POLI 4078
African Government and Politics
Spring 2009
12:30-1:30 MWF  218 Coates

Instructor: Dr. Harry M. Mokeba  Office Hours: 9:30-10:30 MWF
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall  11:30-12:30 MWF
Telephone: 578-2143  3:00-5:00 MW

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 explanation of politics in Africa.

TEXTS: The following books are required for purchase.

Carlene J. Edie:  Politics in Africa: A New Beginning?

Stephen Chan:  Grasping Africa: A Tale of Tragedy and Achievement

Global Studies Series:  Africa
Dubuque, IA: Dushkin/Mcgraw Hill 12th edition, 2009

TESTS, PAPERS & EXAMS: There will be a small early take-home test, a midterm exam, a
critique (book review) of the Chan text and a research paper & 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
<td>(Daily)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Take home test</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
<td>(Due Fri. Feb. 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>(Fri. March 06)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
<td>(Fri. March 25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>20+5 pts.</td>
<td>(Pres. Starts 15th; paper due April 27)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25 pts.</td>
<td>(Tue. May 05) 7:30 am-9:30 am</td>
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<td>100 pts.</td>
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LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT

Jan. 12-Jan. 21  
**Course Intro: Why Study Africa?**  
Relevance and Condition  
Challenges and Opportunities  
Readings: Edie pp. 1-9, 222-225; Chan: Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1  
Global Studies pp 1-9

Jan. 23-Feb. 06  
**African Heterogeneity**  
Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment  
Civilizations of Africa  
Readings: Edie, pp. 10-46, Chapter 2  
Global Studies, pp. 10-261, 263-294  
Chan: Chapter 3

Feb. 09-16  
**Historical Background**  
Pre-Colonial Polities: Decline vs. Persistence  
Slave Trade: Open Discussion  
Colonialism: Rationale and Impact  
Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns.  
Readings: Edie, pp. 47-64, Chapter 3

Feb. 18-Mar. 04  
**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: Global Studies: see specific countries  
Edie: Chapter 4, pp. 65-90  
Chapter 5, pp. 91-114  
Chan: Chapter 2, 3, 4

March 06  
**Midterm Exam (In Class)**

March 09-13  
**Select Issues**  
Apartheid: then and now  
Readings: Global Studies Articles 2, 5, & 7  
Aids/Gender probs.  
Readings: Global Studies pp. 271-273  
The Chan Text: Survey and Analysis
March 16-31

**Redefining Africa**
Transformation vrs. Tenacity
Africa's New Age: The Civil Society
Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray
The Economic Outcome Global Studies Articles 1, 4, 8, & 9
Readings: Edie, Chapter 6, pp. 115-146; Chapter 7, 147-167
          Chan, Chapter 4, 5, & 6

March 31

**Book Review due date**

April 01-13

**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: Edie, pp. 168-208; Chapter 8
          Chan, Chapter 1

April 15

**Conclusion: The Future**
Conflicting Scenarios

Apr. 15 - May 02 **Country Research Presentation**

April 27 **Country Research Paper Due**

May 02 **Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session**

May 05 (Tue..) **IN CLASS Final Exam (7:30 am - 9:30 am)**