

PS 417G-001 Survey of Sub-Saharan Politics
Fall 2005

Instructor: Mark Schroeder
Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
Location: DH 135 (Dickey Hall building)
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Office hours: Tues. 3:30 pm—5:30 pm, Thurs. 12:30 pm—2:00 pm and by appointment

Required Texts:

Herbst, Jeffrey, States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

Schraeder, Peter J., African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation, Second Edition. Belmont: Wadsworth/Thomson Publishing, 2004.

Kuperman, Alan J., The Limits of Humanitarian Intervention: Genocide in Rwanda. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2001.

Fanon, Franz, The Wretched of the Earth. New York: Grove Press, 1963.

Guest, Robert, The Shackled Continent. Washington: Smithsonian Press, 2004.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, A Grain of Wheat. Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1967 (or later reprint).

Course Overview

This course is intended that students achieve a greater understanding of Sub-Saharan African politics. Africa has held a past frequently scarred by conflict, confusion and calamity; whether it is in terms of genocide, blood diamonds, or HIV/AIDS, Africa has captured the world's attention largely in stark terms. A fleeting glimpse of Africa may indeed suggest recurring crisis and dreadful tragedy. As a continent graced by some fifty-four countries, however, African politics face divisions that defy a perception of homogeneity. Our goal, therefore, is to examine with depth and patience the politics of the 48 countries that comprise Sub-Saharan Africa: to appreciate both the challenges confronting Africa and the political space that has been emerging in response.

Throughout the course you will be expected to contribute with news from Sub-Saharan Africa by reading the print or on-line versions of the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, the New York Times, the South African Mail & Guardian, and other similar newspapers. Following the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa by reading these daily journals will give you considerable information on the interactions and international relations with and within Africa.

Course Assignments and Grading:

25% Research Paper

25% Midterm Exam

25% Crisis Event Presentation

25% Final Exam

Extra credit via quizzes, attendance, other short written assignments

Late assignments, quizzes, research papers, projects, etc. will not be accepted later than seven calendar days following their due date. A penalty of one third of a letter grade per calendar day will be applied towards any late assignment. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and if found, for example, by “googling” your research paper, will result in a minimum of a failed grade for that assignment; please refer to official University of Kentucky regulations regarding plagiarism.

Research Paper:

I will distribute a list of the 48 countries that comprise Sub-Saharan Africa. You are assigned to complete one research paper; for you to select from the list one country on a first-come, first-served basis and examine its experience with political governance. Whether your country is deemed more, less, or not at all democratic, you are to explain the political, cultural, economic and historical values that have contributed to its contemporary practice of political governance. More specifically: you are building a case to explain why your selected country behaves as it does on political governance. You are not just categorizing its system of governance (whether it is a free and fair democracy, an autocratic monarchy, a one-, or indeed, no-party republic).

Effective planning will strengthen your paper; perhaps outline your arguments before writing. I suggest that you consider at least several academic sources before writing. Be careful with your sources: Wikipedia, newspaper stories and country websites, don't provide the substantive analytical content that your paper requires.

The paper must be 12 pages long, 12-point font, typewritten and double-spaced, and must include citations to all references used. E-mailed copies will not be accepted.

Crisis event presentation:

Self-selecting groups of five students each, you are assigned to identify and present a crisis event that has occurred in African politics. Note that a crisis event may have occurred over a period of time rather than a single date and that actors responding to the event may have been engaged for a similarly extended period of time. Give consideration so as not to necessarily settle on the obvious examples; the HIV/AIDS pandemic across multiple countries, genocide in Rwanda, civil war in Sudan or Somalia. Other crisis events command attention: wars of secession (Biafra, Eritrea), wars of

liberation from colonialism or apartheid, conflict over land ownership (Zimbabwe), conflict over political inclusion (Côte d'Ivoire), conflict over control of natural resources.

Highlighting the domestic and international actors that responded to the crisis event, you are to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the response(s). Examine the responder's original objectives: a cessation of conflict, to effect a "regime change," to insist on regime behavior-modification? What resources (domestic and international time, talent, and treasure) were mobilized to achieve the responder's objectives? What results have been observed? Were the objectives achieved? Lastly, articulate recommendations that can be applied from your study towards resolving possible future similar conflicts.

You are to make a 15-minute presentation describing your crisis event. Your presentation is worth 50% of the assignment grade. My evaluation of your presentation will include the presenter's command of speech and delivery, the presenter's knowledge of the topic, and the presenter's convincing analysis and recommendations. Following your presentation you are to submit to me a ten page, type-written and double-spaced paper outlining your crisis event. Your paper is worth 50% of the assignment grade. You are responsible for dividing project tasks; all group members will receive the same grade unless you or I determine otherwise. Attached on a separate page to your group paper, include a letter grade recommendation according to each member's participation.

Class Schedule:

Week 1 (August 25): Introduction to African Politics

Week 2 (August 30 and September 1): Tradition: Influences from Africa's Past

Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 1, 2
Herbst, Ch. 2

Week 3 (September 6-8): Colonialism and the Colonial Legacy

Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 3
Herbst, Ch. 3

Week 4: (September 13-15): The Rise of Nationalism and Pan-Africanism

Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 4
Herbst, Ch. 4

Week 5 (September 20-22): Post-colonialism: early independent state formation

Readings: Herbst, Ch. 1, 5
Fanon

Week 6 (September 27-29): Political conflict: ethnicity, class, race, gender

Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 5 Movie: "Eritrea: Three Generations of Women"

Research Paper: due at beginning of class on Tuesday October 4

Week 7 (October 4-6): Political conflict: economic resources, economic development
Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 6 Movie: "Uganda: A Different Drummer"
Herbst Ch. 7
Guest

Week 8 (October 11-13): Political process: democratization, managing political conflict
Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 8, 10

Midterm Exam: Thursday October 13

Midterm of 2005 Fall Semester: Monday October 17

Week 9 (October 18-20): The African novel confronting politics
Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 7
Ngũgĩ

Week 10 (October 25-27): Foreign relations among independent African states
Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 11

Week 11 (November 1-3): Confronting apartheid
Readings: Movie: "Amandla"

Week 12 (November 8-10): Military governance
Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 9
Crisis Event Presentations

Week 13 (November 15-17): Land ownership, citizenship
Readings: Herbst Ch. 6, 8 Movie: "Moving On"
Crisis Event Presentations

Week 14 (November 22): The Humanitarian Intervention
Readings: Kuperman Movie: Rwandan genocide
Crisis Event Presentations

Thanksgiving break: November 24-26

Week 15 (November 29 – December 1): Africa in World Politics
Readings: Schraeder, Ch. 12
Herbst, Ch. 9
Crisis Event Presentations

Week 16 (December 6-8):
Crisis Event Presentations

Final Exam: Wednesday December 14 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am in DH 135