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Political Science 5460
Spring 2007
MCD 230
T, Th: 9:10-10:30

THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF AFRICA

“Africa is a nation that suffers from incredible disease,” George W. Bush, June 2001

Course Description:

This course seeks to identify the fundamental trends that have shaped Africa's past and have led to Africa's current position in the international system. Rather than addressing strictly comparative issues of African political systems, this course endeavors to examine Africa's "crisis of development" from both a national and international level of analysis.

The major focus of this course is on the international relations between Africa and the world, and Africa's response to its international status. Following an introductory section and an historical overview of Africa's precolonial and colonial heritage, the course will concentrate on three additional areas. Part II examines the important actors, groups, and the decision-making process behind African politics. Part III concerns Africa's economic development predicament and strategies for development. Part IV turns to a more detailed examination of several African countries from each geographic region of the continent.

Course Requirements:

Students are responsible for attending class on a regular basis as well as reading the assigned material. Although primarily a lecture course, class participation can only strengthen your final grade in the class.

Students are required to write one paper and two exams. The paper, of approximately 15 double-spaced typed pages, will be closely related to the course materials. A list of topics will be distributed later in the course. The paper's question and description is due **Feb. 8** with a draft due **Mar. 27**. The paper, worth 35%, is due **April 17**. Late papers will be penalized.

The first exam (**Feb. 22**) will cover the first three sections of the course. The final exam will be a closed-book, in-class comprehensive exam. There will be a study session before each exam. The final will be on **April 27**, from 10:30-12:30.

The first assignment will be a typed, double-spaced essay on the novel, Things Fall Apart. Please write approximately a three page essay which answers the following questions: 1) what are the main themes in this book and 2) how do you see those themes demonstrated today in Africa? This essay is due in class on **Jan. 16** and it is worth 5%.

One objective for studying and understanding a large region such as Africa is to appreciate the continent's geographic size and diversity. On **Jan. 30** you will be given a map and a list of the African countries and be asked to fill out the map. It is worth 5%.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructors as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first week of the quarter along with the request for special accommodations. To do so, contact the Center for Disabled Student Service, 160 Union, 581-5020.

Students will be held responsible for all academic policies and procedures listed in the Student Handbook, including plagiarism, submitting one paper to more than one class, etc.

Grades:

A student must complete both papers and the exam in order to receive a passing grade, whether he or she is registered on the A-NC or CR-NC system. In order to receive a CR course grade on the CR-NC system, it is necessary to attain an overall course grade of C-. No make-up tests, deadline extensions, or incompletes will be given except in cases of documented illness or sudden personal emergency. Grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Essay:	5%	(Jan. 16)
Map Quiz:	5%	(Jan. 30)
First Exam:	20%	(Feb. 22)
Paper:	35%	(April 17)
Final Exam:	35%	(April 27)

Web Sites: See Schraeder, p. 10-11 for more sites.

www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html
www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/news.html
www.mg.co.za/mg/africa.html
www.oneworld.net/africa
www.africaonline.com
www.politicalresources.net/africa.htm
www.africanews.org
www.umich.edu/~iinet/caas
www.allafrica.com
www.africana.com

Course Readings:

The following texts are available for purchase in the Bookstore. Additional readings are required and can be obtained from the reserve room in Marriott Library. These readings are marked by an (R).

Achebe, Chinua. 1994. Things Fall Apart (Anchor Books).

Dallaire, Romeo. 2004. Shake Hands with the Devil. (Carroll and Graf).

Moseley, William. 2007. Taking Sides: African Issues, 2nd edition (McGraw-Hill).

Schraeder, Peter. 2004, 2nd. Ed. African Politics and Society (Wadsworth).

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART I. INTRODUCTION

Jan. 9 NO LECTURE

Jan. 11 NO CLASS

Jan. 16/18 Course Overview and Cultural Context of African Politics
Schraeder: Ch. 1, Ch. 7
Achebe: Things Fall Apart
Moseley: Issue 13

Jan. 23/25 Precolonialism/Colonialism/Independence
Schraeder: Ch. 2, Ch. 3, Ch. 4
Moseley: Issues 2, 3, 4

PART II. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL GROUPS IN AFRICA

Jan. 30/Feb. 1 Social and Ethnic Groups **Map Quiz (Jan. 30)**

Schraeder: Ch. 5, Ch. 8, Ch. 9

Feb. 6 Democratic Experiments
Schraeder: Ch. 10
Moseley: Issue 17; Issue 19

PART III. AFRICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

Feb. 8 Economic Development Constraints **Paper Topic Due**
Moseley: Issues 6, 7, 8, 10, 14

Feb. 13 World Bank's Strategy for Economic Development in Africa
World Bank: Challenges of African Growth ®
Moseley: Issue 5

- Feb. 15 Critique of World Bank's Strategy
Mallaby: "Saving the World Bank" ®
Moseley: Issues 15, 16
- Feb. 20 Mid-Term Study Session
- Feb. 22 **MID-TERM EXAM**
- PART IV. AFRICA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS**
- Feb. 27 Africa in World Politics
Schraeder: Ch. 12
Lancaster: "Africa in World Affairs" ®
- Mar. 1 NO CLASS
- Mar. 6 African Union and Major Powers in Africa
Lake: 2005 Was the Year for Africa, But We missed the Point" ®
Eisenman and Kurlantzick: "China's Africa Strategy" ®
Moseley: Issue 18
- Mar. 8 Role of US in African Conflicts/Terrorism
Lake: "Security and Terrorism Concerns" ®
Klare and Volman: "Africa's Oil and American National Security" ®
Booker and Colgan: "'Compassionate Conservatism' Comes to Africa" ®
Moseley: Issue 20
- PART V. FOCUS ON AFRICAN COUNTRIES**
- Mar. 13/15 State and Society in South Africa
Khapoya: "South Africa," pp. 220-247 ®
Global Studies: South Africa (hand out in class)
- Mar. 20/22 SPRING BREAK
- Mar. 27 Politics of the New South Africa and US Foreign Policy **Draft of Paper Due**
Khapoya: "South Africa," pp. 247-275 ®
Herbst: "Mbeki's South Africa" ®
Meldrum: "South Africa on Trial" ®
- Mar. 29 Kenya and the Horn of Africa
Straus: "Darfur and the Genocide Debate" ®
Prunier: "The Politics of Death in Darfur" ®
Holmquist: "Kenya's Antipolitics" ®
Bryden: "Can Somalia Salvage Itself?" ®

Global Studies: Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan (hand out in class)

- April 3/5 Nigeria and Ghana
 Esimai: "Nigeria's Defining Moment" ®
 Okonta: "Nigeria" ®
 Ukiow: "Politics, Ethno-religious Conflicts and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria," ®
 Global Studies: Nigeria and Ghana (hand out in class)
- April 10 Liberia/Sierra Leone
 Lloyd: "Rebuilding the Liberian State" ®
 Global Studies: Liberia and Sierra Leone (hand out in class)
- April 12/17/19 Rwanda and Burundi
 Dallaire: Shake Hands with the Devil
 Global Studies: Rwanda and Burundi (hand out in class)

Paper Due (April 17)

- April 24 Final Exam Study Session
- April 27 FINAL EXAM: 10:30-12:30