

POLI 452: Africa and International Conflict Spring 2016

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Time and Location: 12.30 - 1.45 pm, GEC 1009.

Office Hours: T R 2.30-4.30 or by appt.

Introduction: The purpose of the course is to critically examine African conflicts using social science research. Currently, in the field of international relations, Africa remains the most understudied area of the world due to the fragility of the African states, and a lack of available social and political data. There are little to no studies that systematically examine Africa, and the ones that do typically assume that African conflicts can be studied in a similar way to European conflicts. This creates a situation where ignorance about Africa's conflict behavior persists in the public. This course proposes a remedy to this by conducting an in depth analysis of the causes of Africa's internal and external conflicts, both of which are linked. Specifically, the course will examine Africa's conflicts using a historical examination and advances in international relations theory to provide greater insight into Africa's security problems. We will further discuss where traditional international relations theory needs modification to understand Africa's security issues, and identify where current international relations theory may be more or less appropriate. In addition to theoretically examining Africa, the course will develop an in depth survey of many of Africa's conflicts. These include the initial European colonial intervention, the wars of independence, the Cold War and the use of proxies, the insurgencies of the 1990s and 2000s, the African World War, the Sudanese War, and the 'war on terror' in numerous states.

I would like to stress that this is a challenging course and the material presented will be difficult. The course will cover a significant amount of history from the perspective of Africa, much of which is not discussed in any great detail, particularly in high school texts. This will require you to do a significant amount of reading to bring yourself up to speed. You will see from the course reading list that it is heavy. Additionally, my goal is for us to explore the theoretical explanations behind Africa's conflicts and apply these to real world cases. Many of the theoretical arguments utilize formal mathematical modeling, advanced statistics, or intensive theoretical work. However, I do not expect any of you to have any background in either formal modeling or statistics. My main concern is not in the technical details, but that you develop an intuitive understanding of the central arguments and can explain them verbally. I therefore expect you to struggle with the material, but in the end, you should be able to use the arguments to understand real world cases and concepts. **In short, the class will require a significant dedication of time on your part.**

Grading: Your final grade in the course will be determined as follows:

Final Paper	60%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%

1. **Final Paper:** Each student will be required to write a 10-12 page paper (12 point font, double spaced) examining a historical or contemporary African conflict using the theoretical concepts identified in the class. The format of the paper should: 1) Introduce the conflict and briefly discuss its historical background 2) Make an argument about what has caused the conflict using one or more of the theoretical concepts identified in class 3) Present empirical evidence supporting your argument 4) Discuss the larger international implications of the conflict 5) Project the conflict's future. I want you to pick a topic which you are interested in. I therefore am pretty flexible with topics, but I encourage you to consult with me before you start writing extensively. If you have not turned in your paper by the deadline, you will lose one letter grade for each day that it is late (including weekends and holidays). The only exception to this will be in the case of documented emergencies, in which case I will need to see documentation.

2. **Midterm and Final:** You will be given two multiple choice exams during the semester. The exams will consist of twenty two questions, of which you will pick twenty to answer. The exams will focus primarily on theoretical aspects of the course, though there will be some historical questions as well. Primarily, the questions will be drawn from what is discussed in lecture, though some material may come from the readings as well, particularly the historical questions. The tests will be given in class through Sakai. For the midterm, you will be responsible for all material from the start of the class to the midterm. The final will mostly focus on the second half of the course, though you will more than likely be required to reference material from the first part as well.

Required Reading: There are two required texts for this course:

1. Christopher Clapham. 1996. *Africa and the International System*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Christopher Clapham ed. 1998. *African Guerrillas*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

The remaining readings are articles drawn from scholarly journals and books. I have posted the readings on the course website. The powerpoint presentation will also be posted here for the day's lecture. I encourage you to check the website often for updates.

Course Schedule and Reading List

January 12. Introduction.

January 14. Pre-Colonial Africa. Illife pp. 37-49, 63-82, 100-121.

January 19. Colonialism and the Slave Trade. Illife 7.

January 21. The Late Colonial Period and the World Wars. Illife 9-10.

January 26. Nationalism and Identity Politics. Illife, 11; James Fearon & David Laitin. 2000. Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity. *International Organization* 54(4): 845-877.

January 28. Independence, the Post-Colonial State, and Regime Consolidation. *Africa and the International System* 3; James Fearon. 1998. Commitment Problems and the Spread of Ethnic Conflict. Chapter 5 in David Lake and Donald Rothchild. *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

February 2. International Politics as a Savior. *Africa and the International System*, 4.

February 9. The African System of Alliances and the Superpower Competition. *Africa and the International System*, 5-6.

February 11. The End of the Cold War and Economic Crises. *Africa and the International System*, 7. N. Van der Walle. 2001. African economies and the politics of permanent crisis, 1979-1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chap. 4, p. 152-187.

February 16. Weak States without Enemies, Clientalism, and Neo-patrimonialism. *Africa and the International System*, 10. Goran Hyden. 2006 "Big Man Rule" Chapter 5 in *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*; Leonardo Arriola. 2009. Patronage and Political Stability in Africa. *Comparative Political Studies* 42: 10, pp. 1339-1362.

February 18. Midterm. No Reading Assignment.

February 23. Film. *Cuba: An African Odyssey*.

- February 25. The Rise of Insurgencies and Separatist Movements.** James Fearon & David Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.; Michael L. Ross. 2004. How do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization* 58: 1, pp. 35-67.
- March 1. Ethnic Conflict.** *Africa and the International System*, pp. 209-243; *African Guerrillas* 1.
- March 3. Somalia.** *African Guerrillas*, 5.
- March 8. Sudan.** *African Guerrillas*, 4. Samantha Power. 2004. Dying in Darfur. *The New Yorker*.
- March 10. Film.** *On Our Watch*.
- March 22. Western Africa** *African Guerrillas*, 10-11.
- March 24. Africa and Transnational Terrorism.** *African Guerrillas*, 7; Navin Bapat. 2011. Transnational Terrorism, U.S. Military Aid, and the Incentive to Misrepresent. *Journal of Peace Research* 48(3): 303-318.
- March 29. Libya and the Spread of Terrorism in the North and the Sahel.** John Campbell. 2014. Does Washington Have a Stake in the Sahel? Council on Foreign Relations.
- March 31. Terrorism as a Source of International Conflict.** Navin Bapat and Sean Ziegler. 2016. Transnational Terrorism, Dynamic Commitment Problems, and Military Conflict. *American Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming.
- April 5. Rwanda and the African World War.** *African Guerrillas*, 8-9.
- April 7. Film.** *Blood Coltan*.
- April 12. Nigeria.** Jason Warner and Michael Baca. 2015. After Boko Haram. *Foreign Affairs*. Available at: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/nigeria/2015-04-01/after-boko-haram>.
- April 14. Film.** *Fighting Boko Haram*.
- April 19. Intervention.** James Fearon and David Laitin. 2004. Neotrusteeship and the Problem of Weak States. *International Security* 28(4): 5-43.
- April 21. A New Scramble?** Donald Rothchild. The U.S. Role in Promoting Peaceful African Relations. Chapter 10 in Haberson and Rothchild. 2009. *Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order*. Westview: Westview Press; Denis M. Tull. China's Engagement in Africa: Scope, Significance, and Consequences. Chapter 13 in Haberson and Rothchild. **Final Papers Due!**
- April 26. Review.**
- May 3. Final Exam.** Scheduled for 12.00 pm in class.

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