



2017–2018 Academic Year
Winter 2018



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 371 L01
Government & Politics of Africa

INSTRUCTOR: Chris W. J. Roberts

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday/Wednesday 1430-1530; Thursday 1030-1130 or by appointment

COURSE DAY/TIME: Monday-Wednesday-Friday 1000-1050

COURSE LOCATION: KNB 126

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Comfort Kwarteng (SS 705) – comfort.kwarteng@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed as an intensive introduction to the domestic and international politics of Africa's diverse post-colonial states and political institutions, with a particular focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. Africa's expansiveness and its complexities are often reduced to sweeping generalizations which stand in the way of deeper understanding and explanation of political processes, economic (under)development, and political contestation. While some now focus attention on "Rising Africa" given improved macroeconomic indicators, the student of African politics must try and see past prevailing "Afro-positive" or "Afro-pessimist" narratives in fashion at any particular time.

The "marginalized continent" has suffered extensive extracontinental intervention for five hundred years. Most of the continent has been politically independent as sovereign states for barely sixty or seventy years. Thus, pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial, and international influences and interventions must all be considered in any explanation of the evolution or trajectory of the politics of African states as well as the African regional state system. Awareness of African agency, even within the context of power asymmetries, is a central theme of this course. The paradox of the strong *de jure* African state (that is, international legal recognition of sovereign states and their borders) and often weak *de facto* African states (that is, governance and authority structures which cannot deliver sufficient public goods) will be another core theme of the course, as this paradox is implicated in authoritarianism, inter- and intra-state conflict, and economic under-performance. How and why post-colonial African states evolved as they did remains highly contested scholarly terrain, a terrain we will traverse through multiple themes, perspectives, and theoretical approaches.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Objectives:

- To introduce students to the historical, theoretical, conceptual, and institutional foundations of post-colonial African politics
- To cultivate comprehensive knowledge about the complexities of contemporary African political economy in the context of globalization
- To develop analytical and critical skills geared towards the reflective study of African politics

Learning Outcomes: Students will develop the knowledge and/or skills to ...

- differentiate and identify Africa's major geographic features, political units (i.e., states), and their basic colonial and post-colonial history
- differentiate and identify the regional organizations and international actors (empires, countries, organizations) that historically or currently influence African politics and political economy
- develop an appreciation for the human and societal complexities underpinning Africa's post-colonial political evolution, from language and ethnicity to religion and gender
- develop appropriate research skills to competently find and assess primary information and secondary analysis relevant to African politics
- identify, understand, distinguish, apply, and critique different key concepts, theoretical perspectives, and dominant narratives that attempt to explain and analyze various aspects of African politics, economics, and conflict
- identify and recognize the contributions of significant African leaders (and intellectuals, etc.) as well as noteworthy Africanist scholars
- develop a considerable level of expertise about one country to enable cross-class comparisons around key themes and concepts through discussions, online participation, and written work

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Pierre Englebert & Kevin C. Dunn, *Inside African Politics* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013). [Available new or used in the University Bookstore, SU's Bound & Copied Bookstore, online booksellers, etc.]

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class Participation Inc. TopHat	15%	Throughout
One Short Essay (4-5 pp)	25%	Various deadlines, Hard Copy
Two In-Class Mid-Terms (2x15%)	30%	Monday, January 29th Monday, March 12th
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by Registrar (April 16-26)
Total	100%	

CLASS PARTICIPATION INCLUDING TOPHAT (15%)

There will be regular opportunities to earn class participation points through TopHat as well as other in-class exercises designed to deepen your research skills. Your knowledge of your case study country will also be important to your ability to generate class participation marks. Sample activities include participation in TopHat, research oriented activities, contributions that leverage country case study research, group activities, etc. Some activities are either complete/incomplete, others are incrementally graded.

ONE SHORT ESSAY (25%)

One short conceptual review essay of approx 4-5 pages will be required during the course. Different topics/themes will be offered at different times, so you can select the topic/theme that either most interests you or best fits into your schedule. The schedule of essay topics and associated readings plus due dates will be provided in January, along with the grading rubric. The essay will be submitted in hard paper copy, in class, on the assigned due date for that topic. (You have the option to do more than one essay, and only your highest grade will be used.)

TWO MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS (15% each = 30%)

Each mid-term will be written in class (45 minutes each). They will comprise a mix of multiple choice, true-false, map labelling, and some short answer questions.

Mid-Term One (Monday, January 29th) - This test will be designed to assess student knowledge of basic facts and foundational history as well as political geography (from the colonial era as well as today).

Mid-Term Two (Monday, March 12th) – This test will be designed to assess student knowledge related to key concepts, thinkers, and theories applicable to the study of African politics and governance (chapters 3-5 plus lectures and other readings to that date).

Note: These will be closed book tests. No notes, laptops, cell phones, etc., will be allowed.

FINAL EXAMINATION (30%)

A two-hour final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the final exam period. It will comprise a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and one essay question. It will be cumulative though more heavily weighted to the last half of the course.

Note: The final will be a closed book exam. No notes, laptops, cell phones, etc., will be allowed. Students need to take both mid-terms, the final exam, and submit the essay assignment in order to pass.

Note: Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADE SCALE:

The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95+)	B+ (80-84)	C+ (66-69)	D+ (54-57)
A (90-94)	B (75-79)	C (62-65)	D (50-53)
A- (85-89)	B- (70-74)	C- (58-61)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES:

You are required to submit one formal written assignment (Short Essay). Each topic option will have a specific due date. Late essays will be assessed a five percent (5%) per every day late penalty including weekends. Missed tests cannot be re-taken unless the specific requirements below are met (see page 6).

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to minimal changes)		
DATE	TOPICS & THEMES	REQUIRED READINGS BEFORE CLASS (Textbook and/or articles/links)
Week 1 Jan 8-12	Course Introduction Syllabus & Assignments D2L & TopHat usage Class knowledge inventory Case study country assigned Theme: Why Study Africa? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to "study Africa"? • Why should outsiders study African politics? • What steps can be taken to cultivate a reflective, critical, and rigorous approach to the study of African politics? 	<p>NOTE: E&D refers to the Englebert & Dunn required textbook. Other recommended readings and thematic resources will be posted on D2L.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>You should start using the Africa Map learning tool at http://lizardpoint.com/geography/africa-quiz.php to learn the basic political geography of the continent.</p> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 1, "Why Study African Politics?" 2) Wainiana, "How to Write About Africa" (Link on D2L)
Week 2 Jan 15-19	Theme: Africa Today – Competing Research Questions, Narratives & Trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is Africa Rising? How do we know? • Is Africa breaking down (conflict, authoritarian drift, etc.)? • Continental similarities & variation • (Why) Is Africa poor? 	<p>A selection of recent articles and reports (from various sources) will be listed on D2L with instructions for review.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acemoglu et al, "Why is Africa Poor?" (2010) (Link to PDF on D2L) (pp. 21-33 only) 2) Solomon, "The Many Africas" (a short book review essay), <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (June 2016) (D2L)

<p>Week 3</p> <p>Jan 22-26</p>	<p>Theme: Precolonial & Colonial Legacies</p> <p>How have precolonial societal/political organizations followed by extracontinental interventions shaped the contemporary socio-political-economic landscape?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the range of pre-colonial political communities from village and lineage-based societies to city states & empires; forms of European authority 	<p>1) E&D, Chapter 2 “The Evolution of African States”</p> <p>2) SELF-DIRECTED RESEARCH: Know your case study’s precolonial and colonial background</p> <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <p>Pella, “International Relations in Africa before the Europeans,” <i>The International History Review</i> (2014)</p> <p>Pella, “World society, international society and the colonization of Africa,” <i>Cambridge Review of International Studies</i>, Vol. 28, No. 2 (2015)</p>
<p>Week 4</p> <p>Jan 29 -Feb 2</p>	<p>Monday, January 29th</p> <p>**Mid-Term 1 – Africa map & basic facts**</p> <p>Theme: Frameworks for analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural (inc. IPE, geography, slavery/ colonialism, primordialism) • Institutional (society, neopatrimonialism, path dependence, state, etc.) • Individual (inc. decision-making/policies, RCT, leadership) <p>Where and when does agency hit constraint? Where and when does African agency hit international constraints, or, conversely leverage international resources?</p>	<p>1) Acemoglu (from Class 2)</p> <p>2) E&D, pp. 213-227, 231-233 (in Chapter 6)</p>
<p>Week 5</p> <p>Feb 5-9</p>	<p>Theme: African Political Thought</p> <p>What were the driving ideologies and philosophies of post-independence leaders? What were the different approaches they took towards political systems and development? How are they similar or different to the ideologies of contemporary leaders?</p>	<p>1) Martin, Intro Chapter to <i>African Political Thought</i> (2012) (Link on D2L)</p> <p>2) Other selected readings on D2L</p>
<p>Week 6</p> <p>Feb 12-16</p>	<p>Theme: Political (im)mobilization & identity</p> <p>Does ethnic diversity explain Africa’s politics and economic performance? When and why are different identities salient for politics?</p>	<p>1) E&D, Chapter 3 “People, Identity, Politics”</p> <p>2) Appiah, “Race in the Modern World,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2015) (Link on D2L)</p>
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>FAMILY DAY & READING BREAK!</p> <p>February 19-23</p>	<p>No classes</p>

<p>Week 8 Feb 26 -Mar 2</p>	<p>Theme: The State of the Post-Colonial State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal & Informal political institutions • Neopatrimonialism 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 4 “The Practice of Power” 2) Lebas, “Term Limits & Beyond: Africa’s Democratic Hurdles,” <i>Current History</i> (May 2016)
<p>Week 9 Mar 5-9</p>	<p>Theme: Leadership & Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive power • Chiefs & Traditional Authority • Military in politics • Delivering public goods 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 5 “An Increasing Range of Regimes” 2) Ray et al, eds., Chapter 1, “Introduction,” <i>Reinventing African Chieftaincy in the Age of AIDS, Gender, Governance, and Development</i> (2011) & Ray, “Traditional Leadership & Local Rural Governance”, in Ray & Reddy, eds, <i>Grassroots Governance</i> (University of Calgary Press, 2003) 3) Souaré, “The African Union as a norm entrepreneur on military coups d’état in Africa (1952-2012): an empirical assessment,” <i>Journal of Modern African Studies</i> (2014), Vol. 52, No. 1: 69-94 4) Ibrahim Index of African Governance: http://mo.ibrahim.foundation/iiag
<p>Week 10 Mar 12-16</p>	<p>Monday, March 12th **Mid-Term 2** Chapters 3-5 (levels of analysis, ideology, identity, politics, governance, and leadership)</p> <p>Theme: The Political Economy of Development Is there something unique to Africa that impedes economic development? Questioning the “Africa dummy” variable... if you’ve done any stats or quantitative analysis, you’ll know what that means.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 6 “The Economic Dimensions of African Politics”
<p>Week 11 Mar 19-23</p>	<p>Theme: The Political Economy of Development (continued), plus Land, Resources, & Politics How does the structure of land tenure regimes influence politics, economic development, and conflict in different countries?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 6 “The Economic Dimensions of African Politics” 2) Garvelink, “Land Tenure, Property Rights, and Rural Economic Development in Africa,” CSIS.org (2012) (Link on D2L) 3) Other selected readings on D2L.
<p>Week 12 Mar 26-30</p>	<p>Theme: Violence, Security & Contested Politics</p> <p>Friday March 30th – Good Friday/No Class</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 7 “The Shifting Landscape of Conflict and Security” 2) Herbst, “War and the State in Africa,” <i>International Security</i> (Spring 1990), Vol. 14, No. 4: 117-139.

Week 13 Apr 2-6	Theme: Aspiring Africa in the World Incl. class exercise related to African Regional Economic Communities (RECs)	1) E&D, Chapter 8 "International Relations Near and Far" 2) Adebajo, "UN Peacekeeping and the Quest for a Pax Africana," <i>Current History</i> (May 2014)
Week 14 Apr 9-13	Theme: Canada and China in Africa - Historical and contemporary trends and comparisons •USRI Course evaluations •TopHat Tournament	1) Roberts, "Sino-Canadian Military Competition & Cooperation in Africa, 1956-2014" (chapter draft/D2L) 2) China-Africa Research Initiative: http://www.sais-cari.org 3) China in Africa – The Real Story: http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com
Apr 16-26	TWO HOUR REGISTRAR SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM	

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor or TA during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one-on-one meeting outside of these hours. It is imperative that students regularly check their UofC email accounts and D2L for course related information and announcements.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. No recording of lectures (audio and/or video) is permitted without prior approval of the instructor, with exceptions of course made in the case of approved accommodations. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cellphones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing social media is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated. Your own performance will also suffer.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made

travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

University Regulations:

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca