

African Politics
Political Science 366/466; Ethnic Studies 366
Spring 2015
M/W 9:00 - 10:15 am, Mather House, Rm 2

Professor Elliot Posner
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217 Mather House, 368-1015
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30 am – 12:00 pm or by appt.

This course is an exploration of sub-Saharan African Politics. It begins with the continent's recent history and some of the basics in the region's politics, economics, geography and societies. Students will then become familiar with competing lenses for understanding the domestic politics of African countries. We will focus on government underperformance, stalled development and violence as well as signs of improved economic performance. Part three addresses relations among African states, including regional cooperation and cross-border interventions and wars. The course ends with a unit on sub-Saharan Africa's place in international politics and economics. Topics include: relations with multilateral organizations, international courts and non-governmental organizations; humanitarian crises; new and old development models; the demand for African resources and the consequences of globalization; and relations with China, the US and the EU. Student activists will have the opportunity to substitute the final paper with a proposal for an initiative to effect positive change.

Readings:

The following required books are available at the bookstore.

Frederick Cooper, *Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Engaging a Changing Global Order*, 5th ed. (Boulder, Co: Westview Press, 2013).

Goran Hyden, *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Crawford Young, *The Postcolonial State in Africa: Fifty Years of Independence, 1960-2010* (Madison, Wi: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012).

The other readings are available electronically on the class Blackboard website.

In addition to the assigned readings, you are required, on a regular basis, to read, watch and listen to topical articles from leading news sources. An incomplete list of potentially useful sources includes *The Africa Report*, allafrica.com, bbc.com, *The Financial Times*, irinnews.org, *Le Monde*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. I also recommend the list of news sources compiled by Stanford University (<http://web.stanford.edu/dept/SUL/library/prod//depts/ssrg/africa/current2.html>).

Course Requirements and Assignments:

Undergraduate students: The exams and essays will cover content from the readings, discussions and other material covered in class. The two essays will require some independent research. The participation grade will be based on the quality of in-class contributions, including completion of individual and group assignments and responses to questions posed by the professor on a random basis. Students must be prepared to discuss assigned readings.

- 1) In-Class Exam (20%), **February 2**
- 2) Essay #1 (20%), **March 20**
- 3) Essay #2 or Proposed Initiative (20%), **April 27**
- 4) Final Exam (20%), **TBA.**
- 5) Participation (20%)

I reserve the right to lower overall grades for three or more unexcused absences. Excused absences require prior consultation and/or a doctor's note upon the professor's request.

Graduate students: Students must attend sessions, participate in discussions, do assignments and take the first and final undergraduate exams. While failure to meet these requirements will result in a penalty, graduate student grades will be based primarily on the quality of a research paper. A proposal with a preliminary bibliography is due on March 20, but students must consult with me beforehand. The final paper is due on April 27 by 5pm.

Course Policies:

All graded work must be completed in accordance with the Case Academic Integrity Standards.

Unexcused absences from exams will be penalized.

Please feel free to drop in during my office hours. I encourage all students in this course to do so, especially individuals with disabilities who are registered with the Coordinator of Disability Services (368-5230) and may need individual arrangements. I am happy to make appointments for students with scheduling conflicts. I prefer to interact with students in person and am able to respond only to short email messages about appointments, absences and the like. If you send a message, please put the course number in the subject heading (i.e. "POSC 366" or "ETHS 366").

Topics and Reading Assignments:

Part I: Background and History

Session One (1/12): Introduction

Session Two (1/14): African Politics in the News

Discussion of contemporary developments in Mali, the DRC, CAR, Somalia and South Sudan and updates on the Ebola epidemic in west Africa, the backlash against the International Criminal Court and the activities of Boko Haram.

Maps of colonies, religion, geography and languages

No Class 1/19: MLK Day

Session Three (1/21): The Recent Past, I

Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, 1-90.

Session Four (1/26): The Recent Past, II

Cooper, 91-204.

Session Five (1/28): Open Discussion

Session Six (2/2)

*** In-Class Exam ***

Part II: The Domestic Politics of Sub-Saharan African States

Session Seven (2/4): The Movement Legacy

Hyden, *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*, chaps. 1 & 2.

Sessions Eight & Nine (2/9 & 2/11): The State

Hyden, chap. 3

Young, chap. 9

Country political report

Session Ten (2/16): The Economy of Affection

Hyden, chap. 4

Country political report

Session Eleven (2/18): Big Man Rule

Hyden, chap. 5.

Extra Reading:

Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rosberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood," *World Politics* 35, 1 (Oct 1982): 1-24.

Country political report

Session Twelve (2/23): The Agrarian Question

Hyden, chap. 7

Extra Reading:

Kimuli Kasara, "Tax Me If You Can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy, and the Taxation of Agriculture in Africa," *American Political Science Review* 101, 1 (Feb 2007): 159-172.

Country political report

Session Thirteen (2/25): Gender and Politics

Hayden, chap. 8

Extra Reading:

Aili Mari Tripp, "In Pursuit of Authority: Civil Society and Rights-Based Discourses in Africa," in Harbeson and Rothchild, 124-149 (especially 138-143).

Country political report

Sessions Fourteen & Fifteen (3/2 & 3/4): Identity and Conflict

Hyden, chap. 9

Young, Chapter 7 & 8.

Lee Ann Fujii, "The Power of Local Ties: Popular Participation in the Rwandan Genocide," *Security Studies* 17, 3 (2008): 568-597.

*** Essay #1, assignment given out (3/2) ***

Country political report

Spring Break: 3/9 & 3/11

Session Sixteen (3/16): Democracy and Democratization

Young, chapter 6.

John W. Harbeson, "Democracy, Autocracy, and the Sub-Saharan African State" in Harbeson and Rothchild, 83-123.

Session Seventeen (3/18): What Do We Know?

Hyden, chaps 11 & 12.

*** Essay #1, due 3/20 (Friday), 5 pm ***

Part III: Relations among African States

Session Eighteen (3/23): Colonial Borders & the Inviolability Norm

“Organization of African Unity Charter,” May 25, 1963, selected passages.

“Acte Constitutif Union de l’Union Africaine,” July 11, 2000, selected passages.

I. William Zartman, “The Diplomacy of African Boundaries” in Harbeson and Rothchild, 172-185.

Session Nineteen (3/25): War, Peace & Cooperation

Princeton N. Lyman, “Sudan: A Fragile “Peace” in Harbeson and Rothchild, 237-254.

Jon Lee Anderson, “A History of Violence,” *The New Yorker*, July 23, 2012.

Thomas Turner, “Will Rwanda End Its Meddling in Congo?” *Current History*, May 2013, 188-194.

Mo Ibrahim Foundation, “Regional Economic Integration: Facts and Figures,” Forum 2010.

International Crisis Group, latest reports on Democratic Republic of Congo.

Extra Reading:

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, “South Africa’s Emerging Soft Power,” *Current History*, May 2014, 197-202.

Short report on Eritrean independence

Short report on the African Union

Part IV: African States & International Economics and Politics

Session Twenty (3/30): The Politics of Humanitarian Crises & Interventions

Francis M. Deng, “Reconciling Sovereignty with Responsibility” in Harbeson and Rothchild, 310-349.

Alex De Waal, *Famine Crimes: Politics and the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa* (London: African Rights and The International African Institute, 1997), selected passages.

Extra Reading:

Jason K. Stearns, “African Conflicts, Western Activism,” *Current History*, November 2012, 317-321.

Short report on today’s humanitarian crises in sub-Saharan Africa

Sessions Twenty-One (4/1): External Constraints

Andre Gunder Frank, "The Development of Underdevelopment" in *Dependence and Underdevelopment: Latin America's Political Economy*, ed. by J. Crockcroft, A. Gunder Frank and D. Johnson (New York: Doubleday, 1972): 3-17.

Reading on the International Criminal Court.

Extra Reading:

Susan Sell, "TRIPS and Access to Medicines," *Wisconsin International Law Journal* 20, 3 (Summer 2002), 481-522.

Session Twenty-Two (4/6) The Debt Regime, Foreign Investment & Aid

IMF Fact Sheet, "Debt Relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative."

Thomas M. Callaghy, "Networks and Governance in Africa: Innovation in the Debt Regime," in Thomas Callaghy, Ronald Kassimir and Robert Latham, *Intervention and Transnationalism in Africa: Global-Local Networks of Power* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 115-148.

Dambisa Moyo, *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa* (New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010), 1-68.

Extra Reading:

Todd Moss, "Reflections on Africa's Rocky Love-Hate Relationship with International Capital" in Harbeson and Rothchild, 35-51.

*** Essay #2, assignment given out ***

Session Twenty-Three (4/8): Competing Development Models

World Bank, "Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Agenda for Action," Washington, DC, 1981, selected passages.

Organization of African Unity, "Lagos Plan of Action for Economic Development of African, 1980-2000," Lagos, 1980, selected passages.

Claude Ake, *Democracy and Development in Africa* (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1996), selected passages.

Short report on micro-NGOs and other innovative development organizations.

Sessions Twenty-Four & Twenty-Five (4/13 & 4/15): An African Development Model?

Greg Mills and Jeffrey Herbst, *Africa's Third Liberation: The New Search for Prosperity and Jobs* (New York, NY: Penguin Global, 2012), 1-50 & 217-233.

Thandika Mkandawire, "Can Africa Turn From Recovery to Development?" *Current History*, May 2014, 171-177.

Charles Kenny, "Millennial Goals Miss African Progress," *Current History*, May 2013, 195-197.

Session Twenty-Six (4/20): The Great Powers and African States

Ian Taylor, "The Growth of China in Africa" in Harbeson and Rothchild, 285-309.

Stephen W. Smith, "France in Africa: A New Chapter?" *Current History*, May 2013, 163-168.

Reading on US security interests in sub-Saharan Africa.

Session Twenty-Seven (4/22): Concluding Discussion

Session Twenty-Eight (4/27): Review for Final Exam

*** Essay #2, due by 5 pm ***

Final Exam: To be announced.