

Fall 9-1-1999

PSC 326H.01: Politics of Africa

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Political Science 326
Politics of Africa
Fall semester 1999-2000

Peter Koehn
LA 416 x5294
Ofc hrs: TTh 10-11,
12:30-2:00; & by appt

Course Description & Objectives

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with political systems in contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa, including their development from the interaction of African, Western, and indigenous social, political, and economic forces along with the efforts of leaders and other citizens to bring about change. Students should gain deeper awareness of the impact of historical developments, traditional culture, and internal/external economic influences on the challenges currently confronting African political systems and societies.

We will focus on Sub-Saharan African states (e.g., Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Senegal, Tanzania, South Africa) that are particularly important, exemplify major challenges, and reflect the diversity of approaches to political change and economic development found on the continent. Special attention will be devoted to developing critical skills in addressing appropriate approaches to foreign assistance in contemporary Africa.

Texts

F.J. Ramsay, *Global Studies: Africa*, 8th edition (1999). {R}
Dan Connell, *Against All Odds: A Chronicle of the Eritrean Revolution* (1997). {C}
Peter Koehn & Olatunde Ojo, *Making Aid Work: Innovative Approaches for Africa at the Turn of the Century* (1999). {K&O}

Course Requirements

Class participation	10%	
<i>The Africans</i> report	25%	Due: no later than 19 Oct.
Country report (oral)	25%	
Aid project	40%	Due: no later than 9 Dec

Course Outline and Assignments

31 Aug.-14 Oct. I. *Introduction to African History, Society, Politics, & Economy*

1. P. Lone, "An African's Africa Meets Resistance"
2. R, pp. 2-9, 18-21, 35-37, 64-69, 81-85, 92-97, 111-113, 117-118, 124-126, 136-141, 145-147, 155-157, 206-208
3. R, pp. 186-190 PLUS Hackel, "African Tradition of Polygamy Faces Economic, Legal Challenges"

4. Conteh, "Circumcision and Secret Societies"
5. M. Sayagnes, "AIDS Hits Uganda's Villagers" PLUS
P. Mwaura, "Pioneers in Control of HIV/AIDS"
6. Crowder, "Indirect Rule – French and British Style"
7. Mazrui, "In Search of Stability"
8. Welch, "Soldier and State in Africa"
9. R, pp. 199-203
10. Bratton, "Are Competitive Elections Enough?" (1995)

19 Oct.

The Africans report due

19-21 Oct.

II. *Ethiopia*

1. R, pp. 107-110
2. J. Young, "The Tigray and Eritrean Peoples Liberation Fronts"
(1996)

26 Oct. – 2 Nov.

III. *Eritrea*

1. R, pp. 105-106
2. C (entire)
3. Weissman, "An African Star?"
4. R, pp. 203-206; 229-230
5. G. Hyden, P. Koehn, & T. Saleh, "The Challenges of
Decentralization in Eritrea" (1996)

4 Nov.

IV. *Tanzania*

1. R, pp. 130-132
2. Julius Nyerere, "The Arusha Declaration"
3. R, pp. 212-216

9 Nov.

V. *Senegal*

1. R, pp. 56-58
2. Fattou, "Clientelism and Patronage in Senegal"

16-18 Nov.

VI. *Nigeria*

1. R, pp. 52-55
2. Koehn, "Competitive Transitions to Civilian Rule: Nigeria's
First and Second Experiments"
3. J. Ihonvbere, "Nigeria: Militarization and Perpetual Transition"

- 23 Nov. VII. *Namibia and South Africa*
1. R, pp. 158-163
 2. R, pp. 222-227
 3. P. Mwaura, "Namibia: Making Democracy Work" (1999)
- VIII. *Foreign Assistance*
- 30 Nov. A. *Overview*
1. K&O, "Introduction," pp. 1-12
 2. R, pp. 180-184
 3. Sam Chege, "Donors Shift More Aid to NGOs" (1999)
- 2 Dec B. *Development Fund Model*
1. K&O, pp. 15-92
- 7 Dec C. *Other Innovative Approaches*
1. K&O, pp. 97-199
 2. J. Sachs, "A Millennial Gift to Developing Nations" (1999)
 3. J. Ukabiala & P. Mwaura, "UNDP: Doing Development Differently" (1999)
- 9 Dec. **Written Aid Project due**
- 9 Dec., IX. *Student Project Reports*
15 Dec (3:20-5:20)

Course Requirements

***The Africans* analysis**

On the basis of the videotapes for Ali Mazrui's series and the additional reading assigned in Part I of the syllabus for this course, write a 5-7 page (typed, ds) critical report that:

- (1) identifies two (2) principal insights you gained in each of the following areas:
African history, African society, African politics, African economy.
- (2) analyzes three (3) important positions taken by Mazrui that you *agree* with
- (3) analyzes three (3) important positions taken by Mazrui that you *disagree* with
- (4) presents a conclusion that includes a persuasive assessment regarding the strengths and limitations of *The Africans* as an educational resource about Africa at the turn of the new century

Country report

Based on the assigned reading and your own research, present a 30-minute oral report to the class that (1) describes the *current* political system and key actors and (2) analyzes the principal *contemporary* political challenges and policy issues facing the selected country. Your report can include visual aids. Plan for a 15-20 minute Q&A session following your report. Your report should be based on one of the following countries: Ethiopia (due 19 Oct.); Tanzania (due 4 Nov.); Senegal (due 9 Nov.); Nigeria (due 16 Nov.); Namibia (due 18 Nov.); South Africa (due 23 Nov.).

Aid project

Working with the same country selected for your class presentation, propose and defend a comprehensive approach to foreign assistance that is designed to generate substantial improvements in living conditions for most rural and urban inhabitants over the first decade of the 21st Century. At minimum, your proposal should address production, earnings and employment, health and sanitation, education, and basic infrastructure. Submit (no later than 9 December) a typed, ds paper of about 15 pages (with sources) and present and defend your proposal in class (9 or 15 Dec.).