easy enough to learn but will provide a useful knowledge base and will help you in your listening to the news and your reading of texts. The basic facts that you will be expected to have mastered by week 4 are the locations of African countries. You can practice this at http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/afrquiz.html. Grading rubrics: you will earn 2 points for each African country correctly identified. Since there are 54 African countries, you earn all the 100 points if you identify 50 countries correctly, giving you four margins of error. Also, while not required for the map quiz, please make an effort to know the capital cities and colonial powers of each African country. Some of this information may come in your final exams. You can practice African countries and their capitals here:

https://lizardpoint.com/geography/africa-caps-quiz.php. practice former colonial powers here: https://www.sporcle.com/games/nicksokoll/african-colonization-map

Country-Expert Presentation (100 points—10%) You are expected to become our class expert for one country. For each of the topics that we will look at throughout the term, you should read up primarily on the situation for your country for that topic. In developing this expertise, you will be able to get more out of the readings. Starting from week 9, country experts will make a 20 minutes PowerPoint presentation that touches on three areas: a) democratization attempts b) economic growth and development, and c) security, conflict and peace, in their countries. Class presentations constitute 10 per cent of your final grade.

Presentations rubrics:

1. Organization (demonstrates introduction, content, & conclusion 20 points)
2. Understanding of the material and efficiently answering questions (50 points)
3. Delivery (delivery is poised, controlled, and smooth) (20 points)
4. Time management (deliver a clear, concise presentation in 10 min, 10 points)

Discussion Board (400 points--40%) You will have the opportunity to participate in online discussions board to further illuminate some of the issues we will discuss in class. See these discussions as the extension of the lectures and the readings. You will make a total of 8 original discussion posts and 16 responses each to others' original discussion post. The original post should be between 650-750 words (excluding references) and the reactions at a minimum of 100 words each. The original posts are due on Fridays, at midnight while the follow-up posts are due on Sundays, at midnight. The posts will be graded based on how well they do the following: a) provide evidence of critical and thoughtfulness of college-level thinking b) thoughts and ideas are organized and presented compellingly c) discussion stays on topic, being relevant in the presented viewpoints, and attempting to motivate the discussion d) aware of grammar and sentence mechanics and use proper etiquette (Remember that being respectful is critical). The follow-up posts should reflect the reading of the post and extend the discussion.

Final Research Paper (250 points—25%) You will write a 1700-2000 words paper on a given topic that identifies a significant problem in Africa. The research paper will identify two or more potential causes of that problem, conduct research and analysis to determine which of the causes have the most empirical support, then make recommendations (directed to local or international actors) to improve the problem. Evaluation will be based upon the coherence of argument and presentation of evidence against other reasonable alternatives. Readings from class may be used to provide data. Rely on external sources for further information and data for the paper. The **first draft of the paper is due November 11th and a final research paper due on December 1st.**

Text Books

- Williams, Paul, 2016. *War & Conflict in Africa*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Herbst, Jeffrey, 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Ayittey, George. History of Governance in Africa (on webcourse).
- Crawford Young, 2012. The Postcolonial State in Africa: Fifty Years of Independence, 1960-2010 *(suggested reading).*

Week 1: Pre-Colonial Africa (August 20, 22 & 24)

- August 20th: **Introduction & Housecleaning**
- August 22nd: Herbst, Jeffrey, 2000. *States and Power in Africa* (pages 35-57)
- August 24th: Babacar, M'baye. *The Economic, Political, and Social Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on Africa.*

Week 2: Colonial Rule (August 27, 29 & 31) **(1st discussion post due August 31st)**

- August 27th: Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa* (pages 58-96).
- August 29th: Ayittey, George. *History of Governance in Africa* (pages 35-44).
- August 31st: Additional resources on the colonial administrative systems: http://www.myelimu.com/thread-2-1-%09Direct-Rule-Indirect-Rule-Assimilation-And-Association; https://quizlet.com/36365334/indirect-rule-vs-direct-rule-flash-cards/

Week 3: Decolonization (September 3, 5 & 7) **(2nd discussion post due September 7th)**

- September 3rd is Labor Day, no class.
- September 5th: Crawford Young, 2012. *The Postcolonial State in Africa (*pages 87-121)
- Keller Edmond, 1995. *Decolonization, Independence and the failure of African Politics.*

Week 4: State Formation and Democratization (**Map Quiz**) (September 10, 12 & 14).

- The Map Quiz takes place on September 10th, in class.
- Crawford Young, 2012. *Anatomy of State Crisis*" & "*Democratization and Its Limits*," 158-224.
- Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell, *The Democratic Nature of African Societies.*

Week 5: Counting Africa's Conflicts (September 17, 19 & 21) (**3rd discussion due Sept. 9th)**

- Williams, Paul. 2016. *War & Conflict in Africa* (pages 1-63).

Week 6: Natural Resources & Conflicts in Africa (September 24, 26 & 28)

- Williams, Paul, 2016. *War & Conflict in Africa* (pages 67- 139)
- Ross, Michael L. 2004. "How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases," *International Organization* 58: 1, pp. 35-67.
- Ibrahim Ahmed Elbadawi & Raimundo Soto, 2015. "Resource rents, institutions, and violent civil conflicts", *Defense & Peace Economics.*

Week 7: Ethnicity, Religion & Conflicts (October 1, 3 & 5) **(4th discussion due October 5th)**

- Fearon, James and David Laitin, 2003. '*Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,*' American Political Science Review 97: 1, pp. 75-90.
- Williams, Paul. 2016. *War & Conflict in Africa* '*Religion*' (pages 160-185)
- Basedau, Mathias, 2013. '*What Drives Inter-Religious Violence? The lesson from Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, and Tanzania,*' Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 36:857–879.

Week 8: Economic Development (October 8, 10 & 12) **(5th Discussion Due October 12th)**

- William Easterly and Ross Levine. 1997. '*Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions,*' *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112: 4, pp. 1203-1223.
- Jeffrey D. Sachs and Andrew M. Warner. 1996. 'Sources of Slow Growth in African Economies,' *Journal of African Economies*, 6:3, pp. 335-76.
- Gyimang-Brimpong, Kwabena. 2002. '*Corruption, economic growth, and income inequality in Africa,*' Economics of Governance 3: 183–209.

- Halvor Mehlum, Karl Moene and Ragnar Torvik. 2006. 'Institutions and the Resource Curse,' The Economic Journal 16: 508, pp. 1-20.
- The Guardian, '*Africa should stop blaming history for its economic problems' – is Obama, right?', at* https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/-sp-obama-africa-colonial-excuses-poll
- Mo Ibrahim, 'Mo Ibrahim On How (And Why) Africa Should Solve Its Own Problems,' at https://www.forbes.com/sites/skollworldforum/2013/07/15/mo-ibrahim-on-how-and-why-africa-should-solve-its-own-problems/#659a9dcd6487

Week 9: Political Economy of Foreign Aid (October 15, 17 & 19) (**6th discussion due Oct. 19th**)

- William, Paul, 2016, War & Conflict in Africa '*Aid*' (pages 252-274).
- Asongu, Simplice, and Jacinta Nwachuku, 2015. "Foreign aid and governance in Africa," *International Review of Applied Economics in Africa* 69-88.
- Honest Accounts, the true story of Africa's billion dollars, at: http://jubileedebt.org.uk/press-release/africa-loses-58-billion-rest-world-every-year
  Africa Subsidies the World: http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/africa-subsidises-world-billions-a- year-say-campaigners-a7754041.html

Week 10: Africa's Success Stories (October 22, 24 and 26).

- Wim. Naudé, 2011. '*Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of the Big Four,*' Working Paper No. 2011/34.
- Radelet, Stephen, 2010. 'Success Stories from "Emerging Africa', in *Journal of Democracy*.
- Two Country Expert presentations on Friday, October 26th.

Week 11: The African Union's Responses to Military Coups (October 29, 31 & Nov. 2nd) (**7th discussion post due November 2nd)**

- Souaré, Issaka K. 2014. 'The African Union as a norm entrepreneur on military coups d'état in Africa (1952–2012): an empirical assessment', *Journal of Modern African Studies* 69-94.
- Powell, Jonathan. 2016. 'Combating Coups d'état in Africa, 1950–2014,' *Studies in Comparative International Development.*

Week 12: US, China & EU Policies in Africa (November 5,7 & 9) **(Paper drafts due Nov.11th)**

- Africa's growing strategic relevance, in *CSS Analyses in Security Policy,* Vol. 3 No. 38 July 2008.
- Oluwaseun, Tella, 2016. "AFRICOM: hard or soft power initiative?", in *African Security Review*.
- Gorm, Rye Olsen, 2017. "The ambiguity of US foreign policy towards Africa," in *Third World Quarterly*, 38:9, 2097-2112.
- Tull, Denis. 2006. '*China's engagement in Africa: scope, significance and consequences,*' Journal of Modern African Studies, 44: 3, pp. 459–479.
- Council on Foreign Relations, July 12, 2017. '*China in Africa,*' https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-africa
- Two Country Expert presentations on November 9th.

Week 13: The African Union (November 12, 14 and 16)

- November 12th no class (Veterans Day)

- Williams, Paul, 2009. 'The Peace and Security Council of the African Union: Evaluating an Embryonic International Institution', *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 47:4, 603-626.
- Murithi, Tim, 2012. '*Briefing:* The African Union at Ten: An Appraisal,' *African Affairs*, 111: 445, pp. 662-669.
- Two Country Expert presentations on November 16th

Week 14: The African Union and the International Criminal Court of Justice
(November 19, 21 & 23-Thanks Giving Week) **(Final discussion due Nov. 23rd)**

- November 23rd no class (Thanks Giving).
- Vilmer, Jean. 2016. '*The African Union and the International Criminal Court: counteracting the crisis*' *International Affairs* 1319 -1342.
- African nations seek permanent membership on UN Security Council, https://www.finalcall.com/artman/publish/World_News_3/article_103830.shtml
- Two Country Expert presentations on November 21st.

Week 15: Africa's Changing Outlooks (November 26, 28 & 30)

- Recommended reading: Bolaji, Mohammed. 2015. '*The African Union's Call for Global Pan-Africanism and the Ghana-Diaspora Relations in the 21st Century,*' Journal of Black Studies 46:1, pp. 62–101.
- Two Country Expert presentations on November 30th.

Week 16: Final Exam Week: (Last Day of Class is December 1st) (Final Paper Due)

- Any remaining or missed presentations
- Overview/synthesis of the course
- Students' concluding remarks
- Instructor's concluding remarks

Late Work Policy:

There are no make-ups for any graded assessments. Papers turned in late will be assessed a penalty of 30 points per day late. Writing assignments will not be accepted if overdue by more than 24 hours.

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.

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 with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student

Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Professionalism Policy:

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned will be removed from the class and may suffer reduction in their final class grade.

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

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, 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 MOD608, or call 407.823.2197.