

## **POLITICS AND SOCIETIES IN AFRICA**

GOV 2530/AFRS 2530 – Spring 2018

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:55

VAC South 303

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Office Hours (Hubbard 209A):  
Tues/Thurs 2:30-4:30 PM  
or by appointment

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### **Course Synopsis**

Africa is portrayed as a continent in perpetual crisis, as we see continual images of civil war, refugees, poverty and disease. What has caused these calamities, and is there more to Africa than these images reveal? This course will examine societies and politics in sub-Saharan Africa, as we seek to understand the sources of current conditions and the prospects for political stability and economic growth. After a brief historical overview of pre-colonial society and colonial influence on state-construction in Africa, the course will look at three broad phases in Africa's contemporary political development: 1) independence and consolidation of authoritarian rule; 2) economic decline and challenges to authoritarianism; 3) democratization and civil conflict. As we look at these phases, we will find that there is a great deal of variation among states in the strength of their political structures, their economic performance, and their experience with violence.

Drawing from writings by African political leaders, novelists, anthropologists, journalists, and historians, as well as by political scientists, we will discuss reasons for these differences and learn how to engage profitably in comparative analysis. Students will gain a broad understanding of patterns and variation within Africa, along with a more detailed knowledge of everyday life and politics in a country of their choice. The course will give students tools to evaluate popular images of Africa from an informed perspective and to speak with insight about a continent that has inspired such perplexity.

### **Expectations**

This course does not require any prior knowledge of African politics. It does ask for diligent attention to reading and written assignments, participation in class and readiness to learn. I expect no one to plagiarize and all to adhere strictly to the Academic Honor Code:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/college-policies/index.shtml>

### **Readings**

There is only one required book for the course. It is available for purchase through Chegg, and it is on 2-hour reserve in H-L Library. The remaining reading assignments are drawn from a variety of sources, available on e-reserves or otherwise electronically as indicated in the course outline.

John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild, eds. *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2017.

## Course Requirements

1. Class Participation	15%
2. Map/Colonial Powers Quiz	5%
3. Concept Quiz	15%
4. Paper: <i>Democracy</i> or <i>State Weakness</i>	20%
5. Group Presentation: <i>Democracy</i> or <i>State Weakness</i>	20%
6. Final Exam	25%

## Assignments

1. Class Participation:
  - a. Keep up with the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. Become the class expert on a country of your choice by researching its history, following its current politics, and sharing your knowledge with the class wherever appropriate. The following websites should be helpful as you choose your country and follow its politics:  
**Country Information:**  
<http://www.europaworld.com/entry/ass>  
[http://www.africa.upenn.edu//Home\\_Page/Country.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu//Home_Page/Country.html)  
**News Sources:**  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm>  
<http://allafrica.com>
  - b. Once during the semester, send me the evening before class a PowerPoint slide with an image that can be used to show how your country relates to the day's topic. Sign up for this on Blackboard/Assignments.
2. Map/Colonial Powers Quiz **(2/6)**
  - a. Identify states of Africa on a map
  - b. Specify each state's former colonial power(s)
3. Concept Quiz **(3/6)**
  - a. Definitions
  - b. Short answers
4. Paper (5 pgs)
  - a. Democracy **(3/29) OR**
  - b. State Weakness **(4/24)**
5. Group Presentation
  - a. Democracy **(3/29) OR**
  - b. State Weakness **(4/24)**
6. Final Exam **(5/18, 2:00 PM)**
  - a. Definitions
  - b. Short answers
  - c. Broad, comparative essay question

## Course Outline

		Assignments	Pgs
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Tue 1/23	Session 1	None	
Thu 1/25	Session 2	<b>SKIM</b> Robert Kaplan, " <a href="#">The Coming Anarchy</a> ," <i>The Atlantic Monthly</i> vol. 273, issue 2 (Feb 1994) pp. 44-76. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	24
		John W. Harbeson, "Constructing Political and Economic Order" in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 3-8	6
		<b>FUN COUNTRY ASSIGNMENT – News article + Trivia</b>	
<b>PRE-COLONIAL SOCIETY</b>			
Tue 1/30	Session 3	Pierre Englebert & Kevin Dunn, "Precolonial Politics" in <i>Inside African Politics</i> (2013), pp. 18-22 <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	5
		John A. Rowe, "The Pattern of Political Administration in Precolonial Buganda" in <i>African Themes</i> , ed. Ibrahim Abu-Lughod (1975) [ER: 65-76]	12
		<b>SKIM</b> Jomo Kenyatta, "The Gikuyu System of Government" in <i>Facing Mount Kenya</i> (1965) [ER: 179-205 not entire]	27
		Vincent Simiyu, "The Democratic Myth in the African Traditional Societies" in <i>Democratic Theory and Practice in Africa</i> (1988) [ER: 49-69]	20
<b>COLONIZATION, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM</b>			
Thu 2/1	Session 4	Adam Hochschild, excerpts from <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> : [ER: "The Treaties Must Grant us Everything," 61-74; "The First Heretic," 101-114 + 177-181 + 190-191; "A Reckoning," 225-234; optional "Victory?" 275-291]	<45
		Pierre Englebert & Kevin Dunn, "The Colonial State" in <i>Inside African Politics</i> (2013), pp. 22-32 <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	10
Tue 2/6	Session 5	Toyin Falola & Steven Salm, "Islam" in <i>Africa</i> , vol 2 (2000) [ER: 107-127]	20
		Felix Ekechi, "Christianity" in <i>Africa</i> , vol 2 (2000) [ER: 129-147]	18
		<b>MAP/COLONIAL POWERS QUIZ</b>	
Thu 2/8	Session 6	Lamin Sanneh, "The Yogi and the Commissar: Christian Missions and the African Response" <i>International Bulletin of Missionary Research</i> 15:1 (Jan 1991), pp. 2-11. <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	10
		Ericka Albaugh, "Language and Education in Africa under Mission and Colonial Influence" in <i>State-Building and Multilingual Education in Africa</i> (2014) [ER: 22-40]	18
		Fallou Ngom, "Ajami Literacies in West Africa" in <i>Tracing Language Movement in Africa</i> , ed. Ericka Albaugh and Kathryn de Luna (2018), pp. 143-162 <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	20
<b>INDEPENDENCE</b>			
Tue 2/13	Session 7	Pierre Englebert & Kevin Dunn, "Late Colonial Rule & Decolonization" in <i>Inside African Politics</i> , (2013), pp. 22-32 <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	11
		Elizabeth Schmidt, "History, Culture, and War: The Roots of Guinean	

		Nationalism, 1939-1947” in <i>Mobilizing the Masses</i> (2005) [ER: 15-35]	16
		William Worger, <i>et al</i> , “Freedom! Freedom! Freedom” in <i>Africa and the West</i> (2001) [ER under “Excerpts”: 325-328]	4
Thu 2/15	Session 8	Crawford Young, “The Heritage of Colonialism” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 9-23	15
		Bruce Gilley, “The Case for Colonialism” <i>Third World Quarterly</i> (8 Sept 2017) [withdrawn] pp. 1-11 <i>Blackboard/ Syllabus</i>	12
Tue 2/20	Session 9	Daniel Posner, “ <a href="#">The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Cleavages</a> ”, pp. 127-142	15
		Richard Joseph, “Class, State & Prebendal Politics in Nigeria” in <i>Africa: Dilemmas of Development and Change</i> (1998) [ER: 44-59]	16
		Peter Schraeder, “Ideology and Development” in <i>African Politics and Society</i> (2004) [ER: 131-142]	12
<b>ECONOMIC CRISIS AND LIBERALIZATION</b>			
Thu 2/22	Session 10	Henry F. Jackson, “The African Crisis: Drought and Debt” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 63/5 (Summer 1985): 1081-1094. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	13
		Thomas Callaghy, “Debt and Structural Adjustment in Africa: Realities and Possibilities” <i>Issue: A Journal of Opinion</i> 16, 2 (1988) [ER: 11-18]	9
		World Bank, Program Performance Audit Report, Togo (June 30, 1988), pages TBA, <i>Blackboard/ Syllabus</i>	≈20
Tue 2/27	Session 11	Todd Moss, “Reflections on Africa’s Rocky Love-Hate Relationship with International Capital” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 29-43	14
		Ken Saro-Wiwa, “Night Ride” in <i>Forest of Flowers</i> (1995) [ER: 111-119]	9
		<b>TBA</b>	
<b>DEMOCRACY AND ITS CHALLENGES</b>			
Thu 3/1	Session 12	Michael Bratton and Nicolas van de Walle, “Africa’s Divergent Transitions, 1990-1994” in <i>Democratic Experiments in Africa</i> (1997) [ER: 97-122]	25
		John W. Harbeson, “Democracy and the State in Sub-Saharan Africa” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 111-130.	20
Tue 3/6	Session 13	<b>CONCEPT QUIZ</b>	
Thu 3/8	Session 14	Michael Bratton, “Public Opinion and Democratic Consolidation” in <i>Routledge Handbook of African Politics</i> (2013) [ER: 275-290]	15
		<b>TBA:</b> <a href="#">Freedom House</a> , <a href="#">Afrobarometer</a>	
<b>3/13, 3/15, 3/20, 3/22 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK!</b>			
Tue 3/27	Session 15	Kaldor, M. “Civil Society and Accountability” <i>Journal of Human Development and Capabilities</i> 4 (2003): 5-27 <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	22
		Aili Mari Tripp, “In Pursuit of Autonomy: Civil Society and the State in Africa” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 89-109	20
		Patrick Chabal, “Illusions of Civil Society” in <i>Africa Works: Disorder as a Political Instrument</i> (1999) [ER: 17-30]	13

Thu 3/29	Session 16	<b>GROUP PRESENTATIONS:</b> Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana <b>PAPERS DUE</b>	
Tue 4/3	Session 17	Kwasi Wiredu, “Democracy and Consensus in African Traditional Politics: A Plea for a Non-Party Polity” in <i>Postcolonial African Philosophy</i> (1997) [ER: 303-312]	10
		Elke Zuern, “Democratization as Liberation: Competing African Perspectives on Democracy” <i>Democratization</i> 16:3 (June 2009) pp. 585-603 <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	18
		Thandika Mkandawire, “Aid, Accountability and Democracy in Africa,” <i>Social Research</i> 77, 4 (2010), pp. 1149-1182. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	30
Thu 4/5	Session 18	Leonardo Villalon, “Muslim Politics in West Africa” in <i>Routledge Handbook of African Politics</i> (2013) [ER: 133-146] <b>TBA</b>	14

#### WEAK STATES, FAILED STATES AND CIVIL WAR

Tue 4/10	Session 19	Robert Jackson, “States and Quasi-States” in <i>Quasi-States: Sovereignty, International Relations, and the Third World</i> (1990) [ER: 13-31]	19
		Christopher Clapham, “The Global-Local Politics of State Decay” in <i>When States Fail</i> (2004) [ER: 77-92]	16
		Robert Rotberg, “Governance and Leadership in Africa: Measures, Methods and Results” <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> 62, 2 (2009): 113- 125. <i>Blackboard/Syllabus</i>	12
Thu 4/12	Session 20	Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, “Oil Politics” in <i>Routledge Handbook of African Politics</i> (2013) [ER: 178-188]	11
		Paul Collier, “The Market for Civil War” <i>Foreign Policy</i> 136 (May 2003): 39-45. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	6
		TBA: <a href="#">Fragile States Index</a>	
Tue 4/17	Session 21	Thandika Mkandawire, “The Terrible Toll of Post-Colonial ‘Rebel Movements’ in Africa” in <i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i> 40, 2 (2002): 181-215.	25
		William Reno, “The International Factor in African Warfare” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 135-155	20
Thu 4/19	Session 22	<b>TBA</b>	
Tue 4/24	Session 23	<b>GROUP PRESENTATIONS:</b> DRC, South Sudan, Nigeria <b>PAPERS DUE</b>	

#### FOREIGN AID, SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERVENTION

Thu 4/26	Session 24	Ulf Engle, “The African Union’s Peace and Security Architecture – From Aspiration to Operationalization” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 262-276.	15
		Stephen Ellis, “How to Rebuild Africa” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 84/5 (Sept/Oct 2005): 135-148. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	14
		Jeffrey Herbst, “Let Them Fail. State Failure in Theory and Practice: Implications for Policy” [ER: 302-318]	17

Tue 5/1	Session 25	Michel Serge “The Invasion of Junk” in <i>China Safari</i> (Available online: <a href="http://site.ebrary.com/lib/bowdoin/docDetail.action?docID=10409125">http://site.ebrary.com/lib/bowdoin/docDetail.action?docID=10409125</a> ; you need to create an account and login to print), pp. 113-129	14
		George Ayittey, “Post-MDGs and Africa’s Development Conundrum” <i>Journal of International Development</i> 27, 3 (2015): 345-361	
		<i>Blackboard/ Syllabus</i>	16
		Ian Taylor, “The Sad Story of ‘Africa Rising’ and the Continent’s Romance with the BRICS” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 69-86	17
Thu 5/3	Session 26	Jonathan Fisher and David Anderson, “Authoritarianism and the Securitization of Development in Africa” <i>International Affairs</i> 91, 1 (2015): 131-151. <i>Academic Search Complete</i>	20
		Ken Menkhaus, “Terrorism, Security, and the State” in <i>Routledge Handbook of African Politics</i> (2013) [ER: 390-403]	13
		IRIN, “ <a href="#">A Dozen Shades of Khaki: Counter-Insurgency Operations in the Sahel</a> ” 11 January 2018.	3
		Pierre Englebert, “ <a href="#">The ‘Real’ Map of Africa</a> ” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Nov 8, 2015	3
Tue 5/8	Session 27	Francis M. Deng, “Reconciling Sovereignty with Responsibility: A Basis for International Humanitarian Action” in <i>Africa in World Politics</i> , pp. 283-315	33

**FINAL EXAM – FRIDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FROM 2:00 – 5:00 PM**