

RHODES COLLEGE
International Studies Department
INTS 251 01: Government and Politics of Africa
Fall 2008

TR 12:30—01:45, Buckman 214

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Office Hours:
Tue 11:00-12:00
Wed 12:00-01:00
Thu 02:00-03:00

“Until lions have their own historians, tales of hunting will always glorify the hunter.”
— African Proverb

“Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it.”
— Frantz Fanon, 1967

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is intended to introduce students to the government and politics of Africa. The course will begin with a historical overview of the African mosaic in its complexity before focusing on the post-independence dynamics of politics and governance, economic development and social transformation, Africa's place in the international system, and the impact of the international system on Africa's political and socio-economic development. Particular emphasis will be placed on the theoretical, conceptual, and institutional approaches to the analysis of African politics. The main objectives of this course include to:

1. Develop students' clear understanding of the complexity of African politics and society.
2. Enhance students' appreciation of the critical interface between national and international factors in shaping local political and socio-economic processes in Africa.
3. Foster students' critical understanding and appreciation of the place of Africa in global political affairs.
4. Enhance students' capacity for critical thinking and analytical skills through readings, class assignments, and writing of country analytical papers.

Course Requirements

1. To take this course, students must have already taken IS 200 otherwise the instructor's permission is required.
2. Students are required to switch off beepers, pagers, and cell phones while class is in session.
3. Class attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absence will be penalized. Students are expected to come to class early and sign the attendance sheet. It is the responsibility of those with valid reasons for being absent to provide documented proof so that changes can be made on their attendance record.

4. Students are expected to read the assigned materials for each class meeting before coming to class so as to be active participants in class discussions.
5. In addition to two midterm exams three class assignments, and one map quiz, students are required to write one analytical paper of 15 double-spaced pages (excluding the bibliography/references) on an African country of their choice (details will be provided). The choice of country case-studies is due the third week of classes.
6. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 5% of the paper grade per day.
7. Make-up exams will only be given for documented medical or official reasons such as participation in scheduled away sports games, call-up for military duty, etc. No make-up exams will be given for early vacation plans, over-sleeping, etc. Other than in the case of emergencies such as hospitalization, accident, and severe illness, for documented, official reasons, permission must be received in advance of the exam.
8. To do well in this course, you need to read the assigned materials carefully and critically; attend class regularly; participate in class discussions; complete assignments on time; and take advantage of my office hours to consult with me on course issues you do not understand.

Required Readings

1. Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*.
2. Martin Meredith, *The Fate of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*
3. John Mbaku and Julius Ihonvbere, *Political Liberalization and Democratization in Africa: Lessons from Country experiences*.
4. Robert Calderisi, *The trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't Working*.

Grade Distribution

Participation	10%	Class attendance and participation
Map Quiz	10%	October 9
Midterm 1	20%	October 14
Midterm 2	20%	November 11
Three Assignments	20%	Due September 18, November 6, November 25
Country Paper	20%	December 4

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

95-100: A; 90-94: A-; 87-89: B+; 84-86: B; 80-83: B-; 77-79: C+; 74-76: C; 70-73: C-; 60-69: D; 0-59: F

The Honor Code

An essential feature of scholarship is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. Accordingly, it is expected that students will abide by the college's honor code in all their scholarly activities and conduct.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

I. Introduction: Historical Overview

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS
Aug 28	Contemporary Africa: The Basics	Hochschild, pp. 1-60
Sep 02	Pre-colonial State and Society	Hochschild, pp. 61-149
Sep 04	The Colonial Impact	Hochschild, pp. 150-234
Sep 09	Nationalism and Decolonization	Hochschild, pp. 235-306
Sep 11	The Politics of Colonial Succession: Uganda	Meredith, pp. 17-137
Sep 16	The Rise of Party States: Zambia	Meredith, pp.141-248
Sep 18	Movie: <i>The Silence of the Forest</i> (Assignment 1 Due)	None

II. Studying Africa: Paradigmatic Approaches

Sep 23	Modernization Theory	Meredith, pp. 249-328
Sep 25	Marxism and neo-Marxism	Meredith, pp. 331-440
Sep 30	Dependency Theory and Underdevelopment thesis	Meredith, pp. 443-544
Oct 02	Internalist & Externalist Approaches	Meredith, pp. 545-675
Oct 07	Militarization of Politics: Nigeria	Ihonvbere & Mbaku, Chap 5&7
Oct 09	Video: <i>The Upright Man</i> /Map Quiz	Study the Political Map of Africa
Oct 14	Midterm 1	Revise Notes and Readings

III. The Political Economy of Development

Oct 16	Ideology and Development	Calderisi, Part I
Oct 21	Fall Recess	None
Oct 23	Foreign Aid, SAPs & Liberalization	Calderisi, Part III
Oct 28	Gender and Development	Calderisi, Part II
Oct 30	Ethnicity and Class: Kenya	TBA
Nov 04	Natural Resource Conflicts: DRC	Ihonvbere & Mbaku, Chap 9
Nov 06	Movie: <i>The Constant Gardner</i> (Assignment 2 Due)	None
Nov 11	Midterm 2	Revise Notes and Readings

IV. The Politics of Democratization

Nov 13	Political Opening: Multiparty Politics	Ihonvbere & Mbaku, Chap 1&2
Nov 18	End of the Ngwazi: Malawi	Ihonvbere & Mbaku, Chap 3&10
Nov 20	Subverting Democracy: Zimbabwe	Ihonvbere & Mbaku, Chap 12&13
Nov 25	Prospects for Consolidation (Assignment 3 Due)	Hochschild, pp. 309-318; Calderisi, pp. 207-230; Meredith, pp. 676-688
Nov 27	Thanksgiving Recess	None
Dec 02	Country Paper Presentation	Prepare Presentation
Dec 04	Country Paper Presentation	Prepare Presentation
Dec 09	Recap: Toward a Rational Theory of African Politics	Reflect on Material Covered