

BLO

2015-16 Academic Year
Fall Session 2015



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 Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:00 / 14:30-15:30 or by appointment
COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-13:45
COURSE LOCATION: ENE 239 (Engineering 239)
TEACHING ASSISTANT: Ben Adu Gyamfi (benjamin.adugyamfi@ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE
DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed as an intensive introduction to the domestic and international politics of Africa's 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 Africa 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 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 African state 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**

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, 2013). New (and, likely, used) copies are available at the Bookstore, etc. One copy will be on reserve at the TDFL.

COURSE COMPONENTS

Class Participation – TopHat, etc.	10%
Two Short Written Assignments	40%
Two Quizzes (1x10%; 1x15%)	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Class Participation – TopHat, etc. (10%) While it won't be possible to have discussions in a large class suitable for assigning participation marks, there will be regular opportunities to earn class participation points through TopHat and other in-class exercises designed to deepen your research skills.

Two Short Written Assignments (20% each) (1) The first short written assignment (max. 5 double-spaced pages plus bibliography) will be related to concepts and theories discussed in chapters 3-5 of the required textbook and the associated lectures and other readings. A choice of topics and detailed instructions will be assigned near the end of September.

Due Tuesday, Oct. 27th.
Format: Hard copy only, due in class.

(2) The second short written assignment (max. 6 double-spaced pages plus bibliography and appendices) will be an analytical Country Case Study related to your country of specialization chosen in the first week of class. Detailed instructions will be distributed in early October.

Due Friday, November 27th, 11:59pm.
Format: Digital (PDF) submitted via Dropbox/D2L only

Note: The quality of writing and presentation, including but not limited to grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, referencing, and organization, will be an integral component in all written assignment grades. Late penalties will accrue at the rate of 5%/day (or 1 mark/20) per each day late, including weekends.

Two Quizzes: #1=10% #2=15% **Quiz #1 – Tuesday, September 29th** – This quiz will be designed to test student knowledge of basic facts and foundational history as well as political geography (from the colonial era as well as today.)

Quiz #2 – Tuesday, November 17th – This quiz will be designed to test student knowledge related to key concepts, thinkers, and theories applicable to the study of African politics and political economy (chapters 3-6 plus lectures and other readings to that date).

Note: These will be closed book quizzes: no notes, laptops, cell phones, etc., will be allowed.

Final Exam (25%) A two-hour, closed book final exam scheduled by the registrar in December will complete the course. The exam will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and one essay (with limited choice).

GRADE SCALE	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 Late penalties for written work: 5% (or 1 mark/20) for every day late including weekends. Missed quizzes cannot be re-taken unless the specific requirements below are met (see page 8).

CLASS PREPARATION & DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Lectures focus on the material presented in the textbook and readings as well as general discussion relating to the topic(s) outlined in the lecture schedule. Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters and readings before class, and be prepared for class discussion. Important information and additional readings are posted on Desire2Learn (D2L). Students should regularly check the Announcements section of Desire2Learn (D2L) for ongoing notices, as well as the Contents page for additional course materials and assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to understand all concepts presented in the textbook and lectures. If you need clarification, please take the initiative to ask the instructor during class or during office hours.

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

PROPER USE OF EMAIL & TECHNOLOGY Email is commonly used by students to communicate with their instructor. 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). Email can limit the effectiveness of communication and may not be the best way for instructors to answer student questions. A personal meeting may be requested if necessary.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course with the exception of those times when the instructor asks all technology to be turned off. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

CLASS SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to minimal changes)		
DATE	TOPICS & THEMES	REQUIRED READINGS FOR THE WEEK (Textbook and/or articles/links)
Week 1 Sept 8th & 10th	<p align="center">Course Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations, Syllabus, & Assignments • D2L & TopHat usage • Select country of specialization <p align="center">Theme: Why Study Africa?</p> <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 or otherwise available online or at the library.</p> <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) <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>You should be 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>
Week 2 Sept 15th & 17th	<p align="center">Theme: Africa Today & Yesterday – Competing Narratives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Why) Is Africa poor? • Is Africa Rising? How do we know? • Is Africa breaking down (conflict, authoritarian drift, migrants, etc.)? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Globe and Mail</i> "Africa Next" series (2012) (Links on D2L) 2) Dunham, "East Africa's Authoritarian Drift" (2015) (Link on D2L) 3) Acemoglu et al, "Why is Africa Poor?" (2010) (Link to PDF on D2L)
Week 3 Sept 22nd & 24th	<p>Precolonial & Colonial Legacies: How have precolonial societal/political organization followed by extracontinental colonial interventions shaped the contemporary socio-political-economic landscape?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) E&D, Chapter 2 "The Evolution of African States" 2) SELF-DIRECTED RESEARCH: Know your case study's precolonial and colonial background (TopHat) <p><u>Optional:</u> Pella, "International Relations in Africa before the Europeans," <i>The International History Review</i> (2014)</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> Pella, "World society, international society and the colonization of Africa," <i>Cambridge Review of International Studies</i>, Vol. 28, No. 2 (2015)</p>
Week 4 Sept 29th & Oct 1st	<p>Sept. 29th: QUIZ ONE – Africa map & basic/historical facts</p> <p>Oct. 1st: Frameworks for analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural (inc. IPE, geography, slavery/colonialism, primordialism) • Institutional (state, society, neopatrimonialism, path dependence, resource curse, formal/informal, etc.) • Individual/agency (inc. decision-making/policies, RCT, leadership) <p>Where and when does agency hit constraint? Where and when does African agency hit international constraints?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acemoglu 2010 (from above) 2) E&D, pp. 213-227, 231-233 (in Chapter 6)

<p>Week 5 Oct 6th & Oct 8th</p>	<p>Oct. 6th: Theme: <u>Social Science, Politics, & African Political Thought</u> Another framework for analysis or critique: Postcolonialism/post-positivism?</p> <p>Oct 8th: Theme: <u>Political (im)mobilization & identity</u></p>	<p>1) Martin, Intro Chapter to <i>African Political Thought</i> (2012) (Link on D2L) 2) Nkrumah, “The African Genius” speech, at the official opening of the University of Ghana Institute of African Studies (1963) (Link on D2L) <u>Optional:</u> 3) Arowosegbe, “Decolonising the social sciences in the global South: Claude Ake and the praxis of knowledge production in Africa” (2008) (Link on D2L) <u>Optional:</u> 4) Orientalism and African development studies: the ‘reductive repetition’ motif in theories of African underdevelopment’, <i>Third World Quarterly</i> Vol.26, No.6 (2005), pp. 971-986 (Link on D2L)</p> <p>1) E&D, Chapter 3 “People, Identity, Politics” 2) Appiah, “Race in the Modern World,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2015) (Link on D2L)</p>
<p>Week 6 Oct 13th & 15th</p>	<p>Oct. 13th: Theme: <u>Political (im)mobilization & identity (con’t)</u></p> <p>Oct. 15th: Theme: <u>The State of the Post-Colonial State</u></p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>1) E&D, Chapter 4 “The Practice of Power” 2) 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</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 20th & 22nd</p>	<p>Oct. 20th: Theme: <u>The State of the Post-Colonial State (con’t)</u></p> <p>Oct. 22nd: Theme: <u>Leadership & Governance</u></p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>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)</p>
<p>Week 8 Oct 27th & 29th</p>	<p>ESSAY 1 – Due in class, Tuesday, Oct. 27th</p> <p>Theme: <u>The Political Economy of African Development</u></p>	<p>1) E&D, Chapter 6 “The Economic Dimensions of African Politics”</p>
<p>Week 9 Nov 3rd &</p>	<p>Theme: <u>The Political Economy of African Development</u></p> <p>Nov. 5th: Theme: <u>Land, Resources, & Politics</u></p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>1) Garvelink, “Land Tenure, Property Rights, and Rural Economic Development in Africa,” CSIS.org (2012) (Link on D2L)</p>

<p>Nov 5th</p>		<p>2) Tim Hanstad, "Not Your Land: How the Development Community Evicted the Poor," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (May 2015) (Link on D2L)</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> 3) Roberts, "The Other Resource Curse: Extractives as Development Panacea" <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> (June 2015)</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> 4) Weins et al, "The Political Resource Curse: An Empirical Re-evaluation" <i>Political Research Quarterly</i>, Vol. 67, 4 (2014): 783-794.</p>
<p>Week 10 Nov 10th Nov 10th</p>	<p>Nov. 10th: Theme: <u>Land, Resources, & Politics</u></p> <p>Nov. 11-13 - Reading Days!</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>Week 11 Nov 17th & 19th</p>	<p>Nov. 17th: QUIZ TWO – Chapters 3-6 (politics and political economy)</p> <p>Nov. 19th: Theme: <u>Violence, Security & Contested Politics</u></p>	<p>1) E&D, Chapter 7 "The Shifting Landscape of Conflict and Security"</p> <p>2) Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," <i>International Security</i> (Spring 1990), Vol. 14, No. 4: 117-139</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> 3) Brown, Hammill & McLeman, "Climate Change as the 'New' Security Threat: Implications for Africa," <i>International Affairs</i>, 83, 6 (2007): 1141-1154</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> 4) Spears, "The false promise of peacebuilding," <i>International Journal</i> (Spring 2012): 295-311</p>
<p>Week 12 Nov 24th & 26th</p>	<p>Nov. 24th: Theme: <u>Violence, Security & Contested Politics (con't)</u></p> <p>Nov. 26th: Theme: <u>Aspiring Africa in the World</u></p> <p>ESSAY #2: Country Case Study (Due Friday, November 27th, 11:59pm, Dropbox/D2L)</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>1) E&D, Chapter 8 "International Relations Near and Far"</p> <p>2) Olsen, "Great Power intervention in African armed conflicts," <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> (2015)</p>
<p>Week 13 Dec 1, 3, & 8</p>	<p>Dec. 1st: Theme: <u>Canada in Africa</u></p> <p>Dec. 3rd & 8th: Theme: <u>Revisiting (why) is Africa poor?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course evaluations 	<p>1) Excerpt from Black, <i>Canada & Africa in the New Millennium</i> (2015)</p> <p>A selection of recent African and international media coverage will be posted on D2L for review & discussion.</p>
<p>FINAL EXAM</p>	<p>Two Hour Final Exam as scheduled by the registrar (between Dec 11th-22nd)</p>	

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

University Regulations

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

Writing

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 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>.

Recording Lectures/Classes

Recording of lectures and labs is permitted for individual private study but only at the discretion of the instructor. Any other use of recording constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion. Please contact the instructor for further information.

Academic Accommodation

Students are responsible for requesting academic accommodations and the first step in this process is to register with the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>. Once registered, requests for accommodation should be discussed with the instructor within fourteen (14) days of the beginning of classes.

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. As such, assignments and tests will normally be returned directly to students, either during class or office hours, or electronically through Desire2Learn (D2L). Final exams are not returned to students but can be viewed by making arrangements with the instructor. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Absence from a Quiz

Students who are absent from a scheduled quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate confirming documentation or religious conviction) 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, religious conviction, to those with three (3) scheduled final exams within a 24-hour period, and for unforeseen circumstances. 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 in the Faculty of Arts rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified of any absences due to unforeseen circumstances. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at http://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 step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

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.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

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: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca>

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca

URL: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa>

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca