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  

Krabacher: Africa  

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 make 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>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<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. 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (in class)</td>
<td>20 pts (Fri. March 06)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>20+5 pts (Pres. Starts Apr. 20; Paper Due Apr. 24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25 pts (Tues. May 05; 12:30-2:30pm)</td>
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<td>100 pts</td>
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</tbody>
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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. 14-26  
**Course Intro: Why Study Africa?**  
- Relevance and Condition  
- Challenge and Opportunities  
  Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1  
  Krabacher pp 2-14

Jan. 28-Feb. 13  
**African Heterogeneity**  
- Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment  
- Civilizations of Africa  
  Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2, 3  
  Krabacher Unit 3, 4, 5, 6

Feb. 18  
**Return Take-Home Exam**

Feb. 16-21  
**Historical Background**  
- Pre-Colonial Politics: Decline vs. Persistence  
  Slave Trade: Open Discussion  
- Colonialism: Rationale and Impact  
- Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns  
  Readings: Khapoya Chap. 3, 4

Feb. 23-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: Khapoya Chap. 5, 6  
  Krabacher Unit 7, pp377-393

Mar. 06  
**Midterm Exam (In Class)**

Mar. 09-18  
**Diverse Subjects**  
- Apartheid: then and now  
- Aids Crisis/Ebola  
- Gender Issues  
- Writers, Film, Music
Mar. 20-Apr.10  **Redefining Africa**
- Transformation vs. Tenacity
- Africa's New Age: The Civil Society
- Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray
- The Economic Outcome
  Readings: Khapoya Chap. 7

Apr. 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: Khapoya Chap. 8
  Krabacher Unit 7, pp 394-407

**Conclusion: The Future**
- Conflicting Scenarios

Apr. 22  **Country Research Presentation**

Apr. 27  **Country Research Paper Due**

April 29  **Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session**

Tuesday, May 05  **Final Exam (12:30-2:30 pm)**