POLI 4078
African Government and Politics
Fall 2009
12:30-1:30 MWF 15 Atkinson

Instructor: Dr. Harry M. Mokeba
Office Hours: 9:30-10:30 MWF
Office: 209 Stubbs Hall
Telephone: 578-2143

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

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 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Take home test</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25 pts</td>
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A: 100-88  B: 87.9-78  C: 77.9-68  D: 67.9-60  F: Below 60
LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT

Aug. 24- Sept. 4

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. 2-8; p. 280

Sept. 9-18

African Heterogeneity
Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment
Civilizations of Africa
Readings: Edie, pp. 10-46, Chapter 2
Global Studies, pp. 9-101; 149-255
Chapter 3

Sept. 21-28

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

Sept. 30-Oct. 14

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:
Edie: Chapter 4, pp. 65-90   Chapter 5, pp. 91-114
Chan: Chapter 2, 3, 4

Oct. 16

Midterm Exam (In Class)

Oct. 19-26

Select Issues
Apartheid: then and now
Readings: pp. 259-265
Aids/Gender probs.
Readings: Global Studies pp. 294-301; 307-309
The Chan Text: Survey and Analysis
Oct. 28-Nov. 11  Redefining Africa
Transformation vrs. Tenacity
Africa's New Age: The Civil Society
Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray
The Economic Outcome
Readings: Edie, Chapter 6, pp. 115-146; Chapter 7, 147-167
          Global Studies, pp. 259-265; 281-293; p. 310
          Chan, Chapter 4, 5, & 6

Nov. 09    Book Review due date

Nov. 13-20 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
          Global Studies, pp. 271-279; 302-306
          Chan, Chapter 1

Nov. 20    Conclusion: The Future
Conflicting Scenarios

Nov. 13-Dec. 2 Country Research Presentation

Nov. 23    Country Research Paper Due

Dec. 04    Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session

Mon. Dec. 07 IN CLASS Final Exam (7:30-9:30 am)