POLI352: International Policy/Foreign Policy: Africa
McGill University, Winter 2020 Semester

Professor:
Daniel Douek, PhD
email: daniel.douek@mcgill.ca
Office: Ferrier 460  Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12-1pm

Course Meetings:
Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:05PM-11:25PM, SADB 2/36 - Lectures will end at 10:55 starting on the week of January 20

TA Conferences: TBA- each student must register on Minerva for one weekly TA conference; conferences will begin on week of January 20

Teaching Assistants:
Yolaine Frossard De Saugy - yolaine.frossarddesaugy@mail.mcgill.ca
Abu Bakr Baig - mab.baig@mail.mcgill.ca

Course Objectives
This is a course on the International Relations of Africa. Africa has often been ignored by the international relations (IR) subfield of political science, while political science mostly analyzes Africa from a comparative politics lens. Yet Africa, the second largest continent, has more states than any other continent on the globe, and there is much we can learn about IR from studying Africa. This course will give a tour of African IR, grounded in pre-colonial, and especially colonial and post-colonial history. Colonialism is rarely studied or understood as an IR phenomenon, yet it has been critical to Africa’s political trajectory, and has defined Africa’s relationship to the Western powers and the rest of the world in ways that still echo today. In this class, we shall trace colonialism’s evolution from the Berlin Conference through the Cold War, until its demise in 1994, when South Africa transitioned to democracy. We will also examine the modes of overt and covert violence that characterized colonialism, and the various anti-colonial resistance movements that emerged across Africa. We will further explore concepts and processes such as international political economy, post-colonial warfare, gender, Islamist militancy, the War on Terror, China’s growing role on the continent, and human security. Please note that because North Africa and the Maghreb are adequately covered in other courses at McGill, this course will focus only on sub-Saharan Africa.
Assignments and Grading:
(1) Midterm Exam (in class, 24 February): 20%
- Format TBA
- Will test your knowledge and understanding of BOTH lectures and readings

(2) Research Essay (due at the beginning of class, Monday 23 March): 35%
- Suggested topics and writing guidelines will be posted on MyCourses before reading week
- You can also choose your own topic if you wish; in that case, you must get it approved by your TA
- 10-12 pages, plus bibliography and citations (double-spaced; 12-point font)

(3) Final Exam (to be scheduled by the University during the exam period): 35%
- Format TBA

(4) TA Conference Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Show up and participate; unjustified absence in 3 or more conferences will cause you to lose the entire 10%.

Requirements

- **Come to class prepared**: Do all the assigned readings before class. This is important so you can follow the lectures, which will build on (rather than just review) the readings, and for participation in your conferences.
- **Attend class and take notes**: The lectures will not be recorded, and they will go far beyond the material in the textbook, so you will need to absorb and retain the lecture contents in order to succeed.
- **Check the course website regularly**: I will post assignments, announcements, and other key features of the course on our website. I will remind you about this in class, but it is your responsibility to keep up with any and all online aspects of the course.
- **Keep up with the news**: One of the most useful things about political science is that it helps us to understand current events. You’ll get more out of this class if you read the news about Africa regularly. Good news sources include allafrica.com, Mail and Guardian online (South Africa), Africa Confidential, New York Times (sometimes), BBC World, Al-Jazeera, and the Economist, among others.

Email: Your TA is your first point of contact for the course and you should direct questions to them first. However, I am also available. I will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours during weekdays (I’m often offline on weekends). If you have a lengthy question, please come to my office hours instead of emailing. Note that I will not be available via email to summarize readings or tell you what you missed if you were absent. Please also bear in mind that even if you feel your situation is urgent, I may not reply right away.

Required Text: The coursepack, for purchase at the bookstore. Most readings will be made available online via MyCourses. Recommended readings are not mandatory; they are intended to give you further perspective, and to serve as possible sources for your research essay.

PLEASE NOTE: Late work submitted without a doctor’s note will be accepted with a penalty of 10% per day late. Excuses without a doctor’s note will not be accepted. Make-up assignments will be offered
only if a student misses an exam for a valid medical reason backed up by a doctor’s note.

**Students with disabilities** should register with the Office for Students with Disabilities and follow its procedures for obtaining assistance. If you need any assistance or modifications relating to disabilities, please come see me as early as possible in the semester and I will work with you and the Office for Students with Disabilities to accommodate your needs appropriately and fairly. The OSD can be reached at 514-398-6009 (http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/). However, please remember that the OSD has no authority to approve changes to course assignment due dates or exam dates, to devise alternative assignments or waive course requirements. If you should have any reason to miss a substantial part of the course, or if you are unable to complete any course assignments or requirements for any reason, it is your responsibility to inform the Course Professor (and not just OSD or your TA) of your situation as soon as possible.

**Fair Warnings:** Lateness is disruptive. Please do not arrive to class late. You may take notes on a laptop computer, but be sure to **switch off your ringer** and put away all cell phones and other electronics before the start of class. **Texting and using social media in the classroom is incredibly disruptive** for student and teacher alike; I ask you all to refrain from electronically distracting yourselves, and in return, I pledge to make our class as riveting as I possibly can.

**Language of Submission:**
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

**Academic Integrity:**
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**

**Week 1) 6 & 8 January:** **Situating Africa in the International State System**


**Recommended:**


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**Week 2) 13 & 15 January: The Impacts of European Colonization**


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**Week 3) 20 & 22 January: African Independence and the Congo Crisis**


**Film:** *Patrice Lumumba: Assassination Colonial Style*

**Recommended:**


**Week 4) 27 & 29 January: Colonial Dirty Wars**


**Backmann, René. 1980.** “Confession of a Dog of War,” in *The CIA in Africa* (London: Zed Books), pp.146-158 *coursepack*

**Schmidt, Elizabeth. 2013.** *Foreign Intervention in Africa* (New York: Cambridge University Press) Ch.4 “War and Decolonization in Portugal’s African Empire, 1961-1975,” pp.79-101 *coursepack*

**Film:** *Death in Geneva: The Poisoning of Felix Moumić*

**Recommended:**


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**Week 5) 3 & 5 February: Armed Struggles Against Colonialism**


**Recommended:**

**Chabal, Patrick. 2003.** *Amilcar Cabral: Revolutionary Leadership and People’s War* Trenton: Africa World Press, Ch.4 “Amilcar Cabral: Social and Political Thought”, pp.167-87


Week 6) 10 & 12 February: The Internal Security Dilemma and Balancing


Recommended:


Week 7) 17 & 19 February: Apartheid and the Cold War in Southern Africa


Recommended:


Week 8)

24 February: Midterm Exam – IN CLASS – Exam covers all material including Week 7

26 February: Africa on the Periphery of the International Political Economy


Recommended:


Rodney, Ch.5, “Africa’s Contribution to the Capitalist Development of Europe- The Colonial Period”, pp.162-222


Week 9: NO CLASS – Mid-semester Break - Enjoy!

Week 10) 9 & 11 March: Genocide and Spillover- Rwanda and D.R. Congo


Recommended:


**Video Clip on Rape as an Instrument of War in DR Congo**


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**Week 11) 16 and 18 March: Dimensions of (In)Security**


**Recommended:**


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**Week 12) 23 and 25 March: The Challenge of Islamist Radicalism**


**Recommended:**

2008. “Not on Parade” *Africa Confidential* Vol.49 No.5 (29 February)


Week 13) 30 March and & 1 April: African Multilateralism and Peacekeeping


Recommended:


Week 14)

6 April: China’s Rising Influence


Recommended:


8 April: Human Security


Recommended:


***Final Exam to be scheduled by the University***

Scholarly journals and news sources with good coverage of sub-Saharan Africa include:

**Journal of Southern African Studies**
**Journal of Modern African Studies**
**Journal of East African Studies**
**African Affairs**
**African Security Review**
**Review of African Political Economy**
**Politikon**
**Canadian Journal of African Studies**
**Journal of African Economies**
**Third World Quarterly**
**Comparative Politics**
**World Politics**
**Afrobarometer.org**
**Africa Today**
**African Journal of Political Science and International Relations**