

POLI 4078
African Government and Politics
Spring 2021
12:30-1:30 M/W/F on Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Harry Mokeba
Office 209 Stubbs Hall
Phone: 578-2143

Office Hours: 8:30-9:00 MWF
11:30-12:30 MWF
2:00-3:00 W

Objective: The course is designed to bring students closer to understanding the complex problems faced by the many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It combines aspects of comparative politics and international relations as well as historical and contemporary factors that account for the current condition of the African polity today. It is expected that by the end of the semester, students should have acquired the necessary knowledge for instructive explanations of politics in Africa.

Textbook: Vincent Khapoya: The African Experience; Boston: Pearson, 4th edition, 2013

Tests, Papers, & Exams: There will be a small early-take home test, a midterm exam, and a research paper and presentation on (the politics, problems and prospects of) and African country of your choice, and a final exam. Details of these assignments will be made known as the need arises.

Student Responsibilities: Attendance in all class sessions is required. Familiarity with reading material is highly encouraged. Also, students should find on-going information on Africa from the United States and the paucity of information on Africa in the U.S., students should take an extra initiative in learning for this course.

Grades: The grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation → 10 pts. (Daily)

Early Take-Home Test → 20 pts. (Due Feb 12)

Midterm Exam → 20 pts. (March 08)

Research Paper & Presentations → 20 pts. (Presentations begin April 19th; paper due April 21)

Final Exam → 30 pts. (April 29th)

A+ 100-95

A 94.9-90

A- 89.9-87

B+ 86.9-85

B 84.9-80

B- 79.9-77

C+ 76.9-75

C 74.9-70

C- 69.9-67

D+ 66.9-65

D 64.9-60

D- 59.9-57

Lecture Outline & Reading Assignment

Jan 11-20 Course Intro: Why Study Africa?

- Relevance and Condition
- Challenge and Opportunities
 - o Readings: Khapoya Chapter 1

Jan 22-29 African Heterogeneity

- Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment
- Civilizations of Africa
 - o Readings: Khapoya Chapters 2 & 3

Feb 03-Feb 10 Historical Background

- Pre-colonial Politics: Decline vs. Persistence
 - o Slave Trade: Open Discussion
- Colonialism: Rationale & Impact
- Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns
 - o Readings: Khapoya Chapters 3 & 4

Feb 12 **Return Take-Home Exam**

Feb 19-March 05 Post-Colonial Africa

- The Illusions of Independence
- The Political Crisis: Leadership, Nation Building, One Party System, Military Rule, Civil War
- The Economic Crisis: Dualism and Underdevelopment
 - o Readings: Khapoya Chapters 5 & 6

March 08 **Midterm Exam**

March 10-12 Diverse Subjects

- Apartheid: then and now
- AIDS Crisis/Ebola
- Gender Issues
- Writers, Film, Music

March 15-April 07 Redefining Africa

- Transformation vs. Tenacity: A Moment vs. AN Enduring Quest
- Africa's New Age: The Civil Society
- Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray
- The Economic Outcome
 - o Readings: Khapoya Chapter 7

April 09-16 Africa's International Relations

- The Old Trend: Ties with the Outside world
- The New Trend: Intra-African Intervention
- Africa on the World Stage: Current Struggles
 - o Readings: Khapoya Chapter 8

April 19 Conclusion: The Future

- Conflicting Scenarios
- Country Research Presentations Begin

April 23 Country Research Papers Due/ Review Sessions

Final Exam (April 29 by 11:55 pm)