

## **INTL 190: Politics of Africa**

**Wednesdays 9-11:50**  
**SSB 107**

Professor Clark Gibson

Office: Social Science Building 386

Telephone: 822-5140

E-Mail: [cggibson@ucsd.edu](mailto:cggibson@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Monday 8:30-9:30. Other times to meet can be arranged upon request.

### **Overview:**

This course seeks to introduce students to the politics of Africa. It covers the essentials for understanding contemporary African governance, including the effects of colonialism, independence movements, authoritarian rule, the nature and powers of the African state, the continent's recent movement towards democracy, Africa's slow economic growth, ethnic politics, AIDS, and civil war.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

The course will have a midterm (20%), final (20%), class work (20%), and final paper (40%).

- The Exams will be comprised mainly of short answers.
- Class Work means that students are expected to be able to discuss with authority the readings assigned. Reading is to be finished for discussion on the date listed. Note that class work is assigned the same total value as the exams.
- The Final Paper is expected to be between 20 and 30 pages long (double spaced), excluding bibliography. I will assign the topics. Deadlines for outlines, bibliography, and final paper are indicated below.

### **INTL 190 Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments**

WEEK 1 – January 9

#### Introduction: Diversity

- “The Diversity of African Politics: Trends and Approaches,” in Naomi Chazan et al., *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1999), pp. 5-14.
- “Africa: The Heart of the Matter,” *The Economist*, 13 May 2000.
- Thomas Pakenham, “Introduction,” in *The Scramble for Africa, 1876-1912* (New York: Random House, 1991), pp. xxi-xxiii.
- Michael Crowder, “Indirect Rule: French and British Style,” *Africa* 34 (July 1964), pp. 197-205.

WEEK 2 – January 16

#### The Legacy of Colonialism

- Peter Ekeh, “Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 17 (Jan 1975), pp. 91-112.
- Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* (New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1998), ch. 4.

#### National Independence Movements

- Peter J. Schraeder, “Nationalism and the Emergence of the Contemporary Independence Era,” *African Politics and Society* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000). ch. 6.

- Robert Bates, “The Commercialization of Agriculture and the Rise of Rural Political Protest,” in *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983), ch. 4.

Test on the Map of Africa.

Paper Topics Assigned.

WEEK 3 – January 23

The Centralization of Authority and the Rise of Personal Rule

- Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “The Political Economy of African Personal Rule,” in Apter and Rosberg, *Political Development and the New Realism in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1994), pp. 291-322.
- Patrick Chabal and Jean-Pascal Daloz, “W(h)ither the State?” and “Recycled Elites,” in *Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument* (Oxford: James Currey, 1999), chs. 1 and 3.
- Crawford Young and Thomas Turner, “The Patrimonial State and Personal Rule,” in *The Rise and Decline of the Zairian State* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1985), ch. 6.

WEEK 4 – January 30

State Capacity and State Decay

- Martin Meredith, “The Slippery Slope” in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), ch. 16.
- Jennifer Widner, “States and Statelessness in Late Twentieth Century Africa,” *Daedalus* (Summer 1995), pp. 129-153.
- Blaine Harden, “The Last Safari,” *New York Times Magazine*, 4 June 2000.
- “Kenya’s Crumbling Railways,” *BBC News Online*, 21 August 2000.
- “The Road to Hell is Unpaved,” *The Economist*, 21 December 2002.

Agricultural Policy

- Robert Bates, “The Nature and Origins of Agricultural Policies in Africa,” in *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1983), ch. 5.

WEEK 5 – February 6

Disengagement from the State

- Victor Azarya and Naomi Chazan, “Disengagement from the State in Africa: Reflections on the Experience of Ghana and Guinea,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 29 (1987), pp. 106-31.
- George Packer, “How Susie Bayer’s T-Shirt Ended Up on Yusuf Mama’s Back,” *New York Times Magazine*, 31 March 2002.
- “Kenya Losing Needed MDs as Low Pay Causes Flight,” *New York Times*, 7 October 2001.
- “Africans Fill Churches that Celebrate Wealth,” *New York Times*, 13 March 2002.

Midterm.

WEEK 6 – February 13

Identity Politics: Ethnicity

- Nelson Kasfir, “Explaining Ethnic Political Participation,” *World Politics* 31 (April 1979), pp. 365-388.
- Blaine Harden, “Battle for the Body,” in *Africa: Dispatches from a Fragile Continent* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990), ch. 3.
- Daniel Posner, “Ethnicity and Ethnic Politics in Zambia,” *Institutions and Ethnic Politics in Africa* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), ch. 4.

### Identity Politics: Class

- Richard Sklar, "The Nature of Class Domination in Africa," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 17 (1979), pp. 531-52.
- Michael Lofchie, "The Ugandan Coup: Class Action by the Military," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 10 (May 1972), pp. 19-35.

### Bibliography due.

WEEK 7 – February 20

### Political Change in Africa in the 1990s

- Martin Meredith, "The Struggle for Democracy" in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), ch. 23.
- Robert Bates, "The Economic Bases of Democratization," in Richard Joseph, ed., *State, Conflict and Democracy in Africa* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1999), pp. 83-94.
- Jennifer A Widner, "Political Reform in Anglophone and Francophone African Countries," in Jennifer A. Widner, ed., *Economic Change and Political Liberalization in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), pp. 49-79.
- Staffan Lindberg, "Elections in Africa Over Time," in *Democracy and Elections in Africa* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), ch. 3.
- E. Gyimah-Boadi, "Africa: The Quality of Political Reform," in E. Gyimah-Boadi, ed., *Democratic Reform in Africa: The Quality of Progress* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2004), ch. 1.
- "Elections in Nigeria: The People Disagree," *The Economist*, 26 April 2003.

### Outline due.

WEEK 8 – February 27

### Explaining Slow Economic Growth in Africa

- Martin Meredith, "The Lost Decade" in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), ch. 22.
- Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13 (Summer 1999), pp. 3-22.
- Film: *Our Friends At the Bank*

WEEK 9 – March 5

### The Domestic Politics of Economic Reform in Africa

- Jeffrey Herbst, "The Structural Adjustment of Politics in Africa," *World Development* 18 (1990), pp. 949-58.
- Blaine Harden, "Eye of the Family," in *Africa: Dispatches from a Fragile Continent* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990), ch. 2.
- Nicolas van de Walle, "Economic Reform: Patterns and Constraints," in E. Gyimah-Boadi, ed., *Democratic Reform in Africa: The Quality of Progress* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2004), ch. 2.

### The International Politics of Economic Reform in Africa: Aid and Debt

- Christopher Clapham, "The International Politics of Economic Failure," in *Africa in the International System: The Politics of State Survival* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), ch. 7.
- Jeffery Sachs, "Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated?" *Scientific American* (September 2005), pp. 56-65.
- William Easterly, "The Big Push Déjà Vu: A Review of Jeffery Sachs' The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time," *Journal of Economic Literature* 44 (March 2006), pp. 96-105.

WEEK 10 – March 12

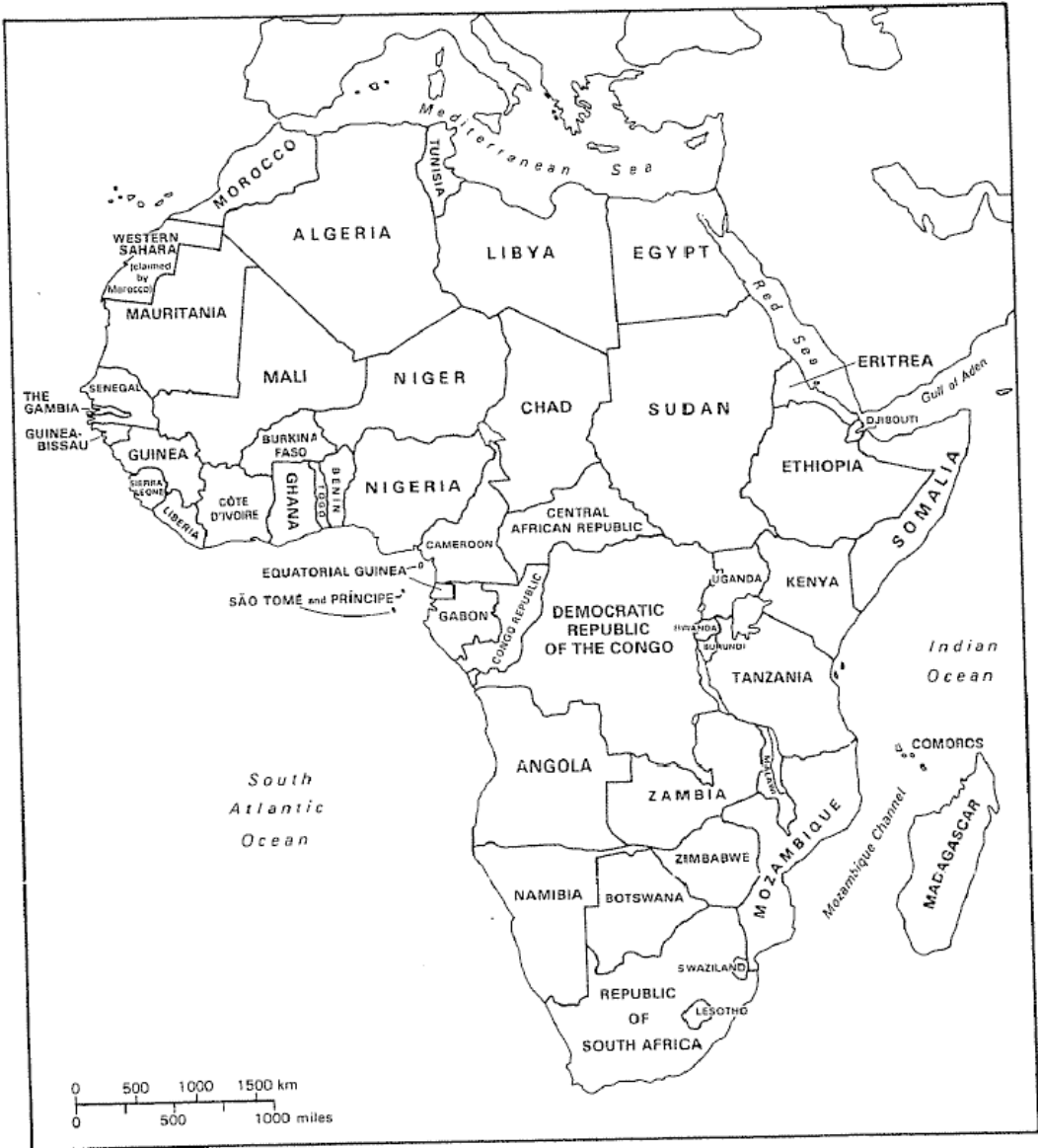
Current Issues

- Martin Meredith, “The Scourge of AIDS” in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), ch. 21.
- Thomas Philipson and Richard A. Posner, “The Microeconomics of the AIDS Epidemic in Africa,” *Population and Development Review* 21 (December 1995), pp. 835-848.
- “Cheap Solutions Cut AIDS Toll for Poor Kenyan Youths,” *New York Times*, 6 August 2006.
- Martin Meredith, “Where Vultures Fly” and “Blood Diamonds” in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), chs. 28 and 29.
- Jon Lee Anderson, “Letter from Angola: Oil and Blood,” *The New Yorker*, 14 August 2000, pp. 46-59.
- “Children Under Arms,” *The Economist*, 10 July 1999.
- “World Bank Blames Diamonds and Drugs for Many Wars,” *New York Times*, 16 June 2000.

*Final Paper Due.*

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**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship (<http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm>). Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in forbidden conduct will be subjected to the disciplinary process. Cheaters will receive a failing grade on the assignment or the exam and/or in the entire course. They may also be suspended from UCSD.



Outline Political Map of Contemporary Africa