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.


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

**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”).

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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 Boka 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

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:  

Country political report

**Session Twelve (2/23): The Agrarian Question**  
Hyden, chap. 7

Extra Reading:  

Country political report

**Session Thirteen (2/25): Gender and Politics**  
Hayden, chap. 8

Extra Reading:  

Country political report

**Sessions Fourteen & Fifteen (3/2 & 3/4): Identity and Conflict**  
Hyden, chap. 9  
Young, Chapter 7 & 8.  

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

Session Nineteen (3/25): War, Peace & Cooperation
International Crisis Group, latest reports on Democratic Republic of Congo.

Extra Reading:

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.

Extra Reading:

Short report on today’s humanitarian crises in sub-Saharan Africa
Sessions Twenty-One (4/1): External Constraints
Reading on the International Criminal Court.

Extra Reading:

Session Twenty-Two (4/6) The Debt Regime, Foreign Investment & Aid
IMF Fact Sheet, “Debt Relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.”

Extra Reading:

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

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

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

Sessions Twenty-Four & Twenty-Five (4/13 & 4/15): An African Development Model?
Session Twenty-Six (4/20): The Great Powers and African States
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.