# PSCI 3082-001: POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Maymester 2017 Ketchum 1B60

Andy Baker Department of Political Science University of Colorado at Boulder Email: Andy.Baker@Colorado.edu Office: Ketchum 224 Office hours: MWTh 3:30-4:30 303-492-1733

#### .....

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Why is sub-Saharan Africa so poor, and why has democracy been such a rarity on the continent? In this course, students will explore and assess a variety of answers to these questions while surveying many of the main events and people in the region's recent political history. Are economic and political underdevelopment due to the West and centuries of exploitation of the continent? Or are they the result of Africa's poor post-independence leadership, as embodied in figures such as Idi Amin, Joseph Mobutu, Kwame Nkrumah, and Julius Nyerere? Alternatively, are they due to Africa's geography, with its high disease burden and difficult terrain? The course will also consider the events and causes of recent African tragedies, such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the Rwandan genocide. Not all of Africa's recent history, however, is so tragic. As such, the course will also focus on some African success stories, with the hope of presenting a balanced portrayal of the continent's politics and optimism for its future.

#### ............

REQUIRED READING: All readings listed on this syllabus are required. Three books are available for purchase at the CU Bookstore, and one copy of each is also available on course reserve at Norlin Library. You can also purchase any of these books at Amazon.com. They are as follows:

- (1) An Introduction to African Politics: Fourth Edition by Alex Thomson. ISBN 9781138782846
- (2) King Leopold's Ghost by Adam Hochschild. ISBN 9780618001903

(3) Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries are Leading the Way by Steven Radelet. ISBN 9781933286518 YOU ALSO NEED AN ICLICKER DEVICE FOR THIS COURSE!

### .....

GRADES: Overall, the final grade will be allocated in the following manner:

1)	Quizzes:	28%
2)	Research Paper	25%
3)	Final Examination	35%
4)	Participation	12%

First, 28% is based on five closed-book, in-class, multiple choice Quizzes. The dates of these quizzes are already specified on this syllabus and will not change; there are no makeup quizzes. With one exception, quizzes will be based on assigned readings. I will drop the lowest of your five quiz grades (including zeroes for non-attendance or forgotten clicker) and calculate your quiz grade based on your highest four scores. Quizzes will be taken in class using Clickers, so students should secure a clicker by Wednesday of the first week.

Second, the *Research paper* (25%) is a short (750 words, 3 pages) paper based on course readings and some outside readings and research. More information on this assignment is at the end of this syllabus. Papers handed in after the specified time will have ten percentage points subtracted from their final score each business day they are late. Students will submit papers to the D2Learn dropbox for the course, where they are checked by turnitin software for plagiarism. You will NOT hand in paper copies of your research papers, so you must submit the electronic version before the deadline. Malfunctioning internet or computer equipment will not be an accepted excuse for late submissions.

Third, 35% of the overall grade is based on a closed book, comprehensive *Final Examination* given on Thursday of the last week of class.

Finally, the *Participation* (12%) component of the grade is based on student engagement and participation in class discussions. All students are expected to come prepared to each class session.

There are no extra credit projects available in this course. Final grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=94.0-100, A=90.0-94.0, B=87.0-90.0, B=84.0-87.0, B=80.0-84.0, C=77.0-80.0, C=74.0-77.0, C=70.0-74.0, D=67.0-70.0, D=64.0-67.0, D=60.0-64.0, F=<60.0. Please note that these are true cut-offs and there is no rounding.

As always, academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Students engaging in academic dishonesty will receive an "F" in the class and may be expelled. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, passing off the work of others (especially that of current or former students as well as published or on-line text) as your own. Cheating on Clickers entries is also academic dishonesty.

Examinations and quizzes will not be given to anyone at a day or time other than that already specified on this syllabus unless students have discussed with me IN ADVANCE special arrangements due to disability or time conflict. Students with disabilities who receive 1.5 time or some other allowance must show me authorization from

• <u>Discussion</u> : Is the west responsible for the Rwandan genocide?
<ul> <li>War and Economic Stagnation</li> <li><u>Reading assignment</u>: Chapters 9 and 10 of Thomson</li> <li><u>Reading assignment</u>: Continue reading Radelet</li> <li><u>Discussion</u>: Why did the 1990s see so much political violence in Africa?</li> <li><u>QUIZ 4: On chapters 4, 9, and 10 of Thomson</u></li> </ul>
<ul> <li>HIV/AIDS in Africa</li> <li><u>Reading assignment</u>: Continue reading Radelet</li> <li><u>Discussion</u>: How did the HIV/AIDS epidemic get to be so bad? What is the most effective way to address it?</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>UNIT 3: AFRICA RISING?</li> <li>Democratization and Economic Success Stories         <ul> <li><u>Reading assignment</u>: Finish reading Radelet</li> <li><u>Reading assignment</u>: Chapters 11 and 12 of Thomson. Also pp. 100-104</li> <li><u>Discussion</u>: Is Africa experiencing a renaissance?</li> <li><u>QUIZ 5: On chapters 11 and 12 of Thomson and entirety of Radelet</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY
<ul> <li>South Africa: Apartheid</li> <li><u>Discussion</u>: What are the historical roots of South Africa's racial strife? Why did apartheid occur in South Africa? How could a minority impose its will for so long?</li> </ul>
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE AT 11:59PM OF TUESDAY, MAY 30!
<ul> <li>South Africa: The Fall of Apartheid and the Rise of Democracy</li> <li><u>Discussion</u>: Do you consider South Africa a success story? What are the prospects for its future?</li> </ul>
COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM
NO CLASS

D' ' I II III

.. .

## RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

Africa is the most economically underdeveloped region of the world, and it also remains a laggard in how democratic its political systems are. Why does Africa continue to struggle with these challenges? Why have economic affluence and democracy been so rare on the continent? *In short, what causes Africa's economic underdevelopment and lack of democracy: Western powers, Africa's leadership, or geography?* 

You will write a short paper that makes a definitive argument that answers this last question. The paper should be about 750 words (about three double-spaced, 12 pt. font pages and certainly no longer than 1000 words). You must support the argument with relevant facts and details from one African country on which you do outside research. You must consult and cite sources other than those assigned in class (although you may also cite required readings) and include formal citations and a bibliography.

The paper should be polished and free of spelling errors and typos. You MUST submit an electronic copy of the entire paper to D2Learn by 11:59PM on May 30. Papers handed in after this time will have 10% subtracted from their final score each school day they are late. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. The paper should be typed, polished and free of spelling errors and typos. You will NOT hand in paper copies of your research papers, so you must submit the electronic version before the deadline. Malfunctioning internet or computer equipment will not be an accepted excuse for late submissions.