

POLI 324: AFRICAN POLITICS
Winter 2018
LEA 219
M,W,F 1:35-2:25

Associate Professor: Khalid Mustafa Medani
Department of Political Science, McGill University
Email: Khalid.medani@mcgill.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-5:00 in 319 Leacock

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a broad overview of the trajectory of politics, society and economic development in Africa. The course is divided in three parts. The first part of the course focuses on an analysis of the role that pre-colonial and colonial legacies have played in shaping the formation and consolidation of particular forms of political rule in Africa. We will then turn our attention to the evolution of state-society relations to explain both the persistence of authoritarianism as well as the transition to political liberalization in a number of African countries. In particular, we will investigate whether liberalization efforts are paving the way for democratization or simply reinforcing the power of incumbent authoritarian regimes. Why, for example, have some countries in Africa managed to consolidate authoritarian rule, while others have witnessed state failure resulting in civil conflicts? In tracing the underlying reasons behind the variations in the trajectory of state building, we will also examine the roots and evolution of the legitimating ideologies (i.e. nationalism) underpinning efforts at political consolidation in the continent.

In the second part of the course we will explore the impact of economic reforms and examine some of Africa's key development and social challenges. We will also examine how shifts in global economic configurations are re-shaping political and economic developments at the level of the community. In particular, we will discuss the expansion of informal economies in parts of Africa that is engendering a new, and often more violent, form of "identity politics," and the rise of social movements contesting state power. Finally, we will discuss the roots of rebel insurgencies and mass violence as an extreme form of the politicization of identity. We will conclude with an examination of the prospects of development, humanitarian interventions, and the prospects and challenges of post-conflict reconstruction.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Midterm:	25%	Due Date: FEBRUARY 28
Term Paper:	35%	Due Date: APRIL 4
Final Take Home Exam	25%	Due Date: TBA
Conference Attendance and Participation:	15%	

Note that:

- The research paper must be handed in at the end of the lecture on **Wednesday, April 4th**. Late papers will lose 5 points per day, including weekends. Extensions will be granted **only** in exceptional circumstances, and with a medical note.
- Detailed instructions for the take-home exam will be provided in class and through **myCourses**.
- Attendance and participation in conferences that begin in the 3rd week of class are required.
- Friday lectures will cease starting the 3rd week of class to make way for the convening of the discussion conferences.

SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

All the readings noted on the syllabus are available online through *myCourses*. Students are expected to have done all the assigned readings before class and conferences.

COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (Jan. 8, 10, 12)

African Politics from a Comparative Perspective

Course Overview

Binyavanga Wainanianga. (2005). "How to Write about Africa," *Granta*, 92, also online at www.granta.com.

Jon Lee Anderson. (2012) "A History of Violence: South Sudan", *The New Yorker*, July 23 at: <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/07/23/a-history-of-violence-4>

The Economist. (2013); "A Hopeful Continent," March 2013.

Goran Hyden (2005), *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.

I. COLONIALIZATION AND THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA

Week 2 (Jan. 15, 17, 19)

Pre-Colonial Legacies and the Advent of Colonization

Jeffrey Herbst, (2000). *States and Power in Africa*; Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp.35-57.

Chapter 1 (by Adu Boahen) and Chapter 2 (by G.N. Uzoigwe) in A. Adu Boahen, ed. *The General History of Africa: Part VI: Africa Under Colonial Domination, 1880-1935*. The chapters are available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001842/184296eo.pdf>

Week 3 (Jan. 22, 24)

Colonial Rule, the Struggle for Decolonization and the African State

Crawford Young (1994). "Constructing the Bula Matari," in The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective; New Haven: Yale University Press; Chapter 4, pp. 77-140

Robert Rotberg. (1962); "The Rise of African Nationalism: The Case of East and Central Africa." World Politics 15(1): 75-90.

Catherine Newbury. 1983. "Colonialism, Ethnicity, and Rural Political Protest: Rwanda and Zanzibar in Comparative Perspective." Comparative Politics 15(3): 253-80.

Recommended:

Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rotberg (1982). "The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood," World Politics, 35 (1), pp. 1-24.

Alice Conklin (1998). "Colonialism and Human Rights: A Contradiction in Terms? The Case of France and West Africa, 1985-1914. The American Historical Review, 103 (2): 419-442.

II. STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Week 4 (Jan. 29, 31)

State and Civil Society in the Post-Colonial Era

Michael Bratton and Nicolas Van de Walle. (1997). Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 2, pp. 61-96.

P. Anyan'g Nyong'o. (1982); "State and Society in Kenya: The Disintegration of the Nationalist Coalitions and the Rise of Presidential Authoritarianism, 1963-1978." African Affairs 88(351): 229-51.

Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja (2002); The Congo: From Leopold to Kabila; London: Zed Books; pp. 141-169.

Week 5 (Feb. 5, 7)

Authoritarianism: Past and Present

Patrick Chabal and Jean-Pascal Daloz, Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument (2010), James Currey, Chapters 1-3. (Read Critically).

Anne Pitcher, Mary Moran, and Michael Johnston (2009). Rethinking Patrimonialism and Neopatrimonialism in Africa. African Studies Review, 52 (1): 125-156.

P. Ahluwalia. (1996); "Founding Father Presidencies and the Rise of Authoritarianism in Kenya: A Case Study." Africa Quarterly 36(4): 52-60.

Recommended:

Deborah Pose (2001). "Race as Common Sense: Racial Classification in Twentieth-Century South Africa," African Studies Review, 44 (2), September, pp. 87-113.

Henry Bienen (1967). The Ruling Party in the African One-Party State: TANU in Tanzania. Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics, 5 (3): 214-230.

Week 6 (Feb. 12, 14)

Democratization, Conflict, and the Rise of "Hybrid Regimes"

Nic Cheeseman, Gabrielle Lynch, and Justin Willis (2014). "Democracy and Its Discontents: Understanding Kenya's 2013 Elections," Journal of East African Studies 8 (1): 2-24.

Khalid Mustafa Medani, Elections, Governance, and Secession in Sudan, in David Gillies, ed. Elections in Dangerous Places: Democracy and the Paradoxes of Peacebuilding. McGill University Press, 2001, pp. 71-98.

Matthis Bogaards (2013), "Reexamining African Elections". Journal of Democracy, 24 (4): 151-160.

Recommended:

Ali Mari Tripp (1998), "Expanding Civil Society: Women and Political Space in Contemporary Uganda." Commonwealth and Comparative Politics 36 (2): 84-107.

Gabrielle Lynch and Gordon Crawford (2011). Democratization in Africa, 1990-2010: An Assessment, Democratization, 18 (2): 275-310.

Week 7 (Feb. 19, 21)

Nationalist Ideologies and State Militarism

Birgit Embaba (2012). "Civil-military relations and political order in Guinea-Bissau," Journal of Modern African Studies, vol 50, no. 2, pp. 253-81.

Abu Bakarr Bah (2010). "Democracy and Civil War: Citizenship and Peacemaking in Cote D'Ivoire", African Affairs, 109(437), pp. 597-615.

Recommended:

Cranford Pratt. (1999); "Julius Nyerere: Reflections on the Legacy of His Socialism." Canadian Journal of African Studies 33(1): 137-52.

Selection of speeches by Nelson Mandela, the Guardian Collection. Posted on Mycourses.

Week 8 (Feb. 26, 28)

Economic Crisis and the Politics of Economic Reform

Nicolas Van de Walle, (2001); African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999; Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1, pp. 20-63.

Jimmy Kandeh (2008), "Rogue Incumbents, Donor Assistance and Sierra Leone's Second Post-Conflict Elections of 2007." *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 46 (4): 603-635.

Margare Stoke McMillan, Karen Horn Welch, and Dani Rodrik. (2003), "When Economic Reform Goes Wrong: Cashew in Mozambique, Brookings Trade Forum, Brookings Institution Press, pp. 97-151.

Recommended:

David Himbara. (1994); "The Failed Africanization of Commerce and Industry in Kenya," World Development 22(3): 469-82.

(MIDTERM TO BE TAKEN IN CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28)

WINTER STUDY BREAK, MARCH 5 -9

III. ECONOMIES, IDENTITIES AND CIVIL CONFLICT

Week 9 (Mar. 12-14)

Social Movements and Popular Mobilization

Stephen Ellis and Ineke van Kessel (2009). Movers and Shakers: Social Movements in Africa. Boston: Brill Publishers. Chapter 6. Available as an E-book at McGill.

Adrienne LeBas (2006). Polarization as Craft: Party Formation and State Violence in Zimbabwe. *Comparative Politics* 38 (4): 419-304.

Khalid Mustafa Medani (2013), "Between Grievances and State Violence: Sudan's Youth Movement and Islamist Activism Beyond the 'Arab Spring,'" Middle East Report (MERIP), Summer Issue, 37-48.

Week 10 (Mar. 19, 21)

Africa's "Unconventional" Economies: The Politics of Informal Institutions

Michael Bratton (2007), Formal versus Informal Institutions in Africa. Journal of Democracy, 18 (3): 96-11.

Ken Menkhaus (2007/7). "Governance without Government in Somalia: Spoilers, State Building, and the Politics of Coping," International Security, 31 (3), Winter, pp. 74-106.

Recommended:

William Reno. (2000). "Clandestine Economies, Violence and States in Africa," Journal of International Affairs, Spring 53 (2).

Week 11 (Mar. 26-28)

Ethnicity and Religion in Africa's Civil Conflicts

K. Chandra and S Wilkinson (2008). Measuring the Effect of "Ethnicity". Comparative Political Studies 41: 515-563.

Oscar Gakuo Mwangi (2012). "State Collapse, Al-Shabaab, Islamism, and Legitimacy in Somalia." Politics, Religion and Ideology, 13(4), December, pp. 513-527.

Recommended:

David Gutelius (2007), "Islam in Northern Mali and the War on Terror," Journal of Contemporary African Studies, 25(1), pp. 59-76.

EASTER HOLIDY, FRIDAY, MARCH 30 – MONDAY, APRIL 2

Week 12 (Wednesday, April 4)

Violence, Rebel Insurgencies, and Civil Conflict

Peter Uvin (1999). "Ethnicity and Power in Burundi and Rwanda: Different Paths to Mass Violence," Comparative Politics, 31(2), pp. 253-271.

Filip Reyntjens (2011), "Constructing the Truth, Dealing with Dissent, Domesticating the World: Governance in Post-Genocide Rwanda," African Affairs, 110 (438): 1-34.

Khalid Mustafa Medani (2013). "The Political Economy of Inter-Communal Conflict in Sudan," Middle East Report, vol. 269, Winter, 2013, pp. 26 to 48.

Recommended:

Thandika Mkandawire (2002) "The Terrible Tool of Post-Colonial 'Rebel Movements' in Africa: Towards an Explanation of the Violence against the Peasantry," Journal of Modern African Studies, 40(2), pp. 181-215.

TERM PAPER DUE ON APRIL 4

Week 13 (April 9, 11)

Thinking about Africa's Future: Development, Human Rights, and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Roger Tangri and Andrew Mwenda (2006). "Politics, Donors and the Ineffectiveness of Anti-Corruption Institutions in Uganda." The Journal of Modern African Studies, 44 (1): 101-124.

Diana Cammack (2007). "The Logical of African Neopatrimonialism: What Role for Donors?" Development Policy Review, 25(5), pp. 599-614.

Marcus Power and Giles Mohan (2010) "Towards a Critical Geopolitics of China's Engagement with African Development," Geopolitics, 15: 462-495.

Recommended:

J. Oloka-Onyango and S. Tamale (1995), "The Personal is Political," or Why Women's Rights are Indeed Human Rights: An African Perspective on International Feminism. Human Rights Quarterly, 17 (4): 691-731.

Betty Bigombe, Paul Collier, Nicholas Sambanis, "Policies for Building Post-Conflict Peace," Journal of African Economies, 9 (3), pp. 323-348.

Week 14 (Monday, April 16: Last lecture)

Review lecture for the final exam.

RESOURCES ON AFRICA

It is important that you follow contemporary politics in Africa on a regular basis beyond the conventional media accounts. You will find the following online sources extremely helpful for your term paper and country profile briefing paper.

News and Information Sources available online include the following:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm>

<http://allafrica.com>

<http://www.africanews.org>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/world/africa/>

<http://www.afrika.no/>

<http://www.africapolicsonline.com/>

Recommended Sources for your term papers:

Students are urged to constantly peruse the following standard journals both for additional reading materials and research papers: Africa (London); African Affairs (London); Africa Contemporary Record (London); Africa Confidential (London); Africa Research Bulletin (London); African Studies Review (Atlanta); Africa Today (Bloomington); Comparative Politics (New York), Canadian Journal of African Studies