University of Central Florida
College of Sciences
Department of Political Science

INR 3253 International Politics of Africa 3 hrs
Spring 2018 Semester (Day: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Time 10:30AM - 11:45 AM, Venue CB1 O218)

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Correspondence: 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 will 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.)

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 (January 12th, at 11:59pm) 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? During 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. 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: You will be expected to have completed all the required readings for the week before you attend section for that week. You must do the readings carefully and reflectively. Before approaching each reading think about what the key questions are for the week and about how the questions from this week relate to what you know from previous weeks. 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 interesting 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 convinced 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.

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 in 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 4 margins of error. Also, while not required for the map quiz, please make 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 Expertise and In-Class Presentation (200 points—20%) You are expected to become our class expert for one country. 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 Nigeria you should try to find out information for Nigeria on each of the weekly topics: the ethnic relations, the economic situation, conflict and so on. In developing this expertise, 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 evaluation of the situation in your country. Country experts are invited at beginning of class to briefly share their information with the class. Take this exercise seriously because it constitutes 10 percent of your grade. Starting from week six, country experts will make a seven minutes PowerPoint presentation that touches on colonization/decolonization processes, economic development, democratization and conflict, in their countries. Class presentations constitutes 10 percent of your final grade. Additionally, at least one of your written assignments (see below) will be on your country of expertise.

Reading Responses (200 points--20%) You have the option to produce 2 written responses to class readings. The responses should not be less than 1000 words and not more than 1300 words. This exercise must not only address a single reading for a class, but broadly examine the theme under consideration for the week. So, if in any given week, we are dealing with Africa's colonial history, you should produce a written response that broadly considers the history and impact of colonialism on African politics. The reading Response Assignments are due on the Thursday of the week, at 11:59pm via web course. You can do your first response, for example, in week 3 and the second in week 5. However, all first responses are due by week 6, and second by week 12. Please use APA citation format.

Exam (250 points--25%) You will be texted on your comprehension of key concepts covered in the class. You will answer 50 multiple choice questions and 4 written response questions. The exam will take place in class, during week 12.

Final Paper (250 points—25%) You will write a 1700-2000 words paper on a topic that identifies an important problem in an African country, identify two or more potential causes of that problem, conduct research and analysis to identify which causes have the most empirical support, then make recommendations (directed to local or international actors) to ameliorate the problem. There are no limits of topics to choose from. There is no single "correct answer" that is required for this paper. 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 and other information for an argument. Students are free to consult work outside of the assigned readings. Final papers are due on the last day of class. The papers must be submitted online via webcourse.

Extra Credit Opportunity: there is an opportunity to earn 50 points in extra credit. To do so, you must review a book on African politics (published between 2010-2017). The

selected books must be approved by me. The book reviews must not be less than 1200 words.

Text Books

Williams, Paul. 2016. *War & Conflict in Africa*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Crawford Young. 2012. *The Post-Colonial State in Africa: Fifty Years of Independence,* University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN: 978-0299291440.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 1: Pre-Colonial Africa (January 9 &11)

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa.* Chapter 2 (pages 35-57)
- Ayittey, George. *History of Governance in Africa (on webcourse)*

Study questions

1. *According to Herbst, how does cost, boundaries and state system make it relatively difficult to extend state power in precolonial Africa?*
2. *By Ayittey's account, what is the nature of the primary characteristic of African legal systems?*
3. *Ayittey argued that the pre-colonial African governance differed from the western-conceived form of governance because it was pluralistic. How does pluralism or heterogeneity affect institutions in the pre-colonial period?*

Week 2: Colonial Rule (January 16 & 18)

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. States and Power in Africa. Chapter 3 (pages 58-96)
- Ayittey, George. History of Governance in Africa (pages 35-44)
- 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/

Study questions

1. *According to Herbst, what are the factors that necessitated the Europeans scramble for Africa?*
2. *In Herbst's account, what are the true achievements of colonialism?*
3. *What is the Berlin Conference, and which role did it play in Africa's colonization?*
4. *In Herbst's account, explain what is direct rule and indirect rule during the colonial period?*
5. *According to Ayittey, when how did Colonialism begin?*

Week 3: Decolonization (January 23 and 25)

- Young. 2012. "Decolonization, the independence, and colonial legacy", in chapter 3 (pages 87-121)
- Keller, Edmond. 1995. "Decolonization, Independence and the failure of African Politics", in "Africa," edited by Martin and O'Meara.

Study questions

1. *According Young and Keller's accounts, which factors triggered Africa's decolonization process?*
2. *What is the code of decolonization, according to Young, and how do they impact the process?*
3. *Why did the decolonization process lead to armed struggle in some countries?*

Week 4: State Formation and Democratization (Map Quiz) (January 30th and February 1st).

- Young. 2012. "Anatomy of State Crisis" & "Democratization and Its Limits," 158-224.

Study questions

1. *According to Young, which states exhibited signs of a successful state building and why?*
2. *Which account did Young give for saying Ghana, Chad and Mozambique were early examples of state failure?*
3. *What is neopatrimonialism and how was this important?*

Week 5: Counting Africa's Conflicts and their Casualties (February 6 & 8).

- Williams, Paul. 2016. War & Conflict in Africa (pages 1-41)

Study questions

1. *According to Paul William's book, how does state failure events look like in Africa, compared to the rest of the word?*
2. *According to Paul William, how does ethnic wars, revolutionary wars, genocides and politicides, compared to the rest of the world? What is the rate of major armed conflicts in Africa from 1963-2014?*

Week 6: Causes and Sources of Conflicts (First Reading Response Due) (February 13 & 15)

- 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.

Study questions

1. *By Paul William's account, explain how neopatrimonialism, resources and sovereignty impacted conflict occurrence in Africa*
2. In Michael Ross' account, how do natural resources influence civil war?

Week 7: Causes and Sources of Conflicts in Africa (February 20 & 22)

- Williams, Paul. War & Conflict in Africa (pages 140-185)
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," American Political Science Review 97: 1, pp. 75-90.

Study questions

1. *According Paul Williams, how are ethnic identities and religion related to armed conflict?*
2. *Why did Fearon and Laitin reach the conclusion in their article that more ethnically and religiously diverse societies in Africa are no more likely to experience significant civil war during the period they examined?*

Week 8: Responses to Conflict (Map Quiz Retake) (February 27th and March 1st).

- Williams, Paul. 2016. "Organization-building," "Peace-making, pages149-224.
- Bigombe, Betty, David Collier and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Policies for Building a Post-Conflict Peace," Journal of African Economies 9: 3, pp. 323-348.

Study questions

1. *According to Paul Williams, what does the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity) say about the following; (a) unconstitutional*
2. *change of government in Africa (b) the peace and security council (c) the continental early warning system (d) African standby force (e) the panel of the wise, peacemaking and peace operations?*
3. *According to Bigombe, Collier and Sambanis, which factors do they consider appropriate policy options in reducing the risk factors in post-conflict societies?*

Week 9: Economic Development (March 6 & 8).

- Collier, Paul and Willem Jan Gunning. 1999. "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" Journal of Economic Perspectives 13: 31, pp. 3-22.

- William Easterly and Ross Levine. 1997. "*Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions,"* Quarterly Journal of Economics 112: 4, pp. 1203-1223

Study questions

1. *According to Collier and Gunning, why has Africa grown slowly?*
2. *According to Easterly and Levine, ethnic diversity in African countries have effect on economic growth. Identify how ethnic diversity impact economic growth and policies in individual African countries.*

Week 10: Political Economy of Foreign Aid (March 13 & 15).

- William, Paul. 2016. "*Aid",* in Chapter Eleven.
- Asongu, Simplice, and Jacinta Nwachuku. 2015. "Foreign aid and governance in Africa." International Review of Applied Economics in Africa 69-88.

Study questions

1. *How does Paul Williams explain the impact of humanitarian assistance in Africa's wars and the role of international development in Africa's wars?*
2. *What role does foreign aid play on governance in Africa according to Asongu and Nwachuku?*

Week 11: African Success Stories (March 20 & 22).

- 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.

Study questions

- *According to Wim Naude, why are the "Big Four" considered economic success story?*
- *Identify, based on Stephen Radelet's analysis, the "Emerging Africa" success stories.*

Week 12: Regional Institutions and African Union (Final Exam) (March 27 & 29).

- 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*

Study questions

1. *Souaré's article argues that the African Union introduced norms that led to the decline of military coups in the region. How are these norms defined, according to the author?*
2. *How has African Union's policy on military coups evolved other time, according to Souaré?*
3. *Which main conclusions Powell's article reached on the role and effectiveness of the African Union in preventing military coups?*

Week 13: African Union's Outlook on Global Issues (April 3 & 5)**.**

- Vilmer, Jean. 2016. "The African Union and the International Criminal Court: counteracting the crisis." *International Affairs* 1319 -1342.
- Ssenyonjo, Manisuli. 2013. "The Rise of the African Union Opposition to the International Criminal Court's Investigations and Prosecutions of African Leaders." International Criminal Law Review 385-42.

Study questions

1. *What are the contexts of the diplomatic crisis between the African Union and the International Criminal Court (ICC)?*

2. Why some African states have refused to honor the ICC' arrest warrants?

Week 15: Africa's Changing Outlooks (April 10 & 12).

- The Economist, Jul 20th, 2017. "China Goes to Africa," https://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21725288-big-ways-and-small-china-making-its-presence-felt-across
- Council on Foreign Relations, July 12, 2017. "China in Africa," https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-africa
- Country expert presentations

Week 16: Final Week of class: Final Papers due (April 17 & 19).

- Summary, and broad perspectives on African politics
- Country expert presentations.
- Q&A time.

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.