

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

POL 301Y
Government and Politics in Africa

Time: Wednesday 10-12
Place: Sidney Smith Building 2135

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Office hours: Wed 2-3pm; Thur 3-4pm

Themes

This year-long class is designed to introduce students to the political dynamics of contemporary Africa. The course will explore two related sets of issues: first, state formation and nation building and second, the origins and nature of the continent's economic crisis. The course will trace the historical development of the modern state system on the continent and the rise of contemporary African economies before moving on, in the second half of the year, to consider particular themes that characterize the nature of African politics.

Readings

Those readings available electronically (marked [ER] on the syllabus) can be accessed through the course website on BlackBoard, or through the electronic journals section of the University of Toronto libraries website.

The course reader contains the remainder of the necessary readings (marked [CR] on the syllabus) and is available from Image X-Press at their office. Second-hand copies may also be available from students from previous years but please note that the readings are not exactly the same as those in previous years.

Image X-Press
190 College St
Tel: 416-596-1708
Email: imagexprs@gmail.com

A course packet of the readings is also available for sign-out from the reception for the Politics Dept on the 3rd floor of Sidney Smith Hall, where it can be signed out for two hours at a time, using your student card.

Format and requirements

Course evaluation will include a short quiz, two in-class examinations and two short essays.

1. Map Quiz (first semester) 10%
2. First Essay (first semester) 25%
3. Second Essay (second semester) 25%
4. In-Class Test (first semester) 20%
4. In-Class Test (second semester) 20%

Map quiz: All students will be required to acquire a basic knowledge of African geography by the fourth week of the course. The map quiz will take place at some time on or after that date. The date of the test will not be announced ahead of time. You should therefore ensure that you review the material regularly and are ready to take the quiz at any time during that period.

In-Class Tests: The first in-class test will take place during class time in the last week of the first semester i.e. Wednesday December 1st, 10 am. The end of year in-class test will occur during the final class meeting time i.e. Wednesday April 6th, 10am. In each case, this test/exam will comprise a 1.5-hour paper calling for both short paragraph and longer essay answers.

Essays: All students will be expected to complete two short essays (2500 words), drawing on a combination of course readings and some additional external research. Broad topic areas and guidelines will be distributed in class early in both terms.

Due Date: The first essay will be due before class on November 10th, the second essay before class on March 9th.

Rough Work: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their assignment before handing them in. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned. All graded assignments are to be kept by students until the grades have been posted on ROSI.

Late penalty: There will be a penalty of 2% per day for late papers (including weekends i.e. penalties will continue to accrue at 2% per day over the weekend). Papers handed in after class on but before 5pm on the due date will be subject to a 1% penalty. Late papers must be submitted to the Politics department on the 3rd floor of Sidney Smith during business hours. You must ensure that the paper is dated and stamped. You should never attempt to submit your paper by leaving it under an office door or sending it by e-mail or fax.

Please note: Missing the map quiz, the in-class tests, or handing a paper in late will require an acceptable doctor's note or other documentation. This must be submitted within one week of the test or assignment date and it should be submitted on the official UofT Medical Note form.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a most serious academic offense and the offender will be punished. In the academy where the currency of the realm is ideas, to cite someone else's words or thinking without due attribution is theft. *It is not sufficient merely to list your sources in the bibliography or to only use footnotes.* You must ensure that you identify and attribute all of your sources in text, whether you are quoting them directly or paraphrasing them.

Please see

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

and

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/documentation>

for two important documents entitled *How Not to Plagiarize* and *Standard Documentation Formats* respectively.

Should you require any further assistance with how to properly reference and footnote your work, please consult one of the many guides available in the library or the Writing Center.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

While we hope that all students will make use of Turnitin.com, if you object to using Turnitin.com please see us to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments. This will involve devising alternative methods for verifying the originality of your work, likely including submitting rough work along with your essay and having a brief interview about the work with one of the instructors for the course.

How to Contact Us

Please feel free to stop by our offices during our office hours. If you can't make those, you should set up an alternative appointment, either by phone or e-mail.

We will do our best to respond to e-mails and phone calls within 48hrs. Please note that we will not, however, be checking e-mails on weekends or after hours so do not leave your requests or queries to the last minute.

At times, we may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system.

Blackboard

Like many other courses, POL301 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the POL301 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

Resources on Africa

Columbia University has a great web-page which will provide you with links to all kinds of web-based resources on Africa.

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/>

The University of Delaware has a similarly encyclopedic resource page:

<http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/african/internet.htm>

A list of African newspapers can be accessed here:

<http://www.world-newspapers.com/africa.html>

TERM 1: TRACING THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

Week 1: Introduction (Sept. 15)

Week 2: The Advent of Colonialism (Sept. 22)

[CR] Jeff Herbst, "Power and space in precolonial Africa" and "The Europeans and the African Problem" in *States and Power in Africa*, Princeton: Princeton University Press (2000), pp 35-97

[CR] Bill Freund, "The Material Basis of Colonial Society", extract from *The Making of Contemporary Africa* 2nd ed. London: MacMillan Press, 1998, chapter 6, pp 97-124

Week 3: The Political Logic of Colonial Rule (Sept. 29)

[CR] Mahmood Mamdani, "Decentralized despotism" in *Citizen and Subject*, Princeton:

Princeton University Press (1996), Chapter 2, pp 37-61

[CR] Crawford Young, Miscellaneous and “Constructing Bula Matari” extracts from *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, New Haven: Yale University Press (1994), Excerpt from Chapter 1, and Chapter 4, pp 1-2, 77-140 (pp 77-95 recommended)

***** ***Be ready to take the map quiz at any point from here on*** *****

Week 4: Independence and the new generation of African states (Oct. 6)

[CR] Irving Markovitz, “Autonomy, nationalism and independence” extract from *Leopold Sedar Senghor and the Politics of Negritude*, London: Heinemann (1969), Chapter 4, pp 102 - 118

[CR] Bill Freund, “The Decolonization of Africa: 1940-60” extract from *The Making of Contemporary Africa, 2nd ed.* London: Macmillan Press, 1998, chapter 8, pp 167-203

[CR] Jeffrey Herbst, “*The Political Kingdom in Independent Africa*” extract from *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000, first half of chapter 4, pp 97-113

Week 5: Political Organization and Nation Building (Oct. 13)

[CR] Aristide R Zolberg, “Introduction” and “The emergence of dominant parties” in *Creating Political Order*, Chicago: Rand McNally and Co. (1980), Introduction and Chapter 1, pp 1 – 36

[ER] Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “Personal rule: Theory and practice in Africa” *Comparative Politics*, 16, 4 (1984) pp 421-442

Week 6: Ideologies and Development Strategies (Oct. 20)

[ER] Walt Rostow, “The Stages of Economic Growth” *The Economic History Review* 12, 1 (1959) pp 1-16

[ER] Colin Leys, “African Economic Development in Theory and Practice” *Daedalus* 111, 2 (1982), pp 99-124

[CR] Claude Ake, “The Development Paradigm and Its Politics” in *Democracy and Development in Africa*, Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution (1996), Chapter 1, pp 1-17

Week 7: African Militaries and Political Instability (Oct. 27)

[CR] Paul Nugent, “Khaki Fatigue: Military Rule in Africa, 1960-1985” extract from *Africa Since Independence*, London: Palgrave, 2004 pp 204-59

Week 8: The Onset of Economic Crisis (Nov. 3)

[ER] Benno Ndulu and Stephen O'Connell, "Governance and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13, 3 (1996) pp 41-66

[CR] Thandika Mkandawire and Charles Soludo, "The Crisis: Diagnosis and Solution" extract from *Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment* Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1999 pp 21-48

[CR] Richard Sandbrook, "Disappointments of independence" and "Why capitalism fails" extract from *The Politics of Economic Stagnation*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1985), Chapters 1 and 2, pp 1 – 41

Week 9: Structural Adjustment and the Politics of Economic Reform (Nov. 10)

[CR] John Ravenhill "A Second Decade of Adjustment: Greater Complexity, Greater Uncertainty" extract from *Hemmed In: Responses to Africa's Economic Decline*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1993, 18-53

[CR] Paul Nugent, "The Invasion of Acronyms: SAPs, AIDS and the NGO Takeover" extract from *Africa Since Independence*, London, Palgrave, 2004, pp.326-357

[CR] Thandika Mkandawire and Charles Soludo, "The Adjustment Experience" extract from *Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment* Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1999, pp 49 - 85

Week 10: Crisis and Political Reconfiguration: The Wave of Democratization (Nov. 17)

[CR] Paul Nugent, "Democracy Rediscovered: Popular Protest, Elite Mobilisation and the Return of Multipartyism", extract from *Africa Since Independence*, London:Palgrave, 2004, pp.368-385

[ER] Michael Bratton and Nicholas van de Walle: "Neopatrimonial regimes and political transitions in Africa" *World Politics* 46, 4 (1994) pp 453-489

[ER] Jeffrey Herbst, "The Structural Adjustment of Politics" *World Development* 18, 7 (1990) pp 949-958

Week 11: Review (Nov. 24)

Week 12: Term Test (Dec. 1)