POLI 4078  
African Government and Politics  
Spring 2012  
12:30-1:30 MWF  218 Coates

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

KAPHOYA: The African Experience  
Pearson Longman, 2010

GUEST: The Shackled Continent  
Washington Smithsonian Books, 2010

Global Studies Series: Africa 13th Edition  
Dubuque, IA: Dushkin/McGraw Hill, 2011

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Take home test</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>10 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>20+5 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
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<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

Jan. 18-30

Course Intro: Why Study Africa?
Relevance and Condition
Challenges and Opportunities
Readings: Kaphoya - Chapter 1
Guest - Introduction
Global Studies - pp 3-9

Feb. 1-10

African Heterogeneity
Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment
Civilizations of Africa
Readings: Kaphoya - Chapter 1 & 2
Global Studies, pp. 10-106 pp 157-266

Feb. 13-24

Historical Background
Pre-Colonial Polities: Decline vs. Persistence
Slave Trade: Open Discussion
Colonialism: Rationale and Impact
Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns.
Readings: Kaphoya - Chapter 3, 4, 5

Feb. 27-Mar. 07

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
Kaphoya - Chapter 6
Guest - Chapter 2, 5, 6

March 09 (Fri.)

Midterm Exam (In Class)

March 12-19

Select Issues
Apartheid: then and now
Readings: Guest - Chapter 9 Global Studies - pp 279-284
Aids/Gender probs.
Readings: Guest - Chapter 4 Global Studies - pp 289-290
The Guest Text: Survey and Analysis
March 21-Apr.04  **Redefining Africa**  
Transformation vs. Tenacity  
Africa’s New Age: The Civil Society  
Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray  
The Economic Outcome  
Readings: Kaphoya - Chapter 7

April 02  **Book Review Due Date**

April 18-23  **Africa’s International Relations.**  
The Old Trend: Ties with the Outside World  
The New Trend: Intra-African Intervention  
China: Africa’s New Ally?  
Readings: Kaphoya - Chapter 8  Guest - Chapter 2

**Conclusion: The Future**  
Conflicting Scenarios

Apr. 25 - May 02  **Country Research Presentation**

April 30  **Country Research Paper Due**

May 04  **Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session**

May 11  **IN CLASS Final Exam (Friday 7:30-9:30am)**