

BLO

2016-17 Academic Year
Winter Session 2017



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF ARTS

Poli 471 L01

Africa: Contemporary Political Problems

INSTRUCTOR Chris W. J. Roberts
TELEPHONE Cell (403) 870-9241
OFFICE SS 702
EMAIL christopher.roberts@ucalgary.ca
WEBSITE <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>
OFFICE HOURS Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:00 / 13:30-14:30 or by appointment
COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday/Thursday 08:00-09:15
COURSE LOCATION: SA 147 (Science A, Room 147)
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. There will be two overarching themes this term:

(1) The political economy of land tenure regimes (LTRs), or, how access to land shapes politics, conflict, and development: This theme includes an examination of grassroots governance institutions including traditional authority structures and neocustomary LTRs, struggles between statist and neocustomary LTRs over time, how political and ethnic mobilization can be influenced by land rights issues, and the role of LTRs on gender inequality, agriculture, extractive industries, and other aspects of economic development.

(2) The security-development-governance nexus: The idea of a “nexus” attempts to capture a complex inter-relationship that, if the puzzle is understood and solved, ultimately promises to deliver these fundamental public goods to insecure, underdeveloped, and poorly governed societies. With violent conflict experiencing a resurgence in parts of Africa, with ten significant multilateral peace operations missions deployed from Somalia to Mali, and with continental economic growth falling to the lowest levels in more than a decade, we’ll examine recent literature and case studies that explain the nature

and drivers of violent conflict in Africa as well as various recent efforts in peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding, and development that seek to “fix” conflict-affected, “fragile” states and regions. Reading and research related to the first theme on the political economy of LTRs will also feed into our analysis of the security-development-governance nexus.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES
& LEARNING
OUTCOMES**

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
- To cultivate comprehensive knowledge about the complexities of contemporary African political economy (1) in relation to land and politics (a bottom-up perspective) and (2) in terms of a broader consideration and critical appraisal of the security-development-governance nexus.

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
TEXTBOOKS**

(1) Paul D. Williams, *War & Conflict in Africa*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016).

(2) Pamela Aall & Chester A. Crocker, eds., *Minding the Gap: African Conflict Management in a Time of Change* (Waterloo: CIGI, 2016).

**OPTIONAL
TEXTBOOK**

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

Pierre Englebert & Kevin C. Dunn, *Inside African Politics* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2013). New and, likely, used copies are available at the Bookstore, etc.

**COURSE
COMPONENTS**

Class Participation, TopHat, & Twitter	20%
Two Short Essays (2x15%)	30%
One Topic Presentation	10%
Research paper (including a research proposal and short presentation)	40%
Total	100%

**Class Participation,
Exercises, TopHat, &
Twitter (20%)**

This course is dependent on the active participation of all students, which means doing required readings, doing independent research, 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 and discussions, students will earn participation grades both in class and online via TopHat and Twitter (#poli471). There will be occasional TopHat questions that assess understanding of both assigned readings and topics we've covered in class. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the readings, and the use of TopHat is a gentle way to help you do that. Twitter will be used for capturing current events and newly published research related to our course themes. Your total participation grade will be a combination of in-class performance (where quality of interventions is more important than quantity), successful completion of TopHat questions as required, and contributing relevant sources to Twitter (#poli471).

**Two Short Written
Assignments (15% each)**

Each student will be required to produce two 4-5 page essays, one related to each of our two themes. Due dates will be variable, related to the specific topic selected. Detailed instructions will be distributed in class. One essay can be related to the topic of your presentation, but it need not be.

Format: Digital copy submitted to D2L. Due by the second Sunday following the presentation on that topic, before 11:59pm.

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>.

One presentation related to a specific course topic

Each student will be required to select an article or chapter from a prepared list and present a critical analysis of the article/chapter to class on the scheduled topic day. Detailed instructions will be provided in the first week of class. (10%)

Research Paper

In consultation with the instructor, you will develop a research question related to one of our two course themes that builds on the foundational literature we assessed in class. You will prepare a research design proposal (5%), present your initial findings to the class (5%), and submit a 15-18 page paper (30%) at the end of the term.

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: Five percent (5%) for every day late including weekends. If you do not show up for a scheduled presentation, there will be a 20% penalty and your presentation will be rescheduled for the following class.

CLASS PREPARATION & DESIRE2LEARN (D2L)

Students are expected to read the assigned 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/News section of 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, lectures, and class presentations. 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 is commonly used by students to communicate with their

EMAIL & TECHNOLOGY

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 can 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. Recording of lectures (audio and/or video) is not permitted without prior approval of the instructor (which is given for accommodation purposes). Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts or watching cat videos 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 (Textbooks and/or articles/links)
Week 1 Jan 10th & 12th	<p align="center"><u>Course Introduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations, Syllabus, & Assignments • D2L, TopHat, Twitter usage • Course Themes & Presentation Schedule • How to pick a good research question for your research paper <p>Intro to Land Tenure Regimes (LTRs) and possible links between land, resources, and conflict</p>	<p>1) Garvelink, "Land Tenure, Property Rights, and Rural Economic Development in Africa," CSIS.org (2012): https://www.csis.org/analysis/land-tenure-property-rights-and-rural-economic-development-africa</p> <p>2) Williams, Chapter Four, "Resources," <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016): 86-113. [Textbook]</p>
Week 2 Jan 17th & 19th	<p align="center"><i>Foundations of LTRs on Politics</i></p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i></p> <p>1) Herbst, Chapter Six, "Chiefs, States, and the Land," <i>States and Power in Africa</i> (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2000): 173-197 [PDF on D2L]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i></p> <p>1) Boone, "Property and Political Order: Land Rights and the Structure of Politics in Africa," EDGS Working Paper No. 2 (12 October 2012, University of Texas at Austin), "1. Introduction": 1-28. http://www.edgs.northwestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Boone-Part_1.pdf</p>
Week 3 Jan	<p align="center"><i>Implications of LTRs on Politics</i></p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i></p> <p>1) Boone, "Property and Political Order: Land Rights and the Structure of Politics in Africa," EDGS</p>

<p>24th & 26th</p>		<p>Working Paper No. 2 (12 October 2012, University of Texas at Austin), "Chapter 2": 30-59: http://www.edgs.northwestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Boone-Part_1.pdf</p> <p>2) Boone, "Land tenure regimes and state structure in rural Africa: implications for forms of resistance to large-scale land acquisitions by outsiders," <i>Journal of Contemporary African Studies</i> (Vol. 33, No. 2): 171-190. [UCalgary eJournal]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i></p> <p>1) Boone, "Property and Political Order: Land Rights and the Structure of Politics in Africa," EDGS Working Paper No. 2 (12 October 2012, University of Texas at Austin), "Chapter 2": 60-69; Beginning of "Part Four": 315-323: http://www.edgs.northwestern.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Boone-Part_1.pdf</p>
<p>Week 4</p> <p>Jan 31st & Feb 2nd</p>	<p>Topic I: Land grabbing in contemporary Africa: Myth and Reality</p> <p>Topic II: Land, Gender, Politics & Development</p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i></p> <p>1) GRAIN, "The global farmland grab in 2016: how big, how bad?" GRAIN.org (14 June 2016): https://www.grain.org/article/entries/5492-the-global-farmland-grab-in-2016-how-big-how-bad</p> <p>2) The Economist, "Africa's real land grab," <i>The Economist</i> (23 July 2016): http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21702472-never-mind-foreign-interlopers-african-urbanites-are-scooping-up-more</p> <p>3) Oya, "Methodological reflections on 'land grab' databases and the 'land grab' literature 'rush'," <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> (Vol. 40, No. 3, 2013): 502-520. [UCalgary eJournal]</p> <p>Other Resources: http://www.stopafricallandgrab.com https://africallandgrab.com http://www.farmlandgrab.org</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> 3 student presentations Note: Students will select one article or chapter to present to class from a list provided in week 1. The articles/chapters are grouped together under topic themes.</p>
<p>Week</p>		<p><i>Tuesday:</i> 3 student presentations</p>

<p>5 Feb 7th & 9th</p>	<p>Topic III: Politics of Land Redistribution & Administrative Reforms</p> <p>Topic IV: Natural Resource Development, Land Rights, & Politics</p>	<p>Note: Students will select one article or chapter to present to class from a list provided in week 1. The articles/chapters are grouped together under topic themes.</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> 3 student presentations</p> <p>Note: Students will select one article or chapter to present to class from a list provided in week 1. The articles/chapters are grouped together under topic themes.</p>
<p>Week 6 Feb 14th & 16th</p>	<p>Introduction to the Security-Development-Governance Nexus</p> <p>READING WEEK: Feb 21st-24th</p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Williams, Intro, Chapter 1-2, <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016): 1-63. [Textbook]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> Aall & Crocker, eds., Chapter 1 (Aall) & Chapter 2 (Gilpin), <i>Minding the Gap</i> (Waterloo: CIGI): 3-18; 21-32. [Textbook]</p>
<p>Week 7 Feb 28th & Mar 2nd</p>	<p>Understanding the Potential Drivers and Ingredients of Conflict & Political Contestation</p> <p>Saturday, March 4th - Research Paper Proposal Due: Digital on D2L</p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Williams, Chapter 3 (“Neopatrimonialism”) & 5 (“Sovereignty”), <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016). [Textbook] (Also, go back and review Chapter 4, “Resources”, which we looked at in week 1]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> Williams, Chapter 6 (“Ethnicity”) & 7 (“Religion”), <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016). [Textbook]</p>
<p>Week 8 Mar 7th & 9th</p>	<p>Topic I: Responses to Conflict Management: International Organizations & Negotiated Settlements</p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Williams, Chapter 8 (“Organization-Building”) & 9 (“Peacemaking”), <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016). [Textbook]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> 3 student presentations</p> <p>Note: Students will select one article or chapter to present to class from a list provided in week 1. The articles/chapters are grouped together under topic themes.</p>

<p>Week 9 Mar 14th & 16th</p>	<p>Topic II: Responses to Conflict Management: Peacekeeping and Intervention</p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Williams, Chapter 10 (“Peace Operations”), <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016). [Textbook]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> 3 student presentations Note: Students will select one article or chapter to present to class from a list provided in week 1. The articles/chapters are grouped together under topic themes.</p>
<p>Week 10 Mar 21st & 23rd</p>	<p>Topic III: Responses to Conflict Management: Development, Governance, & Civil Society</p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Williams, Chapter 11 (“Aid”), <i>War and Conflict in Africa</i>, 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016). [Textbook]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> 3 student presentations Note: Students will select one article or chapter to present to class from a list provided in week 1. The articles/chapters are grouped together under topic themes.</p>
<p>Week 11 Mar 28th & 30th</p>	<p>Security-Development-Governance Nexus Revisited: Making fragile states resilient?</p> <p><u>Research Paper Presentations I</u></p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Gisselquist, “Aid and Institution-Building in Fragile States: What Do We Know? What Can Comparative Analysis Add?”, <i>The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> (656, November 2014): 6-21. [UCalgary eJournal]</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> Students TBA</p>
<p>Week 12 Apr 4th & 6th</p>	<p><u>Research Paper Presentations II</u></p> <p><u>Research Paper Presentations III</u></p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Students TBA</p> <p><i>Thursday:</i> Students TBA</p>
<p>Week 13 Apr 11th</p>	<p><u>USRIs & Research Paper Presentations IV</u></p>	<p><i>Tuesday:</i> Students TBA</p>
<p>RESEARCH PAPER DUE</p>		<p>Sunday, April 16th, Digital on D2L (11:59pm)</p>

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 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