

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Political Science
POL309H1S L0101
Contemporary African Politics: Dynamics and Challenges, S2023

Professor: Abbas Gnamo, Ph.D.

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00PM-2:00PM

Office # 3062

Office hours: (Tuesdays: 4:00-6:00PM)

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Course description:

This course explores main drivers of political organization and change in contemporary Africa, focusing on how national, regional, and international factors shape institutions, patterns of participation and political change. It considers major scholarly debates in the study of African politics and political economy and develops analytical skills for comparative study of this diverse continent. As part of that, it will critically examine the social, economic and political realities of post-colonial Africa through the struggle ending the vestiges of colonialism, and late colonization of creating and sustaining modern state, bringing about a coherent definitions of national identity, competing nationalisms, ethnonational conflicts, democratic transitions, the dream and the experience of regional integration and continual unity (pan-Africans agenda) to address the many issues and challenges of the continent including food security, infectious diseases and gender equality as well as continuity and change in foreign policies and international relations in an increasingly globalizing world

Course Requirement Evaluation

Requirements	Evaluation	Due date
First Term Test	25%	July 20, 2023
Research Essay (11-12pp)	35%	August 8, 2023
Final Exam	30%	Final Assessment, August 17-25
Attendance/Participation	10%	Through the term

Late penalty: 3% per day (*Late penalty:* There will be a penalty of 3% per day for late papers (including weekends i.e., penalties will continue to accrue at 3% per day over the weekend).

ewebsite – Quercus

Logging in to your Quercus Course Website

Like many other courses, POL309 uses Quercus for its course website. But this is an in-person You are therefore strongly advised to visit it frequently as all readings, lectures, and other important information are made available.

Please note: Assignment grading will follow the University of Toronto's grading regulations as outlined in the Arts and Science 2006/2007 course calendar.

(www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar). Assignments are due at the beginning of class. A penalty of 2% per working day will be applied to all late assignments up until a *maximum of ten late days, after which late papers will not be accepted except under exceptional circumstances*. In this case, you need to plan with your TA. Students are strongly advised to keep draft work and hard copies of their essays. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned. Any medical-based assignment extension requests or make-up term test requests will require an official Student Medical Certificate and will require advance notice (www.utoronto.ca/health/forms/medcert.pdf).

Note: There will be only one make-up test in each case. Only those with a valid and documented reason for missing the mid-term test will be allowed to write a make-up test. It is the student's responsibility to ascertain the date and place of the make-up test. Late penalties on essay may be reduced (but not necessarily eliminated) upon presentation of medical documentation. For full elimination of the late penalty the student must show evidence of a protracted medical condition that has affected his/her performance over the course of 3-4 weeks

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 use only footnotes*. You must ensure that you identify and attribute all your sources in text, whether you are quoting them directly or paraphrasing them – and every time you cite someone verbatim, you **MUST** indicate this using quotation marks.

According to the University's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters, it shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

- a) to forge or in any way alter or falsify any document or evidence required for admission to the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered, or falsified document, whether the record be in print or electronic form.
- b) to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work.
- c) to personate another person, or to have another person personate, at any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work.
- d) to represent as one's own idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work.
- e) to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

- f) f) to submit for credit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.

For further information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, please refer to the University's policy at www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html.

Students are strongly encouraged to explore the numerous resources available at the "Writing at the University of Toronto" website at www.utoronto.ca/writing.

University's plagiarism detection

"Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>)".

If, as a student, you object to using University's plagiarism detection method, an alternative arrangement for the submission of your written assignment will be made available. You will be required to do all of the following: 1) meet the instructor for a brief interview about the research process prior to the assignment due date, 2) submit all your rough work and notes with your assignment, and 3) submit an electronic copy of your essay to the head teaching assistant (in addition to a hard copy) by e-mail (TBA)(@utoronto.ca) with the course identifier [POL 309] in the subject line.

Evaluation Criteria for Written Work

1. *Level of Style and Organization:* Your work must be completely free of grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors. References can be in any style, but the same format must be used consistently, and they must be accurate. The organization of the paper should assist the reader by providing a readily understandable presentation of background information, research findings, analysis, and conclusions.
2. *Adequacy of the Research:* Your findings should be derived from thorough research. Your work should be free of major factual errors or unsupported and/or undocumented assertions. You should link your findings to those of other scholars and draw meaningful conclusions based on your evidence.
3. *Cogency of the Argument:* Your written work should have a clear focus and an argument that is logically constructed. Your analysis should display understanding of the topic and originality of thought.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes and complete at least one of the assigned readings before lectures. Student participation/attendance is highly encouraged as it counts towards 10% of the total marks in the course.

Assignment Guidelines (Essay topics and guideline will be posted by July 7, 2023)

Term Test and Final Exam

The Mid-Term test will be held during regular class hours whereas the final exam will take place during exam period (August 17-25) for the midterm test and during exam week). The tests will include a mix of short answer and essay questions and will test your familiarity with the lecture material and the required readings as well as your ability to apply what you have learned.

Week 1: Tuesday, July 4, 2023, Introduction to the course

Week 2: Thursday, July 6, 2023, Pan-Africanism, and Regionalism on the continent.

- Timothy Murthi, *The African Union: Pan-Africanism, Peacebuilding and Development*, Ashgate, 2000, pp. 7-38.
- By George B. N. Ayittey, "The United States of Africa: A Revisit," *ANNALS, AAPSS*, 632, November 2010.

*****The Topics of Research Essay will be posted on July 7, 2023**

Week 3: Tuesday, July 11, 2023, The challenges of democratic Transition in Africa

- Crawford Young "Africa: An Interim Balance Sheet" in Peter Lewis, (Ed), *Africa: The Challenges of Change and Development*, 1998, pp.341-358.
- Gabrielle Lynch and Gordon Crawford, "Democratization in Africa 1990–2010: an assessment," *Democratization*, Vol. 18, No. 2, April 2011, 275–310
- Stephen Brown & Paul Kaiser, "Democratisations in Africa: attempts, hindrances and prospects," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 6, 2007, pp. 1131 – 1149

Week 4: Thursday, July 13, 2023, Ethnic identification, and ethnic conflicts in Africa.

- "Introduction" by Leroy Vail in Leroy Vail (ed) *The Creation of Tribalism in Southern Africa*, London: James Currey (1989)
- Marina Ottaway, "Ethnic Politics in Africa: Change and continuity," in *State, Conflict and Democracy in Africa* edited by Richard Joseph, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc, 1999, pp. 299-318.
- Crawford Young, *Revisiting nationalism and ethnicity in Africa*, James S. Coleman African Studies Center (University of California, Los Angeles), 2004

Week 5: Tuesday, July 18, 2023, African Civil Conflicts and Genocidal massacre, Rwanda

- Peter Uvin, "Reading the Rwandan Genocide," International Studies Association, 2001

- Helen M. Hintjens, “Explaining the 1994 genocide in Rwanda”, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 37, 2 (1999), pp. 241-286

Week 6: Thursday, July 20, 2023: Midterm

Week 7: Tuesday, July 25, 2023, Agriculture, and food security in Africa

- Chapter 6 “Spurring Agricultural and Rural Development” in *World Bank, Can Africa Claim the 21st Century*, World Bank: Washington DC (2000)
- Chapter 8 “Peasant farmers as citizens” in Jonathan Barker, *Rural Communities Under Stress*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1993)
- Richard Schiffman, “Hunger, Food Security, and the African Land Grab,” *Ethics & International Affairs*, 27, no. 3, 2013 pp. 239-249

Week 8: Thursday, July 27, 2023, Contagious diseases (TB, Malaria and HIV/Aids)

- Chap 5 “Why Africa?” in Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside *AIDS in the Twenty First Century: Disease and Globalisation*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2002)
- Chapter 3 “Perceptions and misperceptions of AIDS in Africa” by Joseph R Oppong and Ezekiel Kalipeni in Ezekiel Kalipeni, Susan Craddock, Joseph Oppong and Jayati Ghosh (eds.) *HIV and AIDS in Africa: Beyond Epidemiology*, USA: Blackwell Publishing (2004)

Week 9: Thursday, August 01, 2023, South Africa

- Chapter 3 “Indirect Rule”, in Mahmoud Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject* Princeton: Princeton University Press (1996)
- Heather Deegan, *New South Africa: Apartheid After*, Pearson, 2001, Chapter II, pp. 23-42.
- Patti Waldmeier *Anatomy of a Miracle* Chapters 6 and 7, New York: W Norton (1997)
- Recommended
- *The Freedom Charter*, <<http://www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/charter.html>
- Bill of Rights, *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*, <http://www.polity.org.za/html/govdocs/constitution>

Research Essay Due date: August 8, 2023

Week 10: Tuesday, August 3, 2023, Women in African Politics

- Chapter 1 “Women’s mobilization and societal autonomy” in Aili Mari Tripp, *Women and Politics in Uganda*, Madison: University of Wisconsin Press (2000)
- Goran Hyden, *African Politics*, Chap. 8. pp.162-181

• August 7, 2023, CIVIC Holiday, University closed.

Week 11: Thursday, August 8, 2023, The Evolving Patterns of Africa’s International Relations

- Alex Thomson, *Introduction to African politics*. London and Routledge, 2000, pp.141-164
- Jean-Francois Bayart “Africa in the World” in *African Affairs* Vol. 99 (2000)
- William G Martin, “Africa’s Futures: from North – South to East – South?” *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2008, pp. 339 – 356

Week 12: Tuesday, August 10, 2023, Africa in a globalizing world: Perspectives on Sino-African relations

- Marcus Power and Giles Mohan, “Towards a Critical Geopolitics of China’s Engagement with African Development,” *Geopolitics*, 15:462–495, 2010
- Felix M. Edoho, “Globalization and Marginalization of Africa: Contextualization of China—Africa Relations”, *Africa Today*, Vol. 58, No. 1 (Fall 2011), pp. 103-124
- Ian Taylor, “Governance in Africa and Sino-African Relations: Contradictions or Confluence?” *Politics*: 2007 VOL 27(3), 139–146

Final Assessment: Thursday, August 17 - Thursday, August 25

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Academic Integrity Checklist

POL 309 Contemporary African Politics: Dynamics and Challenges, S2023

For Prof Abbas Gnamo

Please read the following statement, tick the appropriate boxes, and sign the declaration when you are ready to do so. You must submit a copy of this form along with your essay. If you do not feel able or ready to tick all the boxes, you are strongly urged to contact the relevant instructors to discuss the matter with them.

It is far better to take action to resolve the matter ahead of time rather than submit an essay that falls short of the university's academic integrity standards.

I, _____, affirm that this assignment represents entirely my own efforts.

I confirm that:

- ☐ I have acknowledged the use of another's ideas with accurate citations.
- ☐ If I used the words of another (e.g., author, instructor, information source), I have acknowledged this with quotation marks (or appropriate indentation) and proper citation.
- ☐ When paraphrasing the work of others, I put the idea into my own words and did not just change a few words or rearrange the sentence structure
- ☐ I have checked my work against my notes to be sure I have correctly referenced all direct quotes or borrowed ideas.
- ☐ My bibliography includes only the sources used to complete this assignment.
- ☐ This is the first time I have submitted this assignment (in whole or in part) for credit.
- ☐ Any proofreading by another was limited to indicating areas of concern which I then corrected myself.
- ☐ This is the final version of my assignment and not a draft.
- ☐ I have kept my work to myself and did not share answers/content with others, unless otherwise directed by my instructor.
- ☐ I understand the consequences of violating the University's academic integrity policies as outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

By submitting my essay, I agree that the statements above are true.

Signed: _____

Date: _____