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School of Political Studies
Office: 6072 FSS
Office hours: M 12-13 / W 12-13

Fall 2016
University of Ottawa
Class time: M 1430-1730

POL3144
Comparative Politics: African Politics

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comparative study of development processes and institutions in different countries of Africa.
Relationship between politics, culture and society. National and regional particularities.

SPECIFIC COURSE DESCRIPTION

POL3144 is part of the *Comparative Politics* sub-discipline of political science. As with any other comparative politics courses, POL3144 has two major objectives:

- 1) Analytical objective: you will learn a variety of theoretical approaches and conceptual tools to analyze key political developments unfolding in Africa. Theories and approaches to study the construction of postcolonial states, regime changes, ethnic conflicts and the politics of identities, the politics of economic reforms and political violence will be presented.
- 2) Empirical objective: You will learn about the major socio-political developments in contemporary Africa, as well as their pre-colonial and colonial historical roots. Africa is made of 54 states and though it is obviously impossible to cover in details the politics of each country, we will look at all the regions of Africa, using specific countries as case studies.

The focus of the course is on Africa, but the analytical approaches it uses should help the students to think more broadly and compare political phenomena *across* Africa and *outside* of Africa.

Assignments

Evaluation	Description	%	Date
Map Quiz	On a blank map of Africa, identify 20 countries that I will have randomly selected	5%	Surprise! Could be any class between Sept. 26 and Dec. 5 (included)
Research Question + Hypotheses	2-page paper in which you present the Research Question(s), Hypotheses and 5 scientific articles; will become the foundation for your term paper, [+ details in class] Topic must be on African domestic politics 5%/day late. Mark of 0 after 3 days. Double-spaced; Font 12; Cover page +references not included. No extension granted.	20%	October 17@noon By email -5%/day (starting at noon)
1 st Exam	Covers lectures and readings (part 1)	20%	October 31
2nd exam	Covers lectures and readings (part 2)	20%	Exam Week
Term Paper	A research and analytical paper. 12 pages; +/- 3900 words; double-spaced; biblio+endnotes NOT included; 12points) NO extensions granted. 5%/day late [details in class]	35%	December 12@14.00 By email -5%/day late Mark of 0 after 3 days.

Compulsory Readings: **ALL compulsory readings** are...compulsory!

Class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course. **Attendance is mandatory.**
Absences of more than 3 courses will result in a failing grade of INC.

Missed deadlines:

«Absence from any examination or test, or late submission of assignments due to illness, psychological problems or exceptional personal circumstances must be justified; otherwise, students will be penalized».

No late assignments will be accepted without an authentic note. The professor can ask you to certify your note by **the uOttawa Health or Counseling Services.**

- **Computers, smart phones and the like are prohibited in class**

“These analyses indicated that participants who did not use any technologies in the lectures outperformed students who used some form of technology...[A]ttempting to attend to lectures and engage digital technologies for off-task activities can have a detrimental impact on learning.”¹

“We found that participants who multitasked on a laptop during a lecture scored lower on a test compared to those who did not multitask, and participants who were in direct view of a multitasking peer scored lower on a test compared to those who were not...[M]ultitasking on a laptop poses a significant distraction to both users and fellow students and can be detrimental to comprehension of lecture content.”²

“Specifically, it appears that providing students with course slides is not the underlying source of any learning effects surfacing in the research on PowerPoint in the classroom. In fact, the results of the present study suggest that any academic effect attributable to IP slides is likely to be associated with less learning rather than more learning.”³

If you need a laptop for a reason that is justified, please come talk to me in person.

¹Wood *et al.*, “Examining the impact of off-task multi-tasking with technology on real-time classroom learning », *Computers & Education*, no.58 (2012), pp. 365-374.

²Sana *et al.*, “Laptop multitasking hinders classroom learning for both users and nearby peers,” *Computers & Education* no. 62 (2013): pp. 24-31.

³Worthington and Levasseur, “To provide or not to provide course PowerPoint slides? The impact of instructor-provided slides upon student attendance and performance,” *Computers & Education*, 85 (2015): p. 21.

Resources for you

Mentoring Centre - <http://www.sciencessociales.uottawa.ca/mentor/fra/>

The goal of the Mentoring Centre is to help students with their academic and social well-being during their time at the University of Ottawa. Regardless of where a student stands academically, or how far along they are in completing their degree, the mentoring centre is there to help students continue on their path to success.

A student may choose to visit the mentoring centre for very different reasons. Younger students may wish to talk to their older peers to gain insight into programs and services offered by the University, while older student may simply want to brush up on study and time management skills or learn about programs and services for students nearing the end of their degree.

Academic Writing Help Centre - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/>

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer. In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- Master the written language of your choice
- Expand your critical thinking abilities
- Develop your argumentation skill
- Learn what the expectations are for academic writing

Career Services - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/careers/>

Career Services offers various services and a career development program to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.

Counselling Service- <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/personal/>

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

Access Service - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/acces/>

The Access Service contributes to the creation of an inclusive environment by developing strategies and implementing measures that aim to reduce the barriers to learning for students who have learning disabilities, health, psychiatric or physical conditions.

Aboriginal Resource Centre:

Aboriginal Resource Centre provides Aboriginal students with a culturally sensitive and welcoming climate. We are committed to helping First Nations, Inuit and Métis students by providing services to support students in a manner consistent with their culture and values.

BEWARE OF ACADEMIC FRAUD!!!!!!

PLAGIARISM is taking another person's words, ideas or statistics and passing them off as your own. The complete or partial translation of a text written by someone else also constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.

PRINCIPLES AND RULES

- **When borrowing another person's words, use quotation marks and include complete reference (author's name, date, pages).**
- **Internet sources must also be acknowledged.**
- **When borrowing another person's ideas, acknowledge their origin.**
- **Do not paraphrase another writer's words and pass them off as your own.**

Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is subject to severe sanctions, including...

- **a mark of F or zero for the assignment or course in question;**
- **the loss of credits for the year in question**
- **or an additional requirement of 3 to 30 credits;**
- **suspension or expulsion from the Faculty;**
- **or even revocation of your degree.**

Need some help? Read this: <https://biblio.uottawa.ca/en/research-help/biblioexpert/direct-quote-summary-paraphrase>

Sexual violence: support and prevention

The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of a sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment or online harassment. The University, as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint. For more information, visit

www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention

Course Outline and Compulsory Readings

12 September

Introduction

Topic 1

19 September

Politics in Precolonial and early colonial Africa

*Jeffrey Herbst (2000), “Power and Space in Precolonial Africa” in *States and Power in Africa* (Princeton: Princeton University Press): pp. 35-57.

Nicholas David (2014). “Patterns of Slaving and Prey–Predator Interfaces in and Around the Mandara Mountains (Nigeria And Cameroon).” *Africa*, 84, pp 371-397.

(skim through the Diary of Hamman Yaji: http://www.sukur.info/Mont/HammanYaji_DIARY.pdf)

Topic 2

26 September

The Development and Demise of Colonial States in Africa

*Jeffrey Herbst, “The Europeans and the African Problem”, in *States and Power in Africa* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000): pp. 58-96.

Benoit Henriët, (2015). “‘Elusive natives’: Escaping colonial control in the Leverage oil palm concession, Belgian Congo, 1923–1941.” *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 49(2), 339-361.

Optional

Hendrik Spruyt, *Ending Empire: Contested Sovereignty and Territorial Partition*, (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2005): pp. 40-78.

Topic 3

3 October

Post-colonial authority and legitimacy: what state, what regime, whose authority?

Goodfellow, Tom. “Taming the ‘Rogue’ Sector: Studying State Effectiveness in Africa through Informal Transport Politics [in Uganda and Rwanda].” *Comparative Politics* 47, no. 2 (2015): 127–47.

Hüsken, Thomas, and Georg Klute. “Political Orders in the Making: Emerging Forms of Political Organization from Libya to Northern Mali.” *African Security* 8, no. 4 (2015): 320–37.

Optional:

Michael Roll, “The State That Works: A ‘Pockets of Effectiveness’ Perspective on Nigeria and Beyond” in Bierschenk and Olivier de Sardan, eds., *States at Work: Dynamics of African Bureaucracies* (Leiden: Brill), 2014, pp. 365-397 (ELECTRONIC BOOK. UOttawa Library)

Englebert, Pierre, and Emmanuel Kasongo Mungongo. “Misguided and Misdiagnosed: The Failure of Decentralization Reforms in the DR Congo.” *African Studies Review* 59, no. 01 (April 2016): 5–32.

Topic 4

17 October

The Political Economy of African States

Amundsen, Inge. “Drowning in Oil: Angola’s Institutions and the ‘Resource Curse.’” *Comparative Politics* 46, no. 2 (2014): 169–89.

Gilfoy, K. (2015). Land grabbing and NGO advocacy in Liberia: A deconstruction of the ‘homogeneous community’. *African Affairs*, 114(455), 185-205

Optional:

Jerven, M. (2016). Research note: Africa by numbers: Reviewing the database approach to studying African economies. *African Affairs*, 115(459), 342-358.

Ferguson, James. *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution*. Duke University Press, 2015, CHAP. 4 (**EBOOK**)

Meagher, K. (2014). Smuggling ideologies: From criminalization to hybrid governance in African clandestine economies. *African Affairs*, 113(453), 497-517.

**31 October
EXAM 1**

Topic 5
7 November
Democratizing African Regimes

Cheeseman, Nic. *Democracy in Africa: Successes, Failures, and the Struggle for Political Reform*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.: Chapter 3: 86-113. **(EBOOK in library)**

Bruce A. Magnusson and John F. Clark, “Understanding Democratic Survival and Democratic Failure in Africa: Insights from Divergent Democratic Experiments in Benin and Congo (Brazzaville),” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 47.3 (2005): 552-582.

Optional:

Wing, S. D. (2015). ‘Hands off my constitution’: Constitutional Reform and The Workings of Democracy In Mali. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 53(3), 451-475.

Beresford, A. (2015). Power, patronage, and gatekeeper politics in South Africa. *African Affairs*, 114(455), 226-248

Zuern, E. (2015). South Africa at a turning point? *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 53(3), 477-486.

Topic 6
14 November
The Survival and Adaptation of (national and local) Authoritarian Regimes

Rudbeck, Jens, Erica Mukherjee, and Kelly Nelson. “When Autocratic Regimes Are Cheap and Play Dirty: The Transaction Costs of Repression in South Africa, Kenya, and Egypt.” *Comparative Politics* 48, no. 2 (2016): 147–66.

Nunzio, M. D. (2014). ‘Do not cross the red line’: The 2010 general elections, dissent, and political mobilization in urban Ethiopia. *African Affairs*, 113(452), 409-430.

Optional:

Morse, Yonatan L. “From Single-Party to Electoral Authoritarian Regimes: The Institutional Origins of Competitiveness in Post-Cold War Africa.” *Comparative Politics* 48, no. 1 (2015): 126–51.

Levitsky and Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War* (Cambridge, CUP: 2010), pp. 37-83 et 236-308 (chap. 2 et chapter on Africa)

Topic 7
21 November
Special Sahelian Politics

Topic 8

28 November

Explaining and Understanding Political Violence in Africa

Richards, J. (2014). Forced, coerced and voluntary recruitment into rebel and militia groups in the democratic republic of Congo*. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 52(2), 301-326.

Pinaud, C. (2014). South Sudan: Civil war, predation and the making of a military aristocracy. *African Affairs*, 113(451), 192-211

Optional

Aidan Russell (2015), "Obedience and Selective Genocide in Burundi," *Africa* 85(3), pp. 437-456.

Enria, L. (2015). Love and betrayal: The political economy of youth violence in post-war sierra leone*. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 53(4), 637-660.

Speight, J. (2014). Warlord undone? strongman politics and post-conflict state-building in northeastern côte d'ivoire (2002–2013). *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 48(2), 223-241.

Topic 9

5 December

The Politics of Identities in Africa I

Daniel Posner, "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi," *American Political Science Review* 98.4 (2004): 529-545.

Julie MacArthur, "When did the Luyia (or any other group) become a tribe [Kenya]?" *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 47.3 (2013): 351-363.

Optional

Crawford Young, *The Postcolonial state in Africa*, pp. 316-333

Adefemi Isumonah, "The Making of the Ogoni Ethnic Group," *Africa* 74.3 (2004): 433-453.

Topic 10

7 December

***(*Wednesday Dec. the 7th counts as a Monday, across Campus*)

The Politics of Identities in Africa II: The Sahel

Pelckmans L. Stereotypes of Past-Slavery and "Stereo-styles" in Post-Slavery: A Multidimensional, Interactionist Perspective on Contemporary Hierarchies. *International Journal of African Historical Studies* [serial online]. May 2015;48(2):281-301.

Thurston, A. "Muslim Politics and Shari'a in Kano State, Northern Nigeria." *African Affairs* 114, no. 454 (January 1, 2015): 28–51.

Optional

Mauxion, Aurelien. "Moving to Stay: Iklan Spatial Strategies Towards Socioeconomic Emancipation in Northern Mali, 1898-1960." *Journal of African History* 53, no. 2 (2012): 195.

Rossi, Benedetta. *From Slavery to Aid: Politics, Labour, and Ecology in the Nigerien Sahel, 1800–2000*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. <http://ebooks.cambridge.org/ref/id/CBO9781316340578>

Higazi, Adam, and Jimam Lar. "Articulations of Belonging: The Politics of Ethnic and Religious Pluralism in Bauchi and Gombe States, North-East Nigeria." *Africa* 85(1) (2015): 103–