PSCI 0202: AFRICAN POLITICS
Middlebury College
Spring 2016

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 10:10-11:00 in RAJ CON
Discussions: Wednesday 12:30-1:20 (Y) and 1:45-2:35 (Z) in FIC FR1

Ms. Nadia Rabesahala Horning
Office: 118 RAJ
Phone: 443-3428

e-mail: nhorning@middlebury.edu

Office Hours: Mon 1:30-3:00
Thu 3:15-4:45
or by appointment

E-Res password: 4204nh

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What challenges and possibilities does Sub-Saharan Africa present in our era of globalization? We will look at the process of state formation in order to appreciate the relationships between historical legacies, politics and economic development. Themes include colonization, authoritarian rule, democratization, (non-)development, aid and sovereignty, resource politics, civil strife, and innovation. Case studies from Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone Africa will be used to shed light on such linkages.

REQUIREMENTS

Texts: Copies of required texts are available for purchase at the College Store. They are also on reserve at the Library. Readings marked “□” are available on electronic reserve. Those marked “[web]” and “[lib]” are available online and through the library, respectively. The password for e-Res for this course is 4204nh.


NOTE: We will read some, but not all, books in their entirety. You may want to consider making personal copies of some of the assigned passages.
Students are expected to:

- Attend lectures on Monday and Wednesday morning and discussions on Wednesday afternoon.
- Actively participate in lecture and discussion (Note: Attendance in discussion is mandatory, not optional. Please do not confuse quality of participation with quantity).
- Complete the assigned readings before lecture and discussion. Please keep in mind that readings are designed to accompany or complement lectures. It is each student’s responsibility to make the connections between lectures, readings and screenings.
- Become familiar with the continent’s geography (see political map at http://mapsof.net/uploads/static-maps/africa_political_map.png; alternatively, see http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa/africa_pol98.jpg or play online games, e.g. on http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/afrquiz.html).
- Keep up with the news from the sub-continent, using traditional sources (New York Times, BBC’s web sites, National Public Radio, Le Monde, Jeune Afrique, rfi.com, france24.com, International Crisis Group web site, etc.) as well as allAfrica.com, which is recommended. My personal favorite is Aljazeera.com

Students will complete

- A short analytical essay (1,250 words or 5 pages)
- 3 Unit Summaries (500 words, double-spaced, each)
- A mid-term exam (blue book type)
- A research paper OR final exam (the choice is yours)

according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement/Assignment</th>
<th>Due When? (2016)</th>
<th>Due Where?</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in discussion</td>
<td>Every Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Summaries</td>
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<td>Short Essay (1,250 words)</td>
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<td>In Class</td>
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<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
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<td>In Class</td>
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<td>Final Exam OR Final Paper</td>
<td>5/19 9-noon</td>
<td>In Class</td>
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<td>5/20 by 4 p.m.</td>
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**Attendance Policy:**

Class and screenings attendance is mandatory, not optional.

**Late Paper Policy:** No

No extensions will be given for any of the assigned work, with the exception of (1) family emergencies and (2) personal health problems reported to me by the student’s dean. Since the answer will otherwise be “no,” please do not ask.

All assignments turned in late will be marked down one-third of a grade (e.g., A- to B+; B to B-, etc.) for each day that they are late. To be clear, turning in an assignment any time during the first 24 hours after it is due will be penalized a third of a grade. Assignments not turned within a week of the due date will automatically receive a failing grade (F).
**Academic Conduct:**

Academic honesty is the expected norm at Middlebury College. This means that all the work you hand in must be your own. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarizing, please refer to Middlebury College’s Academic Disciplinary Policies at [http://www.middlebury.edu/about/handbook/student/Academic_Disciplinary_Policies](http://www.middlebury.edu/about/handbook/student/Academic_Disciplinary_Policies) or ask me. The rule of thumb is, “when in doubt, ask the instructor.”

To be accepted, your work will need to be submitted in hard copy form, *with the honor code pledge written, signed, and respected.*

**Computer use in the classroom:**

Laptops are permitted in class, but students must *stay offline* for the duration of class.
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<td>The Age of Authoritarianism</td>
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Final Exam (in class) Monday May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon.
Final research papers will be due in 118 RAJ on 5/20 by 4:00 p.m.
UNIT I. FROM COLONIES TO INDEPENDENT STATES

Week 1

_Monday_ Course Overview and Logistics + Africa, a Big and Diverse Continent

_Wednesday_ Pre-Colonial Experiences

  Mali Empire Constitution (handout on website)

Week 2

_Monday_ Colonizing Africa

  Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold’s Ghost*, pp. 21-139 [140+ recommended].
  Moss, Chapter 2

_Wednesday_ Colonial Experiences

  Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism*, pp. 31-94.

Week 3

_Monday_ The Road to Independence

  Nyerere, Julius. 1966. “Ujamaa—The basis of African Socialism” (handout on website)

_Wednesday_ Decolonization


_Friday_ Unit I Summary

UNIT II. POST-INDEPENDENCE STATES AND NATIONS

Week 4

_Monday_ Independence: the Early Years

  Moss, Chapter 3

_Monday_ Short Essay Questions Distributed
Tuesday (7:30 p.m. in our classroom) Screening

_Mobutu, King of Zaïre_ (Thierry Michel, Dir.) 1999, Part II [approx. 1 hour]

Recommended for Screening:


Wednesday The Age of Authoritarianism


Week 5

Monday Conflicts Short Essay Due


Wednesday Ethnic Conflicts

Chabal & Daloz, Ch. 4.

Week 6

Monday The 1994 Rwandan Genocide

Screening of _Rwanda: the Weapon_ (2005), a film by William Gentile and Ted Koppel. ABC Nightline (in class)
- Gourevitch, Philip. 1999. *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda.* Ch. 4, pp. 47-62.

Wednesday Kenya’s 2007-2008 Post-Electoral Crisis


SPRING RECESS
Week 7

**Monday** Giant Steps toward Democracy

Moss, Chapter 5


Recommended:


**Wednesday** Mid-Term Exam in Class

Week 8

**Monday** Democracy, Africa’s Way


**Wednesday**


**Thursday** Unit II Summary (you may turn this in over the weekend instead)
UNIT III. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Week 9

Monday (Non-)Development

Moss, Chapter 6

Wednesday Foreign Aid

Moss, Chapter 8
- Screening of Our Friends at the Bank (1997), a film by Peter Chappell (Part I) [in class]

Week 10

Monday Development: Good Aid, Bad Aid

Screening of “Change your Channel” by Mallence Bart Williams [in class]
- Chabal & Daloz, Ch. 8 & 9
- Moss, Chapter 9

Wednesday The “Good Life”?

Screening of What Are We Doing Here? By Klein Brothers (excerpts), Kenya’s AIDS orphans [in class]

Week 11

Monday Natural Resources as Political Tools


Tuesday This film is available online through the library:
Mugabe and the White African (Lucy Bailey and Andrew Thompson, Dirs.) 2010 [94 min.]

Wednesday Conservation Politics


Friday Unit III Summary

Week 12

Monday Initiatives and Innovations

Screening of What Are We Doing Here? By Klein Brothers (excerpts), Somaliland [in class]


Recommended:


Wednesday AfroDespair, AfroHope

Screening of African initiatives and innovations: agriculture, health, education, etc. Chabal & Daloz, Ch. 10.