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.

Texts: The following books are required for purchase:

- Vincent Khapoya: *The African Experience*

- Global Studies: *Africa*

Tests, Papers & Exams: There will be a small early take-home test, a midterm exam, a critique (book review), and a research paper and presentation on (the politics, problems and prospects of) an 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. 08)
- Midterm Exam (in class): 20 pts (Fri. March 08)
- Book Review: 10 pts (Wed. March 27)
- Research Paper & Presentation: 20+5 pts (Pres. Starts Apr. 17; Paper Due Apr. 28)
- Final: 25 pts (Mon. May 06; 10:00-12:00 noon) 100 pts

A: 100-88  B: 87.9-78  C: 77.9-68  D: 67.9-60  F: Below 60
LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT

Jan. 14-28  
**Course Intro: Why Study Africa?**  
Relevance and Condition  
Challenge and Opportunities  
Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1  
Global Studies Preface, P2-13

Jan. 30-Feb. 06  
**African Heterogeneity**  
Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment  
Civilizations of Africa  
Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2,3  
Global Studies pp.14-370 (skip pp. 144-223)

Feb. 08-15  
**Historical Background**  
Pre-Colonial Politics: Decline vs. Persistence  
Slave Trade: Open Discussion  
Colonialism: Rationale and Impact  
Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns  
Readings: Khapoya Chap. 4

Feb. 22-Mar. 06  
**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  
Global Studies (Specific Countries)

Mar. 08  
**Midterm Exam (In Class)**

Mar. 11-25  
**Redefining Africa**  
Transformation vs. Tenacity  
Africa’s New Age: The Civil Society  
Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray  
The Economic Outcome  
Readings: Khapoya Chap. 7  
Global Studies (Specific Countries)
Mar. 27  
**Book Review Due**

Apr. 08-17  
**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  
Global studies pp. 393-406

Apr. 19  
**Conclusion: The Future**  
Conflicting Scenarios

Apr. 19-May 01  
**Country Research Presentation**

Apr. 29  
**Country Research Paper Due**

May 03  
**Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session**

May 06  
**Final Exam (10:00-12:00 Noon)**