Syllabi   Course Syllabi

Fall 9-1-2017

PSCI 326.01: Politics of Africa

Solomon M. Gofie
The University Of Montana

PSCI 326, Politics of Africa   Solomon M. Gofie, PhD
Autumn Semester 2017/18   Office No: LA 405
MWF 9:00-9:50; LA 337   Office Hrs. MWF 10:00-11:00

The Course: Purpose & Description

The study of politics in Africa in the main comprises of highlighting the political history of the peoples in different parts of the continent, the idea of Pan-Africanism and the struggle for independence, political systems and the forms of government in the post-independence period, the Cold War and super powers involvement in Africa, and attempts to the democratization of several countries on the continent since the 1990s. The course-African Politics will provide the opportunity to discuss various thematic issues such as diversity, economic development and poverty, structural adjustment policies, international trade and foreign aid, the politics of good governance, emigration, fighting terrorism and transnational involvement in Africa etc. In doing so, it will introduce selected theoretical perspectives related to the analysis of politics and government in Africa, inter-state relations in Africa, and their relations with the rest of the world. It will provide a framework to explore selected African counties comparatively, provide specific examples as appropriate and explore recent events as they unfold in different countries and regions in Africa. The specific objectives of the course presented in the form of learning outcomes are the following.

By the end of the course it is anticipated participants will be able to,

1. Understand some of the major topics in the study of politics in Africa with the emphasis on the post independence period
2. be aware of key concepts and perspectives in the analysis of politics, state and society in Africa
3. develop skills in identifying and explaining political dynamics in different parts of the continent, and
4. Demonstrate how knowledge about Africa could be useful to propose alternative approaches to the challenges facing the population in different countries in Africa.

Required Reading

Alex Thompson, 2016, an Introduction to African Politics (Routledge, 4th Ed.) (Should be read entirely)

Course Requirement

Assessement of learning outcomes follow the applicable University rules and regualtions. Regular class attendance, active participation in class, doing individual assignments and sumbitting them by the deadlines, adequate contribution to group assignments and presentations, the final examination are required activities form the basis of evaluation. While the the University's grading system/scale will be used as basis to convert student's results into grades, the final evaluation takes into consideration the standings of individual results as well as the overall performance of the class. Individual assignments are assessed on the basis of adequate discussion of the issue or the question the topic raises, originality in analysis, organization of ideas and clarity of presentation of the wrtiten submssion, use of sources including citations and referencing.

The values for the major activities and criteria of evaluation are the following:

Group reading, presentation and submission of written summary (20%)

Mid-term exam   (20%)

Individual Assignment (20%)

Final Examination (30%)

Class participation and attendance (10%)

The course requires regular class attendance and students benefit from active class participation. Students should submit assignments on the designated dates and delays to submit as per the deadline may lead to reduction of points. Students are also encouraged to use consultation hours for additional questions and discussions.

Disabilities

In case of disability adversely affecting your academic performance**,** we will work to ensure access to the course materials and I will provide full support and make amendments per the applicbale rules.

Course outline and activity schedule

1. **Discussion of items in the syllabus and course introduction**
2. **Colonialism and forms of responses to colonial rule- 1950s & 60s**

   Amilcar Cabral 'the Weapon of Theory', 1966 speech,

The Weapon of Theory, 1966, Amilcar Cabral

Mamdani and Chomsky-youtube video (partially) on 'the Scramble for Africa', and Maps of Africa-1894 & after decolonization

3.   Military rule and the one-party state in Africa

*Uma O. Eleazu, 1973, 'the Role of the Army in African Politics: A Reconsideration of Existing Theories and Practices' in **the Journal of Developing Areas**, Vol. 7, and No.? pp. 265-286.*

http://www.jstor.org/stable/4190002

*Benyamin Neuberger, 1974 'Has the one party state failed in Africa' in **African Studies Association,** Vol. 17, No. 1, pp.173-178.*

http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/523584

4. Pan-Africanism, African unity, OAU, regionalism; *presentations

*Micah S. Tsomondo, 1975, 'From Pan –Africanism to Socialism: Modernization of an African Liberation Ideology' in **A Journal of Opinion**, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 39-46.*

http://www.jstor.org/stable/1166523

*Anthony Ngororano, 1972, 'Some Aspects of Regional Economic Integration in the Third World with Special Reference to East Africa' in **Africa Spectrum**, Vol.7, No. 3, pp. 21-29.*

http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/40173737.pdf?acceptTC=true

5. **Characterization of the post-colonial state in Africa***; *presentations**

Colin Leys, 1976, 'the 'Overdeveloped' Post-Colonial State: A Re-Evaluation' in Review of African Political Economy, Vol. 3 No.5, pp. 39-48

www.jstor.org/stable/3997807

Crawford Young, 2004, 'The end of the post-colonial state in Africa? Reflections on changing African political dynamics' in African Affairs (London), Vol. 103 No. 410, pp. 23-49

http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/

6. **African & the Cold War, the UN & NAM *presentations**

   Samuel M. Makinda, 1982, 'Conflicts and the Superpowers in the Horn of Africa' in the **Third World Quarterly***, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 93-103,* www.jstor.org/stable/3991509

   Dona R. Jackson, 2010, 'the Ogden War and the Demise of Détente' in **the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science**

    http://ann.sagepub.com/content/632/1/26

7. **The politics of structural adjustment programs in Africa, 1980s (IMF, WB and EU);* presentations**

   Pierre Englebert, 2000, 'Pre-Colonial Institutions, Post-Colonial States, and Economic Development in Tropical Africa' in **Political Research Quarterly***, Vol. 53, No. 1, pp. 7-36* http://www.jstor.org/stable/449244

    Olufemi Babarinde & Gerrit Faber, 2003, 'From Lome to Cotonou: Business as Usual', Conference Paper for **the Eight Biennial Conference of the European Studies Associations***, March 27-29 2003, Hilton Suites, Nashville Tennessee, Tennessee* http://aei.pitt.edu/2817/1/084.pdf

8. **Africa after the Cold War, democratization agenda's in 1990s;*presentations**

   Barry Munslow, 1993, 'Democratization in Africa', in **Parliamentary Affairs,** *Vol.46, No.4, pp. 478-490*

   http://pa.oxfordjournals.org/content/46/4/478.full.pdf

    Christopher Clapham, 1993, 'Democratization in Africa: Obstacles and Prospects' in **Third World Quarterly***, Vol. 14 No. 3, pp. 423-438*

   http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3992479.pdf

9. **Multi-partism & electoral politics in Africa (Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and the Gambia, Kenya); * presentations**

*Samuel M. Makinda, 1996, 'Democracy and Multi Party Politics in Africa' in **the Modern African Studies**, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 555-573*
http://www.jstor.org/stable/161588

Lisa Blaydes, 2006, 'Who Votes in Authoritarian Elections and Why: Determinants of Voter Turnout in Egypt 2006', Paper for 2006 APSA Annual Meeting

*www.stanford.edu/~blaydes/**Turnout**.pdf*

'Richard Snyder, 2006? 'Beyond Electoral Authoritarianism: the Spectrum of Undemocratic Regimes'

http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Political_Science/documents/BeyondElectoralAuthor..pdf

10. **Foreign policies of states, human rights and democracy Vs aid conditionalies- US EU, China and African States; *presentations**

   P. Boone, 1995, 'Politics and the Effectiveness of Foreign Aid', by the Centre of Economic Performance (Discussion Paper No. 272)

   http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/20690/1/Politics_and_the_Effectiveness_of_Foreign_Aid.pdf

   Dambisa Moyo, 2009, 'Dead Aid: Why aid is not working…Africa http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123749211536187585.html (excerpt)

11. **The Politics of good governance and international development**;* **Presentations**

   Merille Grindle, 2010, Good Governance: The Inflation of an Idea', Faculty Research Working Paper (John F. Kennedy School of Governance)

   file:///C:/Users/utala1/Downloads/RWP10-023_Grindle%20(1).pdf

   *Rebecca Schaaf, 2015, 'The Rhetoric and Reality of Partnership for International Development' in Geography **Compass**, Vo1.2, No. 2*

   http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gec3.12198/pdf

12. **Fighting terrorism & transnational clientelism? *presentations**

   'Combating Terrorism in the Horn of Africa and Yemen', BSCIA 2005 Paper, John F. Kennedy School of Government

http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/BCSIA_CombatingTerrorismInTheHornOfAfricaAndYemen.pdf

*Solomon M. Gofie, 2017, 'State Making, Transnational Clientalism and Political Communities in the Horn of Africa' in **the Horn of Africa since the 1960s: Local and International Politics Intertwined** (Aleksi Ylonen & Jan ZahoriK, eds. Routledge) (copy of chapter will be provided in print)*

13. **Topical issues-state-society relations: The Horn of Africa; migration, the search for a viable political community; *presentations**

   Regional Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Danish Refugee Council, 2016 http://www.regionalmms.org/trends/RMMSQ1Trends2016.pdf

   *Solomon M. Gofie, 2015, 'Emigrants and the state in Ethiopia: transnationalism and the challenges of political antagonism', in **African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal**, Vol. 9, No.2, pp. 134-148*

   http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/17528631.2015.1083180

*** Refers to group presentations the specific dates and guideline will be provided in due course**

Academic honesty
 Plagerism-presenting other person's work as ones own- is a serious academic offence resulting in the nullification or reducation of the results of the assignment and may lead to disciplinary measures per the University regulations.
Note: The web-based reading materials presented under each of the discussion topics are selected in a way they help students identify the examples of literature dealing with different topics on politics in Africa at different times in different contexts. This syllabus provides information and guidance about the Course, and may be subject to some modifications and additional reading materials of relevance may be forwarded or posted as appropriate.

Additional sources of information

-For current and more representative news about countries in Africa follow "all-Africa"
www.allafrica.com

-For examples of surveys and data analysis on African issues see Afro Barometer
http://www.afrobarometer.org

-For information about the activities of the African Union visit the website-
https://au.int/