

PSC 407T
Politics of Africa
Fall 2006
TR 02:30 PM-03:45 PM
WRI C237

Professor Michele Kuenzi
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.* and by appointment
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*I will not be holding office hours on Thursday, August 31 but will be happy to make an appointment to meet at another time.

Course Description

In this course we will study political development in the independent states of sub-Saharan Africa. We will analyze political conflict and change in terms of the economic, social and historical contexts of major African countries and regions. Special emphasis will be given to problems of political institution-building and democracy. We will take a comparative approach by explaining key political similarities and differences across African countries.

Course Outline

1. AFRICAN POLITICAL HISTORY: AN OVERVIEW
 - (a) Background and Context
 - (b) Colonialism
 - (c) African Nationalism
 - (d) Political Independence

2. SOURCES OF POLITICAL CONFLICT
 - (a) Ethnicity
 - (b) Religion
 - (c) Social Class

3. THE INSTITUTIONS OF AFRICAN POLITICS
 - (a) Civil Society
 - (b) Personal Rule
 - (c) One Party States
 - (d) Military Intervention and Rule
 - (e) Constitutions

4. DEMOCRATIZATION
 - (a) Regime Transition
 - (b) Regime Consolidation

5. THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - (a) Poverty and Economic Decline
 - (b) Policy Reform and Economic Recovery?

6. CASE STUDIES

Course Requirements

Required Texts and Reading:

Peter J. Schaefer. African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation 2nd Edition (Wadsworth 2004)

Chinua Achebe. The Anthills of the Savannah (New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1987)

Reserve Readings (electronic): I will designate reserve readings with an **R** in the list of readings. The web site is: <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/eres/default.aspx> The readings are listed in alphabetical order by title.

Handouts

Grades

The total number of points that can be achieved in this course is 400. The points are allocated in the following way:

	Percent	Points
Participation	5	20
Attendance	5	20
Quizzes	15	60
Midterm	25	100
Paper Presentation	5	20
Paper	20	80
Final	25	100
Total	100	400

In other words, quizzes count for 15% of your grade, the mid term for 25%, the paper for 20%, the presentation for 5%, attendance for 5%, participation for 5%, and the final examination for 25%. **The final examination will be cumulative.**

According to the point system, final grades will be assigned in the following way:

A	374 points to 400 points
A-	358 points to 373 points
B+	346 points to 357points
B	330 points to 345 points
B-	318 points to 329 points
C+	306 points to 317 points
C	290 points to 305 points
C-	278 points to 289 points
D+	266 points to 277 points
D	250 points to 265 points
D-	238 points to 249 points
F	237 points and below

Exams

Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of extreme circumstances. The student must be able to provide documentation that the absence is for a reason recognized by the university (e.g., illness, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday) and make arrangements with me **prior** to the scheduled exam date. If it is absolutely impossible to make prior arrangements with me, students must contact me as soon as possible about the situation. (Please notify me of any planned absences for religious holidays or official extracurricular activity for UNLV by **September 26, 2006**).

Quizzes

Three quizzes will be administered during the course. **The quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class.** Students may drop their lowest quiz score. Since the lowest quiz score can be dropped and students know in advance the dates of the quizzes, **no makeup quizzes will be administered.**

Quizzes and exams will be based on material covered during class in lectures, films, class discussions or class presentations and from the required readings. I will periodically introduce current event articles or materials as they relate to the topics and concepts being covered in class. Students will, of course, be responsible for this material as well as material covered in films, guest lectures and student presentations.

The Term-Paper

Term Paper

A research paper of 10 double spaced typed pages (with 11 or 12 point font size and one inch margins) is due in class on **November 28, 2006**. **No extensions will be granted.** Four points will be subtracted from your grade for each day that the paper is late. You are expected to make use of the writing center so that your paper is free of grammatical errors and clearly written and organized. You will be given a handout with a description of the paper topic and requirements during the course.

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright website at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

Attendance, Participation and General Expectations

Attendance will be taken at each class. Students may miss 3 classes without losing attendance points. Because students are already allowed 3 absences, 3 points will be subtracted from the attendance points for every absence beyond 3, whatever the reason for the absence. Attending class is a very important part of the learning process. If anyone foresees the possibility of missing class more than three times, she/he should consider taking PSC 407T when she/he will be able to attend all of the classes. **Signing the attendance sheet for another student is a form of fraud**, and anyone participating in this activity will be penalized.

Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged. Of course, participation should be constructive, and all comments should be relevant to the material being covered in class. Students must **do all of the reading!** I will call on students in class and expect their answers to reflect familiarity with the ideas and information in the readings. Respect should be shown for all other class members at all times. Inappropriate and disruptive participation/behavior will result in a drop in the student's grade. If you are habitually late, the participation and attendance portions of your course grade will be marked down substantially.

Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive promptly and have a collegial demeanor. Students are not allowed to sleep, read newspapers, listen to headphones, or talk to others during class. Engaging in these behaviors will result in a drop in the student's grade. **You must turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. If you look at your cell phone during a quiz or exam, you will receive a zero for that quiz or exam.** Arriving late, leaving early, interrupting class with a cell phone or other electronic device will also result in a drop in the student's grade.

I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus. Students will be responsible for knowing any changes made to the syllabus during class time whether they were in attendance or not. The instructor's lecture notes are not available to students; it is the student's responsibility to obtain class notes from a classmate, should class be missed.

Learning Enhancement Services (LES) is the office to provide Disability Services. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact LES for coordination in your academic accommodations. LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, suite 137. The phone number is 702-895-0866, or TTD 702-895-0652, or you may visit the website at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les.

Academic Honesty:

All breaches in academic honesty will be handled in accordance with the UNLV Student Conduct Code and Policies, which can be accessed at <http://www.unlv.edu/studentlife>.

Schedule

Date	
Week 1	
Tuesday, 8/28	Class Introduction
Thursday, 8/31	U.S. and Africa R or Internet: Rothchild, Donald. 2001 "The U.S. Foreign Policy Trajectory in Africa."
Week 2	
Tuesday, 9/5	Africa's Political Background Schraeder, Chapters 1 & 2
Thursday, 9/7	Colonialism Schraeder, Chapter 3 R: Boahen, Chapter 4
Week 3	
Tuesday, 9/12	Colonialism (cont.) Schraeder, Chapter 3 R: Boahen, Chapter 4
Thursday, 9/14	African Nationalism and Political Independence Schraeder, Chapter 4 R: Boahen Chapter 3
Week 4	
Tuesday, 9/19	The Economy of Affection and Personal Rule R: Goran Hyden, Chapter 4, "The Economy of Affection" R: Goran Hyden, Chapter 5, "Big Man Rule"
Thursday, 9/21	Quiz 1 The Rise of Authoritarianism Schraeder, Chapter 8
Week 5	
Tuesday, 9/26	Military Interventions Schraeder, Chapter 9 R: Jenkins and Kposowa, 1992 "The Political Origins of African Military Coups: Ethnic Competition, Military Centrality, and the Struggle over the Postcolonial State." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 36(3): 271-291.
Thursday, 9/28	Ethnicity, Class, Other Identities and Conflict Schraeder, Chapter 5 R: Osaghae, Eghosa. 1999. "Conflict Research in Africa." <i>International Journal on World Peace</i> XVI(4):53-72. R: Welsh, David. 1996 "Ethnicity in Sub-Saharan Africa." <i>International Affairs</i> 72(3): 477-491. R: Bates, Robert. 1986. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition, and the Rationality of Politics in Contemporary Africa."
Week 6	
Tuesday, 10/3	Ethnicity, Identities and Conflict (cont.)
Thursday, 10/5	Case Study: Rwanda R: Berkeley B, "Road to a genocide," <i>DISSENT</i> 49 (1): 69-78 WIN 2002
Week 7	
Tuesday, 10/10	Case Study: Darfur and Sudan

	R: Mahmoud, Mahgoub El-Tigani, "Inside Darfur: Ethnic Genocide by a Governance Crisis," <i>Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East</i> - Volume 24, Number 2, 2004, pp. 3-17
Thursday, 10/12	Quiz 2 Civil Society R: Mw Makumbe, John. 1998. "Is there a civil society in Africa?" <i>International Affairs</i> 74(2): 305-317.
Week 8	
Tuesday, 10/17	Review for the Midterm Examination
Thursday, 10/19	Midterm Examination
Week 9	
Tuesday, 10/24	Political Stability Achebe, whole book
Thursday, 10/26	Paths to Development Schraeder, Chapter 6
Week 10	
Tuesday, 10/31	Democratization Schraeder, Chapter 10
Thursday, 11/2	Consolidating Democracy R: Bratton M, Mattes R "Support for democracy in Africa: Intrinsic or instrumental?" <i>BRITISH JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE</i> 31: 447-474 Part 3, JUL 2001 R: Nicolas Van de Walle, 'Africa's Range of Regimes: Elections without Democracy,' <i>Journal of Democracy</i> Vol.13, No.2 (2002), pp.66-80.
Week 11	
Tuesday, 11/7	Constitutions: Political Institutions R: Reynolds, Andrew and Timothy D. Sisk 1998 "Elections and Electoral Systems: Implications for Conflict Management."
Thursday, 11/9	Poverty, Economic Decline and Reform Schraeder, Chapter 14 R: Chapter 3, "Africa and the World Political Economy: More Caught Between a Rock and a Hard Place," Thomas Callaghy Handout
Week 12	
Tuesday, 11/14	Quiz 3 Case Study: South Africa R: Chapter 13, "South Africa: The Possibilities and Limits of Transforming State and Society," Chazan et al.
Thursday, 11/16	Case Study: Senegal R: Kuenzi, "From 'Semi-Democracy' to Democracy? The Implications of the Senegalese Presidential Election of 2000"
Week 13	
Tuesday, 11/21	Failed States R: Orogun, Paul S. 2002 "Crisis of Government, Ethnic Schisms, Civil War, and Regional Destablization of the Democratic Republic of Congo." <i>World Affairs</i> 165(1): 25-41. R: Fatah, Ali A. 2002 "Somalia's Traditional Clan-Based System Holds Key to the Country's Future Stability." <i>The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs</i> 21(2): 59-60.

Thursday, 11/23	Thanksgiving; no class.
Week 14	
Tuesday, 11/28	Paper Presentations Paper Due
Thursday, 11/30	Paper Presentations
Week 15	
Tuesday, 12/5	Finish Paper Presentations Prospects for the future R: Chege, Michael. 1994. "What's Right with Africa?" <i>Current History</i> 93(May):193-197.
Thursday, 12/7	Review for the Final Exam
Week 16	
Tuesday December 12 3:10 PM	FINAL EXAMINATION