SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN POLITICS FINAL SYLLABUS SPRING 2015

Political Science 790-314 (cross-listed with 016-314)

Instructor: Sarah S. Milburn
Office Hours: by appointment and after each class.
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Location: RAB-104 (Douglass Campus)
Class Times: Tuesdays &Thursdays 7:15-8:35 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class offers a historically-informed examination of colonial & post-colonial African politics. We explore the internal conflicts and external pressures caused by differences in culture, social class, language, religion, gender, traditional and modern values, and types of government. We discuss overarching themes common to many sub-Saharan countries, including ideological struggles, regime legitimacy, contested sovereignty, social movements, democratization processes, military governments, civil wars, human rights accountability, and the political economy of patronage and natural resource exploitation. The course has a historical framework: a brief overview of pre-colonial political societies and relevant geographical resources is presented first, followed by a political analysis of the colonial period, the struggles for decolonization and independence, and the salient issues of the present post-colonial era. We cannot cover the whole continent in one semester, so we take an in-depth approach to selected countries, in particular Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Chad, Zimbabwe and the Central African Republic. The sub-Saharan interests of non-African countries will be considered also, particularly France, the United States, and China. There is a current events component: breaking news items will be discussed in class.

You do not need to have studied sub-Saharan Africa previously in order to succeed in this course. You *will* need an open mind, willingness to participate in class discussions, and a commitment to doing the reading assigned for each class period. You must also check your email and Sakai regularly for announcements from the instructor, required readings and class handouts.

THE 4 REQUIRED TEXTS will be available at the Barnes & Noble university bookstore and NJ Books. A copy of each will also be placed on reserve in the **Douglass College library**. Get the editions listed so you can find the assigned pages.

Oliver, Roland, The African Experience, 2nd Edition, Westview Press, 1999

Thomson, Alex, An Introduction to African Politics, 3rd Edition, New York: Routledge, 2010.

Cooper, Frederick, Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present (New Approaches to African History), Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Fanon, Frantz, The Wretched of the Earth (Richard Philcox translation with commentary by Jean Paul Sartre & Homi Bhabha) Grove Press, 2004.

Other required readings will be on electronic reserve from the Rutgers library website and on Sakai.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Doing the reading for each class *in advance* will help you get the most from the lectures, contribute to class discussions, and do well on the unannounced quizzes.

ATTENDANCE: will be taken. It counts as a portion of your participation grade. Phone and text alerts should be turned **off** while you are in the classroom. If you want an absence to be excused, please use the Student Absence Reporting System at https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/help.jsp to give the reason.

QUIZZES (7): There will be 7 ***unannounced*** quizzes ***which will usually occur during the first 20 minutes of the class period***. There will be NO make-up quizzes. If you are late or absent, you will miss that quiz. **Of the 7 quizzes, I will only count your 5 best scores**. It is to your advantage to take as many as possible in case you have difficulties with one or two. Keep them! I review the correct answers when they are handed back, and corrected quizzes will be useful as study aids for exams.

EXAMS (2): a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam. Make-ups will be given ONLY if you produce documentation from the dean's office showing that the reason for their absence has been verified and can be excused based on university policy. Both exams will be taken in the classroom, closed book.

PAPER (1): a full 7 pages minimum (10 pages maximum), double-spaced in a 12-point font.

Your paper will be an analytical review of **1** of the following short political works by an African author:
Man and Development by Julius K. Nyerere
Prisoner Without a Crime by Albert Mukong
The Open Sore of a Continent by Wole Soyinka
The Old Man and the Medal by Ferdinand Oyono

Your paper should refer to assigned readings from our course materials to illustrate the political context in which the work takes place. Copies of each book on the list will be at the Reserve Desk in Douglass Library or in the online reserves.

You may also propose a topic of your own based on material covered in class. This should be completed using mostly the course readings, but you may add a *maximum* of 2 outside sources.

Due April 2: a brief outline of your topic including course readings you think you might use. This is a chance to run your topic by me for suggestions and get the paper under way. Your outline will be returned to you quickly with comments and suggestions. The paper itself is due on April 23.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION:

5 Quizzes (counting 2% each):	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
Paper	20%
Class Participation and Attendance	10%

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are not only unethical but serious breaches of Rutgers University policy. Suspected cases will be referred to the dean. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, you can find helpful definitions and examples at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/ .

COURSE CALENDAR:

PART I: THE POLITICAL TERRAIN OF PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA & COLONIZATION

Tuesday, January 20	Introduction Mazrui Lecture 1
Thursday, January 22	Oliver, Chapters 2 and 4 Thomson, Chapter 2
Tuesday, January 27	Oliver, Chapters 7 and 8 Thomson, Chapter 4
Thursday, January 29	Oliver, Chapters 10 and 12 Mazrui Lecture 2
Tuesday, February 3	Oliver, Chapters 13-16
Thursday, February 5	Oliver, Chapters 17-21 Echenberg, Colonial Conscripts: The Tirailleurs Senegalais in French West Africa, 1857-1960 (excerpt) The Atlantic Charter, the Genocide Convention, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

PART II: RISING NATIONALISM AND THE POLITICS OF DECOLONIZATION

Tuesday, February 10	Cooper, Chapters 1-3 **Documentary:** The Rise of Nationalism (B. Davidson)
Thursday, February 12	Cooper, Chapter 4 Thomson, Chapter 3
Tuesday, February 17	Cooper, Chapters 5 and 6
Thursday, February 19	Cooper, Chapters 7 and 8 **Documentary:** The Legacy (B. Davidson)

PART III: POLITICAL ALIENATION AND THE "COLONIZED MIND"

Tuesday, February 24	Fanon, Wretched of the Earth, Introduction and Chapter 3 "Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness." Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks (short selection). Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed (short selection).
Thursday, February 26	Thomson, Chapter 5 Ngugi wa Thiong'o, two essays from Writers in Politics
Tuesday, March 3	Ali Mazrui, Lectures 5 & 6 Review for Midterm Exam

Thursday, March 5 MIDTERM EXAM (IN CLASS, CLOSED BOOK)

PART IV: POST–COLONIAL CHALLENGES: Political Violence, Patronage Networks, Democratization, Revolution

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Tuesday, March 10	Mamdani, "The Cold War After Indochina" Thomson, Chapter 8 **Film** on Patrice Lumumba (DRCongo)
Thursday, March 12	Thomson, Chapter 10

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Tuesday, March 24	Power, "Bystanders to Genocide" Lemarchand, "Genocide in the Great Lakes: Which Genocide, Whose Genocide?" (African Studies Review) Rwanda news/human rights report packet **Documentary:** (Frontline) Ghosts of Rwanda
Thursday, March 26	DRCongo War information packet Thomson, Chapter 6
Tuesday, March 31	Mazrui Lecture 4 Stiglitz, "Broken Promises" Thomson, Chapters 9, 11 and 12
Thursday, April 2	Makumbe, "Zimbabwe's Hijacked Elections" (Journal of Democracy). Since this article is from 2002, it will be supplemented by a more recent news packet on Zimbabwe's political crisis. **Film:** "Flame." This is the first film to be set during Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. It describes the lives of of women who joined the "chimurengas." ****_YOUR PAPER TOPIC PROPOSALS ARE DUE TODAY_***
Tuesday, April 7	Lewis, "Nigeria: Elections in a Fragile Regime" (J. of Democracy) Nigeria news packet Thomson, Chapter 7

PART V: THE POLITICS OF NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION: Where Does the Wealth Go?

Thursday, April 9	Oil Politics in Nigeria, Chad and Equatorial Guinea Ken Saro-Wiwa, "Africa Kills Her Sun" and 2 short satirical plays, The Transistor Radio and The Wheel Exxon-Mobil in Chad and Equatorial Guinea (news coverage) Global Witness research documents and World Bank reports on the Chad/Cameroon pipeline

Tuesday, April 14	Good Diamonds and Blood Diamonds: Botswana and the Democratic Republic of Congo Samatar, "National Institutions for Development: The Case of Botswana" NGO documents (AI, HRW, UN) concerning the Kimberley Process, and the arms for natural resources trade fuelling the current war in DRCongo

PART VI: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, REGIONAL TREATIES, PEACEKEEPING & HUMAN RIGHTS

Thursday, April 16	ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, ECCAS; NEPAD Ramsamy, "Regional Economic and Political Institutions" Juma, "Africa's Governance Audit" (New Economy) Mbeki, "African Union is the Mother, NEPAD is her baby" (New African) Gibb, "Southern Africa in Transition: Prospects and Problems Facing Regional Integration" (J. of Modern African Studies)
Tuesday, April 21	Politics of War: UN and African regional organization interventions, http://www.africa-union.org/About_AU/au_in_a_nutshell.htm Adeleke,"The Politics and Diplomacy of Peacekeeping in West Africa: The Ecowas Operation in Liberia" (J. of Modern African Studies) The African Charter on Human and People's Rights, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa LGBT Rights in Africa: "Making Love a Crime" (Amnesty International research document).
Thursday, April 23	****** PAPER DUE****** More on international justice issues: the International Criminal Court and other types of post-conflict tribunals, including Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. Child combatants, rape and international prosecutions. A short film interviewing male and female child soldiers. (review Thomson Chapter 8)
Tuesday, April 28	The US and China in Africa now Barry Sautman, "China's Distinctive Links with Africa" US interests in Africa: Oil and Anti-terrorism training AFRICOM, http://www.africom.mil/ IMET and FMF aid http://www.state.gov/t/pm/c17671.htm Pan-Sahelian Initiative, Trans-Saharan Counterterrorism Initiative http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PCAAB627.pdf (read this .pdf)
Thursday, April 30	**COURSE WRAP-UP & REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM**

--READING PERIOD--

Thursday, May 7, 8-11 PM ***FINAL EXAM*** ***(IN CLASSROOM, CLOSED BOOK)***
(PROBABLE – WILL CONFIRM DAY AND TIME)