University of Toronto  
Department of Political Science  

POL 301Y  
Government and Politics in Africa

Time: Tuesday, Thursday 2-4  
Place: BA1190

Prof. Dickson Eyoh (First Half)  
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Office hours: Tues and Thurs 12:30-1:30

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Office hours: Mon 2.30-4.30pm

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: imagexpres@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. First Essay (first semester) 25% - Due June 7
2. Second Essay (second semester) 25% - Due July 19
3. In-Class Test (first semester) 25% - June 23
4. In-Class Test (second semester) 25% - August 11

In-Class Tests: The first in-class test will take place during class time in the last week of the first semester i.e. Thursday 23 June, 12h00. The end of year in-class test will occur during the final class meeting time i.e. Thursday 11th August 12h00. 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.

NB: Please note that because we are using Turnitin.com, there will be a two-step submission process for both of your papers.
   1. First, you need to submit an electronic copy of your paper to Turnitin.com (instructions will be posted on Blackboard). You need to do this ahead of time.
   2. Second, you must staple the receipts from Turnitin to the hardcopy of your paper and submit it in class on the due date.

Due Date: The first essay will be due in class, at the beginning of class on June 07 and the second essay in class, at the beginning of class on July 09.

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 5% per day for late papers (including weekends i.e. penalties will continue to accrue at 5% per day over the weekend). Papers handed in after class on but before 5pm on the due date will be subject to a 2% 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.

Missing 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 and cheating

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. In particular, please note that every single times that you directly quote another person’s words, you must adequately indicate this, not merely by referencing the source in a footnote or endnote, but also by the appropriate use of quotation marks. 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.

Please note the two-step submission process for essays outlined above.

While we hope that all students will make use of Turnitin.com, if you object to using Turnitin.com please see us well ahead of time (i.e. at least two weeks before your essay is due) 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 ONE:
TRACING THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS OF POLITICS IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

Lecture 1: Introduction (May 17)

Lecture 2: The Advent of Colonialism (May 19)


Lecture 3: The Political Logic of Colonial Rule (May 24)


[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)

Lecture 4: Independence and the new generation of African states (May 26)


Lecture 5: Political Organization and Nation Building (May 31)


Lecture 6: Ideologies and Development Strategies (June 2)


Lecture 7: African Militaries and Political Instability (June 7)


Lecture 8: The Onset of Economic Crisis (June 9)


Lecture 9: Structural Adjustment and the Politics of Economic Reform (June 14)


Lecture 10: Crisis and Political Reconfiguration: The Wave of Democratization (June 16)


Lecture 11: Review (June 21)

Meeting 12: Term Test (June 23)
TERM TWO:
THEMES IN AFRICAN POLITICS

Lecture 1: The African state (Jul. 5)


Recommended

Lecture 2: Ethnic identification and so-called ethnic conflict (Jul. 7)


Lecture 3: Security, war and military conflict (Jul. 12)


Lecture 4: The wars of liberation in the settler states (Jul. 14)


Lecture 5: South Africa: Exceptional or paradigmatic African state? (Jul. 19)


Recommended
Lecture 6: African agriculture and the African peasantry (Jul. 21)


Lecture 7: Business and industry in Africa (Jul. 26)


Lecture 8: Disease and Development: TB, Malaria and HIV/AIDS (Jul. 28)


Lecture 9: Women and Development (Aug. 2)


Lecture 10: Africa’s international relations (Aug. 4)


Lecture 11: Review (Aug. 9)

Lecture 12: Term Test (Aug. 11)