

# POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

SPRING 2011

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OFFICE: KETCHUM 124  
HOURS: TR 1-2 & BY APPT

Welcome to *Political Systems of Sub-Saharan Africa* (PSCI 3082). This semester we will examine the history underlying contemporary sub-Saharan politics and discuss some of the issues that concern Africans and their leaders today. You do not need extensive prior knowledge of African affairs to succeed in this course, but you will need a healthy dose of curiosity and the willingness to engage in course readings and discussions.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a diverse and dynamic region, and we can only begin to scratch the surface of the puzzles we'll explore this term. We will balance more general discussions of trends in African politics with focused examinations of some especially interesting cases. The special case studies will include Rwanda, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Asante, Mali, and the Congo Free State.

## COURSE READINGS

Most of the readings for this course will be available to you for free via CULearn, but I will ask you to purchase four books for this course:

- *The Fate of Africa* (2005)  
by MARTIN MEREDITH
- *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* (2010)  
by RICHARD DOWDEN
- *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families* (1997)  
by PHILIP GOUREVITCH
- *King Leopold's Ghost* (1999)  
by ADAM HOCHSCHILD

Additionally, two optional books are available for purchase:

- *In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story* (1984)  
by JOHN STOCKWELL
- *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa* (2010)  
by DEBORAH BRAUTIGAM

These books are available at the bookstore. You can also find them from the usual online vendors. Your total for new editions of the four required books should be \$40-\$50.

## ASSESSMENT

Assignments will factor into your overall grade according to the percentages offered below, and your grades will be recorded on CULearn as they become available. The direct relationship between numerical scores and letter grade is not fixed, but I generally give plus grades for scores greater than #7.5. Similarly, minus grades are given when the score is less than #2.5.

Overall grades will be neither curved nor rounded unless the class average drops below 80%. Should this be the case, I will curve grades to raise the class average to an 80%.

MAP QUIZ (10%) [TUE 25 JAN]

We'll begin the third week with a quiz on the locations, capitals, and colonial histories of sub-Saharan states. You will find a study guide with the relevant information for this quiz on CULearn.

EXAM 1 (25%) [THU 10 FEB]

After five weeks, we will have our first exam. This exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. You will need a blue book for this exam.

EXAM 2 (25%) [THU 17 MAR]

Before spring break, we will have our second exam. This exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and it will cover material from weeks 6-10. You will need a blue book.

EXAM 3 (25%) [FINALS]

During finals week you will be tested on material covered in the five weeks after spring break (11-15). It will consist of short answer and essay questions and you will need a blue book.

READING QUIZZES (10%)

Your preparation will be tested occasionally with in-class or take-home reading quizzes on required materials. The take-home quizzes will be on CULearn and we'll have a practice one at the beginning of the semester just to try out the software. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from the record. Keep your quizzes as these will be very helpful while you study for your exams.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (5%)

This is an upper-level seminar and you are expected to participate regularly. The course will be better if you share your thoughts often. I look forward to your thoughtful contributions.

## READING SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1: AFRICA BEFORE COLONIZATION

### ASANTE EMPIRE

Session 1: Introduction and Geography

Tue 11 Jan

- Diamond, Jared. 1999. "How Africa Became Black: The History of Africa." In: *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. pp. 376-403. [CULearn]

Session 2: Pre-Colonial Africa and the Slave Trade

Thu 13 Jan

- Edgerton, Robert B. 1995. *The Fall of the Asante Empire: The Hundred Year War for Africa's Gold Coast*. New York: The Free Press. pp. 1-43. [CULearn]

### WEEK 2: THE COLONIAL PERIOD

### CONGO FREE STATE

Session 3: The Scramble and Colonization

Tue 18 Jan

- Hochschild, Adam. 1999. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. pp. 1-87.

Session 4: Colonization in the Congo

Thu 20 Jan

- Hochschild, Adam. 1999. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. pp. 101-181.
- Williams, George Washington. 1890. "An Open Letter to His Serene Majesty Leopold II, King of Belgians and Sovereign of the Independent State of Congo." Available Online. [CULearn]

### WEEK 3: INDEPENDENCE

### TANZANIA

Session 5: Map Quiz and Nationalism

Tue 25 Jan

- Meredith, Martin. 2005. "L'Afrique Noire" In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 58-74.
- Meredith, Martin. 2005. "Winds of Change" In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 75-92.

Session 6: Independence and the New Leaders

Thu 27 Jan

- Meredith, Martin. 2005. "The Birth of Nations" In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 141-161.
- Meredith, Martin. 2005. "The First Dance of Freedom" In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 162-178.
- Nyerere, Julius. 1966. "The Dilemma of the Pan-Africanist." Available Online. [CULearn]

**WEEK 4: AFRICAN DICTATORSHIP****ETHIOPIA**

Session 7: Neopatrimonial Regimes

Tue 1 Feb

- Decalo, Samuel. 1985. "African Personal Dictatorships." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 23(2):209-238. [CULearn]

Session 8: The Dictatorship of Haile Selassie

Thu 3 Feb

- Kapuscinski, Ryszard. 1989. *The Emperor*. New York: Vintage. pp. 4-16 and 28-56. [CULearn]
- Meredith, Martin. 2005. "Death of an Emperor" In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 206-217.

**WEEK 5: THE COLD WAR COMES TO AFRICA****ANGOLA**

Session 9: Ideology and War in Angola

Tue 8 Feb

- Marcum, John A. 1976. "Lessons of Angola." *Foreign Affairs* 54(3): 408-425. [CULearn]
- Stockwell, John. 1984. *In Search of Enemies: A CIA Story*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. pp. 9-15 and 40-56. [CULearn]

Session 10: First Exam

Thu 10 Feb

- No Reading. Please bring a blue book to class.

**WEEK 6: ETHNIC POLITICS AND DIVERSITY****RWANDA**

Session 11: Diversity and Conflict

Tue 15 Feb

- Gourevitch, Philip. 1997. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador. Chapters 1-7 (pp. 15-100).

Session 12: Ethnic Conflict in Rwanda

Thu 17 Feb

- Gourevitch, Philip. 1997. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador. Chapters 8-10 (pp. 101-144).

**WEEK 7: STATE FAILURE AND WAR****MOZAMBIQUE**

Session 13: Civil War and Instability

Tue 22 Feb

- Gourevitch, Philip. 1997. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*. New York: Picador. Chapter 11 (pp. 147-171).
- Elbadawi, Ibrahim and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Why Are There So Many Civil Wars in Africa?: Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9(3): 244-269. [CULearn]

Session 14: War in Mozambique

Tue 24 Feb

- Schafer, Jennifer. 2001. "Guerillas and Violence in the War in Mozambique: De-Socialization or Re-Socialization." *African Affairs* 100 (399): 215-237. [CULearn]

**WEEK 8: THE “THIRD WAVE” OF DEMOCRACY****BENIN**

Session 15: Democratization in Africa

Tue 1 Mar

- Meredith, Martin. 2005. “The Struggle for Democracy” In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 378-411.
- Van de Walle, Nicolas. 2002. “Africa’s Range of Regimes.” *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 66-80. [CULearn]

Session 16: Democratization in Benin

Thu 3 Mar

- Westebbe, Richard. 1996. “Structural Adjustment, Rent Seeking, and Liberalization in Benin.” In: Jennifer A. Widner (Editor). *Economic Change and Political Liberalization in sub-Saharan Africa*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. pp. 80-100. [CULearn].

**WEEK 9: AFRICAN DEMOCRACIES****KENYA & BOTSWANA**

Session 17: Failure in Kenya?

Tue 8 Mar

- Dowden, Richard. 2010. “Meat and Money: Eating in Kenya” In: *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 415-438.

Session 18: Success in Botswana?

Thu 10 Mar

- Good, Kenneth. 1992. “Interpreting the Exceptionality of Botswana.” *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 30(1): 69-95. [CULearn]

**WEEK 10: BEFORE AND AFTER APARTHEID****SOUTH AFRICA**

Session 19: South Africa Before and After Apartheid

Tue 15 Mar

- Meredith, Martin. 2005. “A Time of Triumph” In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 412-441.
- Meredith, Martin. 2005. “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 647-675.

Session 20: Second Exam

Thu 17 Mar

- No Readings. Please bring a blue book to class.

**WEEK 11: NATURAL RESOURCES AND PETRO-STATES****EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Session 21: Natural Resource Wealth

Tue 29 Mar

- Ross, Michael L. 2008. “Blood Barrels.” *Foreign Affairs*. [CULearn]
- Shaxson, Nicholas. 2008. “There Will Be Blood.” *Foreign Affairs*. [CULearn]

Session 22: Micro-Petro States

Thu 31 Mar

- Ghazvinian, John. 2007. "Instant Emirates." In: *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa's Oil*. Orlando: Harcourt. pp. 166-206. [CULearn]

**WEEK 12: THE AIDS PANDEMIC**

**UGANDA**

Session 23: AIDS and the African Response

Tue 5 Apr

- From Helen Epstein, *New York Review of Books*
  - "The Hidden Cause of AIDS." [CULearn]
  - "Can AIDS Be Stopped?" [CULearn]
  - "God and the Fight Against AIDS." [CULearn]
- *Optional/Recommended*: Epstein, Helen. 2007. *The Invisible Cure: Why We Are Losing the Fight Against AIDS in Africa*. New York: Picador. Chapters TBD. [CULearn]

Session 24: AIDS in Uganda

Thu 7 Apr

- Dowden, Richard. 2010. "The Positive Positive Women: AIDS in Africa" In: *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 321-352.

**WEEK 13: THE POLITICS AND EFFECTS OF FOREIGN AID**

**MALI**

Session 25: Foreign Aid and Development

Tue 12 Apr

- Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. "A Brief History of Aid." In: *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux Books. pp. 10-28. [CULearn]
- Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. "Aid is Not Working." In: *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux pp. 29-47. [CULearn]

Session 26: The Effects of Aid in Mali

Thu 14 Apr

- Brigaldino, Glenn. "Managing European Aid Resources in Mali." In: Carlsson, Jerker, Gloria Somolekae, and Nicolas Van de Walle (Eds.). 1997. *Foreign Aid in Africa: Learning from Country Experiences*. Uppsala, Sweden: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet. pp.128-146. [CULearn]

**WEEK 14: FOREIGN RELATIONS OF AFRICA**

**GABON**

Session 27: Africa and the World System

Tue 19 Apr

- Dowden, Richard. 2010. "New Colonists or Old Friends?: Asia in Africa" In: *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 484-508.

Session 28: China in Africa

Thu 21 Apr

- Brautigam, Deborah. 2010. *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. Chapters TBD. [CULearn]

## WEEK 15: PAN-AFRICAN REGIONALISM AND THE FUTURE

SOMALIA

Session 29: African Regionalism

Tue 26 Apr

- Grant, J. Andrew and Fredrik Söderbaum. 2003. "Introduction: The New Regionalism in Africa." In: J. Andrew Grant and Fredrik Söderbaum (Eds.). *The New Regionalism in Africa*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate. pp.: 1-20. [CULearn]
- Shaw, Timothy M., Fredrik Söderbaum, Julius E. Nyang'oro, and J. Andrew Grant. 2003. "The Future of New Regionalism in Africa: Regional Governance, Human Security/Development and Beyond." Burlington, VT: Ashgate. pp.: 192-206. [CULearn]

Session 30: Successes and Failures

Thu 28 Apr

- Dowden, Richard. 2010. "Amazing, but is it Africa?: Somalia" In: *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles* New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 90-126.
- Meredith, Martin. 2005. "Blackhawk Down" In: *The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair*. New York: Public Affairs Books. pp. 464-484.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Course Conduct:* Much of our class will consist of discussion and debate. Strong opinions are encouraged, but you are also expected to be professional and respectful at all times.

*Academic Honesty:* I strongly encourage you to read the university's policies on academic honesty and your rights should you be accused of cheating. These documents are available online at <http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode/>

*Special Considerations:* In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, faculty are required to make "reasonable and timely accommodations" for students with disabilities. By university policy, that obligation only extends to students who have registered with the Office of Disability Services, which makes the determination of whether, for example, students have real learning disorders. If you are a student with a disability, please notify me in writing within the first two weeks of semester what accommodations are needed. Please provide me documentation from Disability Services (303-492-8671, Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)). If you have religious obligations that may conflict with this course, please notify me in writing within the first two weeks of semester in order to seek a reasonable and fair arrangement. The campus policy regarding religious observance is available at [www.colorado.edu/policies.fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies.fac_relig.html).