POL309H1: Contemporary African Politics: Dynamics and Challenges, W2022

Professor: Abbas Gnamo, Ph.D.
Time: Tuesdays, 2:00PM–4:00PM
Office # 3062
Office hours: Thursdays, 4:00PM-5:00PM (virtual/in-class)
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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, democratization, the dream and the experience of regional integration and pan-Africanist agenda to address the 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 a globalizing world

Texts

Library Reading List via Quercus

Course Requirement and Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Term Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 3, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay (11-12pp)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>March 24, 2022,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Test</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Final assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Late penalty: 2% per day (*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).)

ewebsite – Quercus
Logging in to your Quercus Course Website

Like many other courses, POL309 uses Quercus for its course website. This website plays a central role more than ever in the functioning of the course as the course is now fully offered online. You are therefore strongly advised to visit it frequently as all readings, lectures, and other important information are made available. It is also through Quercus that you attend tutorial meetings, submit your assignments and tests. Important administrative and other announcements and updates will be posted on it regularly, and it will feature links to documents and required for the course. You must ensure that your e-mail address on ROSI is a uotttonto e-mail address; otherwise, you may not receive important information sent via the website. We may use other means of communication and you will be notified.

To access the POL309 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the U of T 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 POL309 course website along with the link to all your other Quercus based courses.

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) 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.

Note that all students (including those using University’s plagiarism detection) are required to submit a hard copy of their assignment (whether it is submitted late) and that, for the purposes of calculating a late penalty, it will be the hard copy, and NOT the one submitted to Turnitin.com that counts. Those using Turnitin MUST attach a printout of the Turnitin.com receipt to the hard copy of their assignment, indicating that they have already submitted the electronic copy of the assignment.

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.

**Assignment Guidelines**

Attendance and Participation
Students are expected to attend all classes and tutorial sessions and complete the assigned readings before they are discussed in class. Student participation and discussion will be actively encouraged in both the lectures and tutorials in particular. Students will be expected to present their research findings in tutorial session. The TA will give further information about the organization of tutorial session. The participation grade will be based on tutorial attendance and performance.

**Term Test and Fina Test**

The Mid-Term test will be held during regular class hours on March 3, 2022, whereas the final test will take place during exam week). The tests will include a mix of short answers and essay questions and will test your familiarity with the lecture material and reading assignments as well as your ability to apply what you have learned. Options will be provided for both short answers.

**Week 1: Thursday, January 13, 2022, Introduction to the course**

**Week 2: Thursday, January 20, 2022, Pan-Africanism, and Regionalism on the continent.**


**The Topics of Research Essay and will be posted along Guidelines on January 14, 2022**

**Week 3: Thursday, January 27, 2022, The challenges of democratic Transition in Africa**


**Week 4: Thursday, February 3, 2022, Ethnic identification, and ethnic conflicts in Africa.**
• Crawford Young, *Revisiting nationalism and ethnicity in Africa*, James S. Coleman African Studies Center (University of California, Los Angeles), 2004

**Week 5: Thursday, February 10, 2022, African Civil Conflicts and Genocidal massacre, Rwanda**
• Peter Uvin, “Reading the Rwandan Genocide,” International Studies Association, 2001

**Week 6: Thursday, February 17, 2022, Agriculture, and food security in Africa**

**Feb. 22-24 (Reading week, no class)**

**Week 7: Thursday, March 03, 2022 :Midterm**

**Week 8: Thursday, March 10, 2022, Contagious diseases (TB, Malaria and HIV/Aids)**

**Week 9: Thursday, March 17, 2022, Business, and Industry in Africa**

Research Essay Due date: March 17, 2022
Week 10: Thursday, March 24, 2022, South Africa

- Patti Waldmeier *Anatomy of a Miracle* Chapters 6 and 7, New York: W Norton (1997) Recommended

Week 11: Thursday, March 31, 2022, Women in African Politics


Week 12: Thursday, April 7, 2022, The Evolving Patterns of Africa’s International Relations


Week 13: Africa in a globalizing world: Perspectives on Sino-African relations


April 11-29, 2022: Final Assessment Period

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Academic Integrity Checklist
POL 309 Government and Politics in Africa

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: ___________________