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PSC 326.01: Politics of Africa

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Course Requirements

***The Africans* analysis (individual)**

On the basis of the videotapes for Ali Mazrui's series and the additional reading assigned in Parts I & III of the syllabus for this course, submit a 5 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 health, the importance of religion for politics in Africa, African economy.
- (2) analyzes three (3) important positions taken by Mazrui that you *agree* with (at least 2 should be drawn from videos 5 &/or 6)
- (3) analyzes three (3) important positions taken by Mazrui that you *disagree* with (at least 2 should be drawn from videos 5 &/or 6)
- (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 beginning of the new century

Country report (team)

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. Include visual aids/handouts whenever possible. Plan for a 15-20 minute Q&A session following your report. The report is due on the date scheduled on the syllabus for your country.

Aid project (individual)

Working with the same country selected for your class presentation, propose and defend a comprehensive approach to donor partnership that is designed to generate substantial improvements in material living conditions and quality of life for most rural and/or urban inhabitants by the end of the first decade of the 21st Century. Your proposal should address at least three of the following: (1) sustainable production, (2) earnings and employment, (3) health and sanitation, (4) education, (5) housing, (6) basic infrastructure, (7) environmental protection. Submit (no later than 28 April) a typed, ds paper of about 15 pages (10 pages if 25%), with supporting references, and present and defend your proposal in class (12 minute oral report with 5-7 minutes of Q & A).

Political Science 326
Politics of Africa
Spring semester 2002-2003

Peter Koehn
LA 416 x5294
Ofc hrs: M 2-4, W 12-12:30;
2-3:30; & 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. We also will consider the efforts of leaders and citizens to bring about change. Students should gain deeper awareness of the impact of political/cultural heritage, contemporary socio-political conditions, and internal/external economic influences on the challenges currently confronting African states and societies. Course participants also should develop in-depth understanding of one contemporary African political system and critical skills in assessing appropriate approaches to foreign assistance in contemporary Africa.

We will focus on Sub-Saharan African states (Nigeria, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Senegal, Tanzania, South Africa) that are particularly important, exemplify major challenges, and reflect the diversity of approaches to political organization/change and economic development found on the continent. Special attention will be devoted to understanding health conditions and contributing factors in Africa—especially with regard to the HIV-AIDS crisis.

Required Texts

Schraeder, *African Politics and Society* (2000). {S}
Edie, *Politics in Africa* (2003). {E}
Peter Koehn & Olatunde Ojo, *Making Aid Work: Innovative Approaches for Africa at the Turn of the Century* (1999). {K&O}
Fac Pack at UC Bookstore {FP}

Course Requirements

Class participation	10%	
Mid-term (optional)	-----/15%	12 March
<i>The Africans</i> report	25%	Due: 31 March
Country report (oral)	25%	
Aid project	40%/25%	Due: no later than 2 May

Late papers will be penalized by the reduction of one-third of a letter grade (e.g., from B+ to B) and by an additional one-third for each scheduled class that passes without submission.

Course Outline and Assignments

27 January-14 Feb

I. Introduction to Africa, Selected Socio-political Issues

1. P. Lone, "An African's Africa Meets Resistance" (FP)
2. S, pp. 1-12, 64-82, 87-111, 116-133, 137-161, 194-212
3. E, pp. 6-26, 47-64
4. Hackel, "African Tradition of Polygamy" (FP)
5. Conteh, "Circumcision and Secret Societies" (FP)
6. Jensen, "Africa and the Internet" (2000) (FP)
7. Raychaudhuri, "Is Globalization Bypassing Africa?" (1999) (FP)
8. French, "The African Question: Who Is to Blame?" (1999) (FP)

The Africans: Part I (31 Jan.); Part III (3 Feb.); Part II (5 Feb.); Part VIII (12 Feb.); Part IV (14 Feb.); Part VII (19 Feb)

19 Feb-28 Feb

II. HIV/AIDS in Africa

A. Spranational, National, and Local Impact/Contributors

1. Beresford, "'AIDS Takes Economic & Social Toll" (2001) (FP)
2. Onishi, "AIDS Cuts Swath Thru Africa's Teachers" (2000) (FP)
3. Fleshman, "AIDS Orphans" (2001) (FP)
4. Mc Geary, "Death Stalks a Continent" (2001) (FP)
5. Fleshman, "A Grim Prognosis for AIDS in Africa" (2002) (FP)
6. Brown, "Massive Drops in Life Expectancy" (2002) (FP)
7. Lurie, "Socioeconomic Obstacles to HIV Prevention & Treatment" (FP)

Cost of Living VT11309 (24 min)

B. Proposed Approaches: Prevention/Treatment

1. Metame, "African Leaders Declare War on AIDS" (2001) (FP)
2. Lom, "Senegal's Recipe for Success" (FP)
3. Kirungi, "Uganda Beating Back AIDS" (FP)
4. Swarns, "Dissent on AIDS by South Africa's President" (FP)
5. Swarns, "AIDS Obstacles Overwhelm a Small South African Town" (2001) (FP)
6. Swarns, "Drug Makers Drop S. Africa Suit over AIDS Medicine" (2001) (FP)
7. Swarns, "S. Africa Hesitates on AIDS Drugs" (2001) (FP)
8. Crossette, "Wider War on AIDS in Africa and Asia" (2001) (FP)
9. Fleshman, "Drug Price Plunge Energizes AIDS Fight" (FP)
10. Rollnick, "Botswana's High-stakes Assault on AIDS" (FP)
11. Jason, "Malaria, Not AIDS, Says Obasanjo" (2000) (FP)
12. Sachs, "Best Possible Investment in Africa" (2001) (FP)
13. NCS on "Challenges of Health in a Borderless World" (FP)
14. Ottawa Charter for Health promotion (1986) (FP)

C. Personal Ethical Dilemmas

What can one do if a partner will not agree to condoms?

Should an HIV-positive woman conceive?

Should an HIV-positive mother be advised to feed with formula or to breast-feed?

Should employers/schools be told one is HIV positive?

What can one do if one cannot afford drug treatments/bed nets?

Should AIDS-orphaned children be allowed to function as household heads?

D. Conclusions: HIV/AIDS and Social Transformation in Africa
Student roles plays/minidramas

3-21 March

III. Introduction to African Politics & Economy

1. E., pp. 22-46, 65-145

3. S, pp. 23-39, 43-58, 217-238, 245-262, 267-286

4. Bratton, "Are Competitive Elections Enough?" (1995) (FP)

The Africans: Part V (March); Part VI (7 March)

10 March

In-class preparation for country reports

12 March

Mid-term examination

14 March

IV. African Unity/Union

1. S., pp. 299-311

2. E., p. 215

3. Brazier, "Africa United" (2000) (FP)

4. "African Union is Launched" (2002) (FP)

5. Simmons, "African Nations Prepare New Union" (2002) (FP)

31 March

***The Africans* report due**

31 March,
2 April

V. Ethiopia

1. Young, "Ethnicity and Power in Ethiopia" (1996) (FP)

2. Asmelash Beyene, "Ethiopia" (1999) (FP)

3. Medhane Tadesse & Young, "TPLF: Reform or Decline?" (FP)

4 April

VI. Eritrea

1. Connell, "The Post-war Transition" (1997) (FP)

2. G. Hyden, P. Koehn, & T. Saleh, "The Challenges of Decentralization in Eritrea" (1996) (FP)

3. Fisher, "Eritrea's Big Leap Falls Victim to 15 Months of War" (1999) (FP)
 4. Hale, "Post-liberation Women: The Case of Eritrea" (2000) (FP)
- 7 April VII. *Somalia*
1. "U.N. Report Traces Somalia's Fall into Anarchy" (1999) (FP)
 2. Samatar, "Warlord Games" (1999) (FP)
 3. Fisher, "An Oasis of Peace in Somalia" (1999) (FP)
 4. De Young, "Signs of Hope in Africa" (1999) (FP)
 5. I. Ahmed, "Remittances & Their Economic Impact in Somaliland" (2001) (FP)
 6. Essak & Salmio, "Maternal & Child Health Care in Somalia" (2002) – available from instructor with slides (REPORT korjattu)
- 9 April VIII. *Tanzania*
1. "The Arusha Declaration" (1967) (FP)
 2. Gros, "Nyerere and Electoral Multiparty Politics" (1998) (FP)
 3. Kiragu, "Tanzania" (1999) (FP)
- 11 April IX. *Senegal*
1. Ramsey, "Senegal" (2001) (FP)
- 14-16 April X. *Nigeria*
1. Koehn, "Competitive Transitions to Civilian Rule: Nigeria's First and Second Experiments" (1989) (FP)
 2. Ihonvbere, "Nigeria: Militarization & Perpetual Transition" (FP)
 3. Ibelema, "Nigeria: Politics of Marginalization" (2001) (FP)
 4. Doran, "Women Hold Oil Terminal Hostage" (2002) (FP)
 5. Suberu, "Can Nigeria's Democracy Survive?" (2001) (FP)
- 18 April *In-class preparation for aid projects*
- 21 April XI. *South Africa*
1. Harsch, "South Africa Tackles Social Inequities" (2001) (FP)
- 23-25 April *Other country reports*

XII. Donor Assistance and Partnerships

28 April

A. Overview

1. **K&O**, "Introduction," pp. 1-12
2. **E.**, pp. 209-225
3. **S.**, pp. 180-185, 336-340
4. Minter, "America and Africa" (2000) (**FP**)
5. Mutume, "Whither the Debt?" (2001) (**FP**)

30 April

B. Development Fund Model

1. **K&O**, pp. 15-92

2 May

C. Other Innovative Approaches

1. **K&O**, pp. 97-199
2. J. Ukabiala & P. Mwaura, "UNDP: Doing Development Differently" (1999) (**FP**)
3. Harsch, "Dakar Summit...Basic Education for All" (2000) (**FP**)

2 May

Written Aid Project due

2-9 May, XIII. *Aid Project Reports*
12 May (10:10-12:10)

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