POLI 4078

African Government and Politics

Spring 2018

12:30-1:30 MWF 209 Coates Hall

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 MWF

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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.

Textbooks: Vincent Khapoya: The African Experience

Boston: Pearson, 4th edition, 2013

Howard W. French: China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in

Africa

New York: Vintage, reprint edition 2015

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:

Class Participation 10 pts (Daily)

Early Take-Home Test 10 pts (Due Fri. Feb. 19)
(2) NYT Multiple Choice 10 pts (March 07; April 25)

Midterm Exam 15 pts (March 09)

Book Review (5 pg) 10 pts (Due Wed. April 04)

Research Paper & Presentation 20+5 pts (Presentations begin Apr. 13-23/Paper Due Apr. 20)

Final <u>20 pts</u> (Thurs. May 03; 7:30am)

100 pts

 A+ 100 - 95
 B+ 86.9 - 85
 C+ 76.9 - 75
 D+ 66.9 - 65

 A 94.9 - 90
 B 84.9 - 80
 C 74.9 - 70
 D 64.9 - 60

 A- 89.9 - 87
 B- 79.9 - 77
 C- 69.9 - 67
 D- 59.9 - 57

LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT

Jan. 10-19 <u>Course Intro: Why Study Africa?</u>

Relevance and Condition

Challenge and Opportunities

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1

Jan. 22-29 African Heterogeneity

Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment

- Civilizations of Africa

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2, 3

Jan. 31-Feb. 09 <u>Historical Background</u>

- 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. 19 (Mon.) Return Take-Home Exam

Feb. 19-28 <u>Post-Colonial Africa</u>

- 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. 02-07 <u>The China Text/Overview</u>

Mar. 05 NYT Multiple Choice Exam

Mar. 09 (Fri.) <u>Midterm Exam</u>

Mar. 12-16 <u>Diverse Subjects/China Text</u>

Apartheid: then and now

Aids Crisis/Ebola

- Gender Issues

- Writers, Film, Music

- ?????????????????????

Mar. 19-April 04 Redefining Africa

- Transformation vs. Tenacity: A Moment vs. An Enduring Quest

Africa's New Age: The Civil SocietyRecent Traits: Democratic Disarray

- The Economic Outcome

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 7

Mar. 23 China Text Overview

April 04 <u>China Text / 5 pg Book Review Due</u>

April 06 - 13 <u>Africa's International Relations</u>

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 16 <u>Conclusion: The Future</u>

Conflicting Scenarios

April 13-23 <u>Country Research Presentations begin</u>

April 20 <u>Country Research Paper Due/Course Evaluation</u>

April 23-25 NYT Multiple Choice Exam/Return Papers / Pre-Final Grades / Review Session

May 03, Thursday Final Exam (7:30-9:30 am)