

POLI 4078
African Government and Politics
Spring 2016
12:30-1:30 MWF 15 Atkinson

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall
Phone: 578-2143

Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 MWF
11:30-12:30 MWF
3:00-4:00 W

Objective: The course is designed to bring students closer to understanding the complex problems faced by the many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It combines aspects of comparative politics and international relations as well as historical and contemporary factors that account for the current condition of the African polity today. It is expected that by the end of the semester, students should have acquired the necessary knowledge for instructive explanations of politics in Africa.

Textbooks: Vincent Khapoya: *The African Experience*
Boston: Pearson, 4th edition, 2013

Howard W. French: *China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in Africa*
New York: Vintage, reprint edition 2015

Tests, Papers & Exams: There will be a small early take-home test, a midterm exam, and a research paper and presentation on (the politics, problems and prospects of) and African country of your choice, and a final exam. Details of these assignments will be made known as need arises.

Student Responsibilities: Attendance in all class sessions is required. Familiarity with reading material is highly encouraged. Also, students should find on-going information on Africa on a regular basis. Given the distance separating Africa from the United States and the paucity of information on Africa in the U.S., students should take an extra initiative in learning for this course.

Grades: The grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	10 pts (Daily)
Early Take-Home Test	10 pts (Due Fri. Feb. 12)
(2) NYT Multiple Choice	10 pts (March 09; April 29)
Midterm Exam	15 pts (March 11)
Book Review (5 pg)	10 pts (Due Fri. April 01)
Research Paper & Presentation	20+5 pts (Presentations begin Apr. 20/Paper Due Apr. 25)
Final	<u>20 pts</u> (Thurs. May 05; 12:30-2:30pm)
	100 pts

A+ 100 - 95	B+ 86.9 - 85	C+ 76.9 - 75	D+ 66.9 - 65
A 94.9 - 90	B 84.9 - 80	C 74.9 - 70	D 64.9 - 60
A- 89.9 - 87	B- 79.9 - 77	C- 69.9 - 67	D- 59.9 - 57

LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT

- Jan. 13 - 22 Course Intro: Why Study Africa?
- Relevance and Condition
 - Challenge and Opportunities
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1
- Jan. 25 - 30 African Heterogeneity
- Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment
 - Civilizations of Africa
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2, 3
- Feb. 1 - 5 Historical Background
- Pre-Colonial Politics: Decline vs. Persistence
- Slave Trade: Open Discussion
- Colonialism: Rationale and Impact
 - Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 3, 4
- Feb. 12 Return Take-Home Exam
- Feb. 12 - 26 Post-Colonial Africa
- The Illusions of Independence
 - The Political Crisis: Leadership, Nation Building, One Party System, Military Rule, Civil War
 - The Economic Crisis: Dualism and Underdevelopment
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 5, 6
- Feb. 29 – Mar. 4 The China Text/Overview
- Mar. 9 & 11 NYT Multiple Choice (March 9) / Midterm Exam (March 11)
- Mar. 14 - 18 Diverse Subjects
- Apartheid: then and now
 - Aids Crisis/Ebola
 - Gender Issues
 - Writers, Film, Music
- Mar. 21 - 30 Redefining Africa
- Transformation vs. Tenacity : A Moment vs. An Enduring Quest
 - Africa's New Age: The Civil Society
 - Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray
 - The Economic Outcome

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 7

- April 1 China Text / 5 pg Book Review Due
- April 4 - 15 Africa's International Relations
- The Old Trend: Ties with the Outside world
 - The New Trend: Intra-African Intervention
 - Africa on the World Stage: Current Struggles
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 8
- April 18 Conclusion: The Future
- Conflicting Scenarios
- April 20 Country Research Presentations begin
- April 25 Country Research Paper Due
- April 27 - 29 Return Papers / Pre-Final Grades / Review Session / NYT Multiple Choice
- Thursday, May 05 Final Exam (12:30-2:30 pm)