

POL 3395F
The Politics and Governance of Africa
Fall 2018

Professor: Dr. Lindsay Scorgie-Porter

Office: A15

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30 & Fridays 11:30-12:30

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Lecture: Tuesdays 8:30-10:30 – HUC W106

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview:

POL3395F will introduce students to the politics of contemporary Africa, with a particular emphasis on addressing the question of why Africa continues to be the poorest and arguably most volatile continent. The course will explore this query through the use of both theoretical literature on Africa's underdevelopment, as well as focused case studies of particular countries. It will cover the history, politics, economics, and socio-cultural factors of development in Africa, starting with the precolonial era, but with particular emphasis on the 20th and 21st centuries.

The course begins with an exploration into precolonial and colonial political structures, before moving on to the legacies of colonial rule with regards to leadership styles and governance trends in the latter half of the 20th century. Students will then look into the causes and consequences of conflict in Africa, including consideration of the 'greed versus grievance' debate, the 'resource curse', the violent politics surrounding poaching, as well as the approaches taken by different countries towards difficult issues of transitional justice and reconstruction in the aftermath of war. Finally, the course will consider a range of other issues currently affecting African politics, including China's extensive presence on the continent, practices of foreign aid by the international community, the increasing involvement of women in the political sphere, and the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Pre-Requisites/Anti-Requisites:

Enrolment in 3rd or 4th year in any Political Science module, or permission of the Department. Permission of the Department.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will have a thorough understanding of trends in contemporary African politics. They will be familiar with the historical developments that contributed to such trends, and particularly be able to identify the lasting ramifications of colonialism and continuing neo-colonial dynamics on the continent.

Course Methodology:

POL3395F is a seminar course; many classes will start with a lecture, followed by a student-led presentation of the readings, and then discussion amongst the class. However, a number of classes will follow more interactive formats, such as debates, persuasive speeches, and so on. As such,

there will be a strong emphasis upon class participation – students must be willing to be active members of the class, and it is essential that they arrive to class prepared. Adequate preparation includes having completed the weekly readings in advance, and being willing to discuss the reading and lecture material with fellow classmates.

Course Communication:

I am happy to meet with students during office hours, both to discuss issues relating to the course, as well as one’s academic career more generally. If it is not possible to make the scheduled office hour time, please get in touch via email and an alternate time to meet can be arranged. I endeavor to respond to student emails within 48 hours on weekdays.

Students are required to check their UWO email accounts on a regular basis, as items such as the following may be posted throughout the year: additional readings, further instructions for assignments, notifications of any changes in the class schedule, etc.

COURSE READINGS

All readings are available under the ‘Resources’ folder on OWL. Please note that all listed readings are required readings, to be done in advance of class. At times additional readings on current topical subjects will be added to the required reading list. These will be particularly relevant for in-class discussions.

Students are strongly encouraged to follow news from Africa, as many of the issues covered in the course will be developing in real time somewhere on the continent. Some suggestions of suitable sources include the BBC, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Economist*, *Al Jazeera*, and Vice news. An excellent podcast that I recommend subscribing to is BBC’s *Africa Today* (available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/africa>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Map Quiz	Value 15%	2 October 2018
Seminar Discussion	Value 15%	TBD
Participation	Value 25%	Ongoing evaluation
Research Essay	Value 45%	27 November 2018

Map Quiz:

In the fourth week of the course students will write a map quiz. Students will be given a blank political map of Africa and will be expected to write in the name, capital city, and former colonial ruler of each country. I recommend the following as an excellent resource for stats on Africa: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_afr.html.

**A 2% bonus mark (to the entire course grade) is available to those students who can also correctly identify the leader (last name only required) of each African state. No partial bonus marks will be given – all leaders must be correctly identified.

Seminar Discussion:

In pairs (or alone should a student strongly prefer that option), students will be required to lead one seminar discussion on a particular week's topic. In addition to the assigned readings that week, students will be required to do further research on the subject. Based on their research, each pair will give a presentation of approx. 40 minutes, which is to then be followed by a general discussion. Each member of the group must participate in the presentation, and thus it is advised that each student assume primary responsibility for one core theme/area of the topic.

In terms of subject matter, it is important to keep in mind that the assigned readings are meant as the starting point for exploration into the topic. Therefore, it is imperative that students do not provide simply a summary of the readings in their presentation. They should very much rely on the further research they have conducted into the topic, and deliver a dynamic, argumentative, and analytical presentation.

Sign-up for presentation dates will take place in early September. Please note that late penalties do not apply to this assignment and no extensions will be granted. In other words, missed presentations will automatically result in a mark of zero.

Participation:

Class participation will be graded on the basis of active participation in class – students do not get participation marks simply for showing up. I will take into account the quality of one's contributions (i.e. demonstrating familiarity with, and understanding of, the readings) when assessing participation in class. Thus, to do well in the participation portion of the course, it is imperative that students arrive to class having completed that week's readings.

Research Essay:

Students will be required to write a 3,000-3,500 word essay on a topic of their choice (within the overall subject of African politics and governance). The essay is to be based on a minimum of twelve academic sources (peer-reviewed journals, books, or book chapters), and is due 27 November 2018. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the professor well in advance of the due date about ideas for topics, theses, etc.

Formatting requirements for the paper are the following:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- double-spaced (except for footnotes and bibliography)
- 2.5cm margins
- pages numbered
- title page with your name, date, course title, paper title (your essay must have an actual title), and word count
- footnotes and bibliography must be included
- Chicago Manual of Style citation format should be carefully and consistently followed throughout
- word limit excludes footnotes and bibliography; students are permitted to be within 200 words of the word limit, and 1 mark will be taken off for every 100 words below or above the specified word limit

The essay is due at the beginning of class, in person, on the specified due date. The late penalty for the paper is 2 marks per day. If submitted during or after class on the due date, the late penalty will be 1 mark. Essays will not be accepted after ten days past the submission deadline.

Please note: other than for serious cases of emergency, extensions will not be granted. Thus, having multiple work assignments due around the same time, employment responsibilities, studying for the LSAT, or being out of town, do not constitute valid reasons for extensions. Extensions are very rarely granted; if requesting one, documentation of your reason (i.e. doctor's note, hospital records) must be provided.

In addition to submitting a hard copy of their papers, students will be required to submit an online copy to the course website, where it will be checked for plagiarism via Turnitin.com. All forms of plagiarism will be taken extremely seriously.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sept. 11

Introduction to African Politics

- “The Heart of the Matter.” *The Economist* (11 May 2000). Available at: <http://www.economist.com/node/333437>.
- Diamond, Jared. “The Shape of Africa.” *National Geographic* (2005). Available at: http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0509/resources_geo2.html.
- Gettleman, Jeffrey. “‘Africa Rising?’ ‘Africa Reeling’ may be more fitting now.” *The New York Times* (17 October 2016). Available at: https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/18/world/africa/africa-rising-africa-reeling-may-be-more-fitting-now.html?ref=world&_r=0
- Chazan, Naomi. “The Diversity of African Politics: Trends and Approaches,” in Naomi Chazan, et al, eds., *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999): 5-34.

Sept. 18

Precolonial and Colonial Political Structures

- Ehret, Christopher. “Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade, 1640-1800,” in *The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2002): Chapter 9. Available: online via UWO library.
- Bates, Robert. “The Centralization of African Societies,” in *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987): Chapter 2.
- Rodney, Walter. “Colonialism as a System for Underdeveloping Africa,” in *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (London: Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, 1972): Chapter 6.
- Herbst, Jeffrey. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000): Chapter 3.

- Sept. 25** **The Rise of Personalized Rule, and the Nature of the State in Post-Colonial Africa**
- Morlin-Yron, Sophie. “What’s the real size of Africa? How Western states used maps to downplay size of continent.” *CNN* (23 March 2017). Available at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/08/18/africa/real-size-of-africa/index.html>.
 - Jackson, Robert H., and Carl G. Rosberg. “Why Africa’s Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood.” *World Politics* 35, 1 (1982): 1-24.
 - Herbst, Jeffrey. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000): Chapters 1 & 9.
- Oct. 2** **Map Quiz**
- No readings.
- Oct. 9** **Reading Week**
- No class or readings, however students are strongly encouraged to start research for their major research essay.
- Oct. 16** **The Resource Curse**
- Le Billon, Philippe. “Angola’s Political Economy of War: The Role of Oil and Diamonds, 1975-2000.” *African Affairs* 100, 398 (2001): 55-80.
 - McMillan, John. “Promoting Transparency in Angola.” *Journal of Democracy* 16, 3 (2005): 155-169.
 - *The Economist*. “The Twilight of the Resource Curse?” *The Economist* (8 January 2015). Available at: <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2015/01/08/the-twilight-of-the-resource-curse>.
- Oct. 23** **Civil War in Africa: Greed or Grievance?**
- Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. “Greed and Grievance in Civil War.” *The World Bank* (1999).
 - Reno, William. “Shadow States and the Political Economy of Civil Wars,” in *Greed & Grievance: Economic Agendas in Civil Wars* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000): 43-68. Available at: https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/openebooks/421-5/index.html#page_43.
 - Berdal, Mats. “Beyond Greed and Grievance: And Not Too Soon...A Review Essay.” *Review of International Studies* 31, 4 (2005): 687-698.
 - Sousa, Ricardo Real P. “Greed, Grievance, Leadership and External Interventions in the Initiation and Intensification of the Civil War in Angola.” *Janus.Net E-Journal of International Relations* 7, 1 (2016): 73-95. Available at: <http://www.redalyc.org/html/4135/413546002006/>.
- Oct. 30** **Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Transitional Justice: Rwandan Case Study**
- Hintjens, Helen. “When Identity Becomes a Knife: Reflecting on the Genocide in Rwanda.” *Ethnicities* 1, 1 (2001): 25-55.

- Uvin, Peter, and Charles Mironko. “Western and Local Approaches to Justice in Rwanda.” *Global Governance* 9, 2 (2003): 219-231.
- Clark, Phil. “When the Killers Go Home.” *Dissent* 52, 3 (2005): 14-21.
- (If you feel like you need more background/overview of what happened with regards to the Rwandan genocide, see this BBC article and explore further links on both the genocide and its aftermath:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26875506> – this is not mandatory reading.)

Nov. 6

Foreign Aid

- Sachs, Jeffrey. “A Pioneering Perspective: The Global Social Movement Against Extreme Poverty.” *Harvard International Review* 33, 1 (2011): 78-82.
- Easterly, William. “The Ideology of Development.” *Foreign Policy* 16, 1 (2007): 30-35.
- Zorbas, Eugenia. “Aid Dependence and Policy Independence: Explaining the Rwandan Paradox,” in Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf, eds., *Remaking Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights After Mass Violence* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011): 103-117.
- Mariam, Al. “Trump’s suspicion of foreign aid to Africa is right on the money.” *The Hill* (3 September 2017). Available at:
<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/foreign-policy/323198-trumps-suspicion-of-foreign-aid-to-africa-is-right-on-the>.

Nov. 13

China in Africa

- Albert, Eleanor. “China in Africa.” *Council on Foreign Relations* (12 July 2017). Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-africa>
- Larmer, Brook. “Is China the world’s new colonial power?” *The New York Times* (2 May 2017). Available at:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/magazine/is-china-the-worlds-new-colonial-power.html>
- Poplak, Richard. “The new scramble for Africa: how China became the partner of choice.” *The Guardian* (22 December 2016). Available at:
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/dec/22/the-new-scramble-for-africa-how-china-became-the-partner-of-choice>
- Choksi, Mansi & Kim Wall. “Inside the Ugandan mall at the center of China’s East African investments.” *Vice* (22 May 2016). Available at:
https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/5gqzgd/chinatown-syndrome-v23n3.

Nov. 20

Women and Politics

- Tripp, Aili Mari. “Women and Politics in Africa Today.” *Democracy in Africa Blog Posting* (2013). Available at: <http://democracyinafrica.org/women-politics-africa-today/>.
- Devlin, Claire, and Robert Elgie. “The Effect of Increased Women’s

Representation in Parliament: The Case of Rwanda.” *Parliamentary Affairs* 61, 2 (2008): 237-254.

- Burnet, Jennie. “Gender Balance and the Meanings of Women in Governance in Post-Genocide Rwanda.” *African Affairs* 107, 428 (2008): 361-386.
- Dube, Rumbidzai. “Only boys allowed: Seven faces of Zimbabwe’s political patriarchy.” *African Arguments* (11 July 2018). Available at: <http://africanarguments.org/2018/07/11/boys-allowed-7-faces-zimbabwe-patriarchy/>.

Nov. 27

HIV/AIDS Crisis

- Poku, Nana K. “HIV Prevention: The Key to Ending AIDS by 2030.” *The Open AIDS Journal* 10, 1 (2016): 65-77.
- Epstein, Helen, and Kristin Ashburn. “Why is AIDS Worse in Africa?” *Discover* (2004). Available at: <http://discovermagazine.com/2004/feb/why-aids-worse-in-africa>.
- Piot, Peter, et al. “Squaring the Circle: AIDS, Poverty, and Human Development.” *PLOS Medicine* 4, 10 (2007). Available at: <http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.0040314>
- Timberg, Craig, & Daniel Halperin. “Colonialism in Africa helped launch the HIV epidemic a century ago.” *The Washington Post* (27 February 2012). Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/colonialism-in-africa-helped-launch-the-hiv-epidemic-a-century-ago/2012/02/21/gIQAYJ9aeR_story.html?utm_term=.12013779bbad&noredirect=on.
- Garrett, Laurie. “The Next AIDS Pandemic.” *Foreign Policy* (26 July 2017). Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/07/26/the-next-aids-pandemic/amp/>.

Dec. 4

The Politics of Poaching – Guest Lecture TBC

- Readings TBC.



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.