

BHO

2015-16 Academic Year
Winter Session 2016



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 471 L01
Africa: Contemporary Political Problems

INSTRUCTOR	Chris W. J. Roberts
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OFFICE	SS 702
EMAIL	christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca
WEBSITE	http://d2l.ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS	Tues/Thurs 13:00-14:00 & Thurs 1600-1700 or by appt
COURSE DAY/TIME:	Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:15
COURSE LOCATION:	KNB 131
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:	Poli 371 or AFST 301 or consent of the instructor/department

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course allows students who have taken Poli 371 or African Studies courses to delve more deeply into selected political problems facing contemporary African states and societies. General topic themes this term will be as follows: (I) *Grassroots governance and institutions*, including the role and capabilities of traditional authority structures, the impact of land tenure systems on politics and development, and the governance of extractive industries; (II) *Sovereignty and development*, including the role of foreign aid and other external interventions (from “good governance,” peacekeeping, and the “War on Terror” to R2P and the ICC) on prospects for development, democracy, and amelioration of violent conflict; and (III) *Coping with crisis*, focusing on how and why different African states are more susceptible or more durable in the face of crisis (human or environmental), which leads to an examination of the sources of state instability, capacity, and that difficult to define quality, resilience. There will also be opportunities to address two cross-cutting themes: gender and Canada-Africa relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Objectives:

- To provide students an opportunity for deeper and more comprehensive investigation into aspects of African politics
- To develop analytical and critical skills geared towards understanding and critiquing various theories, concepts, and debates relevant to the study of contemporary African politics

Learning Outcomes:

Students will develop the knowledge and/or skills to ...

- identify significant contemporary political problems on the African continent and understand their local, regional, and international dimensions

- improve analytical ability of scholarly work on Africa to identify the research puzzle being addressed, the thesis/argument, the methods and evidence used, and where that research fits into ongoing debates
- differentiate and understand the roles played by different types of actors involved in African politics and development, from state governments and bilateral agencies to traditional authority structures, international organizations, and NGOs
- identify, understand, distinguish, apply, and critique a variety of key concepts, theoretical perspectives, and dominant narratives that attempt to explain and analyze contemporary political challenges on the continent
- increase research and writing skills to competently find and assess primary information and secondary analysis relevant to Africa politics
- improve public speaking, presentation, and argumentation skills
- develop deeper knowledge around specific topics and themes that builds on and extends current research

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):

The following **required** textbooks will be available at the bookstore:

1) Rita Abrahamsen, *Disciplining Democracy: Development Discourse and Good Governance in Africa* (London/New York: Zed Books/Palgrave, 2000).

2) Peter M. Lewis and John W. Harbeson, eds., *Coping with Crisis in African States* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2015).

The following **required** textbook is available at the bookstore but also via open access (free) at the University of Calgary Press website (<http://press.ucalgary.ca/books/9781552384985>):

3) Don Ray et al., eds., *Reinventing African Chieftaincy in the Age of AIDS, Gender, Governance & Development* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2011).

For those requiring a comprehensive, introductory textbook on African politics, the following textbook is **recommended** and available (new or used) on campus:

Pierre Englebert and Kevin C. Dunn, *Inside African Politics* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013).

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class Participation / TopHat	25%	Ongoing assessment
Presentation / Discussion Lead	10%	To be scheduled
One review essay	20%	Variable due dates
Research Paper Proposal	5%	Friday, February 26th
Research Paper Presentation	10%	To be scheduled
Research Paper	30%	Sunday, April 10th
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS: The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

The course will be structured as follows: Tuesday classes will mostly comprise an interactive lecture format to highlight a contemporary political problem, review related themes, concepts, current research and literature debates, and put in context using real-world examples and implications. TopHat will be used regularly to assess student progress, both during class and in terms of assigned homework questions related to readings (this will count towards your class participation marks). Thursday classes will mostly comprise student presentations and/or student-led discussions, either related to assigned textbook chapters, other required readings, or, at the end of the course, major research projects. Detailed instructions and scheduling will occur during the first week.

DATE	TOPICS & THEMES	CORE READINGS **
Week 1	Introduction & Class Organization	N/A
Week 2	(I) Evolution of traditional authority from independence to the 21st Century	Selected chapters from Ray et al. (2011)
Week 3	(I) Traditional authority and contemporary governance	Selected chapters from Ray et al. (2011)
Week 4	(I) Land Tenure Regimes, governance, politics, & development	Selected chapters/sections from Boone (2014) (on reserve)
Week 5	(I/II) Whose resources are they? Governance of extractive industries for development	Selected readings on extractive industries on D2L or reserve
Reading Week		
Week 6	(II) Aid & Development: the evolution of the African aid regime	Abrahamsen (2000)
Week 7	(II) External interventions and African sovereignty	Abrahamsen (2000)
Week 8	(II/III) Coping with crisis: Sovereignty fights back	Lewis & Harbeson (2015)
Week 9	(III) Coping with crisis: the fragile African state?	Lewis & Harbeson (2015)
Week 10	(III) Coping with crisis: the resilient African state?	Lewis & Harbeson (2015)
Week 11	Research Paper Presentations	Student selected readings
Week 12	Research Paper Presentations	Student selected readings
Tues Apr 12th	Research Paper Presentations	Student selected readings
Noon, Sunday, April 10th*	Research Paper Due via D2L Dropbox	

**For those presenting on April 12th, the deadline will be the following Saturday, April 16th*

***Additional readings will be posted on D2L or otherwise available in the library (online or reserve)*

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

RESEARCH PAPER (5% plus 10% plus 30%)

Everyone will develop a customized research question related in some way to one or more of our major themes of the course. Some guidelines and a rubric will be provided in the first week. The research paper will comprise three evaluative elements:

(1) Research Proposal (5%) due Friday, Feb. 26th in hard copy (by 4:00pm) at the instructor's office. This will comprise a 3 page outline of the research problem/question, working thesis or hypothesis, methods/approach to be taken, and a brief literature review of some key sources plus a preliminary bibliography. It is highly advisable that students discuss their proposed topic with the instructor as early as possible, starting in January.

(2) Research Paper Presentation (10%) – To be scheduled during the last three weeks of the course, an 8 minute presentation of your research problem and findings to the class followed by a Q&A session. Each presenter will select one core reading related to their presentation that will be posted on D2L (or list a specific chapter from one of the textbooks).

(3) Research Paper (30%) – An approx. 12 page (plus references and appendices) research paper will be due, uploaded to D2L Dropbox (in PDF), on Sunday, April 10th (noon). The exception will be those students who do their paper presentation on Tuesday, April 12th, who will get an extension to the following Saturday (April 16th).

CHAPTER PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION LEAD (10%)

During most Thursday classes, a small group of students will be responsible for presenting the key arguments and claims of relevant chapters or articles to the class, and acting as discussion leads on those themes. A brief presentation (5-6 minutes) that includes a synopsis of the argument and evidence plus your initial critical response to the work will kick-off a class-wide discussion of the key themes of the week. *Each presenter will provide a one page summary of their presentation to the instructor at the start of the class, along with a challenging question that that will be posted on TopHat for the rest of the class to answer before the following Tuesday.* Topics and schedules will be assigned in the first week. Each student will do this once during the term, unless the class enrolment drops to a size that allows time for every student to do this twice.

ONE REVIEW ESSAY (20%)

Each student will write one review essay related to a weekly topic of their choice. This review essay will engage deeply with some of the core and associated readings for that week, and is due eleven days after the Thursday class where that topic was addressed. The only two restrictions are these: (1) You cannot write a review essay within the same thematic area as your major research paper. So, for instance, if your research paper aligns most closely to the *(III) Coping with crisis theme*, your review essay would have to be done on a topic related to themes I or II. (2) You also cannot do your review essay on the topic/theme of the same week you did your chapter presentation/discussion-lead.

This essay is due in hard copy on the applicable Tuesday (eleven days after the Thursday class) either in class or to the instructor's office by 4:00pm. This should be an approx. 8 page, double spaced, conceptual review essay that engages with the core and associated readings for that

week. You have to illustrate you fully understand the arguments and concepts employed by the authors, compare and contrast their approaches, and provide some critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments and evidence. A rubric and specific guidelines will be distributed in the first week.

CLASS PARTICIPATION / TOPHAT (25%)

This course is dependent on the active participation of all students, which means doing required readings, coming to class prepared to discuss and debate the readings and themes, being prepared to undertake presentations as scheduled, and engaging productively and respectfully with the instructor and other students in class. This is a heavy reading, writing, and participation class, and the participation grade reflects this course design and expectations.

By illustrating their knowledge and understanding derived from readings, students will earn participation grades both in class and online via TopHat. Nearly every week there will be TopHat questions that assess your understanding of both upcoming readings and topics we've covered in class. It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings and the extensive use of TopHat is a gentle way to help you do that. Your total participation grade will be a combination of in-class performance (where quality of interventions is more important than quantity) and successful completion of TopHat questions during the week.

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES:

Where late penalties for written assignments are applicable, they will be applied at the rate of ten percentage points per day. So, for example, that would mean 2 marks per day for an assignment weighted at 20%.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES:

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor 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 for course related information and announcements (or forward that email to a regularly checked account) as well as D2L.

Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is especially disruptive in a seminar style classroom and will not be tolerated.

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>.

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 www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final.

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 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 www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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