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

Tests, Papers & Exams: There will be a small early take-home test, a midterm exam, and a research paper and presentation on (the politics, problems and prospects of) and 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>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 pts (Daily)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Take-Home Test</td>
<td>20 pts (Due Wed. Feb. 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td>20 pts (Fri. March 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>20+5 pts (Pres. Starts Apr. 17; Paper Due Apr. 28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25 pts (Thurs. May 08; 10:00-12:00 noon)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Jan. 15-24  
**Course Intro: Why Study Africa?**  
- Relevance and Condition  
- Challenge and Opportunities  
     Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1

Jan. 27-Feb. 07  
**African Heterogeneity**  
- Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment  
- Civilizations of Africa  
     Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2,3

Feb. 12  
**Return Take-Home Exam**

Feb. 10-21  
**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. 24-Mar. 10  
**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

Mar. 14  
**Midterm Exam (In Class)**

Mar. 17-24  
**Diverse Subjects**  
- Apartheid: then and now  
- Aids Crisis  
- Gender Issues  
- Writers, Film, Music

Mar. 26-Apr. 07  
**Redefining Africa**  
- Transformation vs. Tenacity  
- Africa's New Age: The Civil Society  
- Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray  
- The Economic Outcome  
     Readings: Khapoya
April 9-11  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

April 21  Conclusion: The Future
- Conflicting Scenarios

April 21-30  Country Research Presentation

April 28  Country Research Paper Due

May 2  Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session

May 8  Final Exam  (10:00-12:00 Noon)