

United States International University

Undergraduate Program in International Relations

IRL 3040: Politics in Africa

Credit: 4 Units

Introduction: Aims and Objectives

This course is designed as a comprehensive examination and analysis of the major issues that have characterized African Politics and Government since independence. The course begins with a brief survey of precolonial and colonial political systems, with a view of situating the postcolonial African Politics in its historical context. Among the issues will be discussed include approaches to the study of African Politics and International Relations, the colonial legacy, nationalism, sub-nationalism, Pan-Africanism, the nature of regimes, militarism, personal rule, the African State, development ideologies and approaches, the peasantry, pressure and interest groups, race and gender, democratization, human rights, good governance and ethnicity and ethnic politics. Thus, at the end of the quarter, students should have explored the various challenges Africa faces today and be able to chart the way forward as the continent enters into the New Millennium.

Teaching Method and Course Assessment:

There are Nine Weeks this Summer Quarter. Therefore, the course is structured in such a way that the selected topics must be covered at the end of the Quarter. Students are strongly advised to follow the readings referred by the instructor. Good students often take reading seriously and do aspire to learn on their own. The assessment will be as follow: (a) full class attendance and participation 10%; (b) Individual term paper 30%; Mid-Quarters 30%; and (c) Quarter Finals 30%. This is a fairly distributed assessment and good students should find it fairly rewarding. The final grade is the cumulative outcome of the three assessments. The grading system is the standardized USIU one where A= 90% and above, and F= 59% and below.

Reading List:

This course comes once a year and it has since been taught now for the second time. Since it is too general in title, there is no specific course text so far. Therefore, the readings below are highly recommended and keen and interested students will find them intellectually stimulating. It is expected that by the end of the Quarter, participants must have read most of the following:

Naomi Chazan et al., *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*, 2nd edn. (Boulder, Col.: Lynne Rienner, 1992).

Patrick Chabal (ed.), *Political Domination in Africa: Reflections on the Limits of Power* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).

Patrick Chabal, *Power in Africa: An Essay in Political Interpretation* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1994).

Peter Anyang' Nyong'o (ed.), *Popular Struggles for Democracy in Africa* (London: Zed Press, 1987).

S. Baynham, *Military Power and Politics in Black Africa* (London: Croom Helm, 1986).

Jean Francois Bayart, *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly* (London: Longman, 1989).

Harvey Glickman (ed.), *Ethnic Conflict and Democratization in Africa* (Atlanta, GA.: African Studies Association Press, 1995).

Edmond J. Keller and Donald Rothchild (ed.), *Africa in the New International Order: Rethinking State Sovereignty and Regional Security* (Boulder, Col.: Lynne Rienner, 1996).

Abdullahi Ahmed An-naim and Francis Deng (ed.), *Human Rights in Africa: Cross-Cultural Perspectives* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1990).

Paul Cammack, David Pool and William Tordoff, *Third World Politics: A Comparative Introduction* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1988).

Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (London: Bogle l'Overture, 1972).
Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, *Personal Rule in Black Africa* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1982).
C.O.C. Amate, *Inside the OAU: Pan-Africanism in Practice* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1986).
Claude Ake, *The Political Economy of Africa* (Harlow: Longman, 1981).
Chinua Achebe et al., *Beyond Hunger in Africa* (London: James Currey, 1990).
Haroub Othman (ed.), *Reflections On Leadership In Africa: Forty Years After Independence* (Brussels: VUB University Press, 2000). Very recent and may not be available in the library, however, I will distribute selected photocopies.
Bakut tswah Bakut and Sagarika Dutt (ed.), *Africa at the Millennium: An Agenda for Mature Development* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2000). Very recent and may not be available in library, however, I will distribute some selected photocopies. Finally, Basil Davidson is a familiar name in African History and there is a lot in his name in our library that I expect all to have read.

