PSCI 0202: AFRICAN POLITICS
Middlebury College
Fall 2019

Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:45 in Warner 202

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

e-mail: nhorning@middlebury.edu

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00
Wednesday 10:30-noon
or by appointment

Office: 118 RAJ
Phone: 443-3428

e-mail: nhorning@middlebury.edu

E-Res password: 2242nh

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What challenges and opportunities 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 and politics and economic development. Case studies from Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone Africa will be used to shed light on these linkages. Themes explored include colonization, decolonization, authoritarian rule, democratization, (non-)development, foreign aid, resource politics, civil strife, and innovation.

REQUIREMENTS

Texts:


Additional course materials are accessible on our course website at
http://sites.middlebury.edu/nhorningpsci0202/

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 Tuesday and Thursday morning. Attendance is mandatory.
- Actively participate in lecture, based on familiarity with course materials.
- Complete the assigned readings before lecture. 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 site, National Public Radio, Le Monde, Jeune Afrique, rfi.com, france24.com, Al Jazeera web sites, 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 Reflections (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? (2019)</th>
<th>Due Where?</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in class</td>
<td>Every class</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Reflections (3 total)</td>
<td>9/27; 11/1; 12/5 by 4:15 pm</td>
<td>RAJ 118</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay (1,250 words)</td>
<td>10/8 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>In Class</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>In Class</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam OR Final Paper</td>
<td>12/14 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm OR 12/6 by 4:00 pm</td>
<td>WNS 202 OR RAJ 118</td>
<td>30</td>
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**Attendance Policy:**

*Class and screenings attendance are mandatory, not optional.* If you miss more than 2 classes without valid explanation over the course of the semester, your grade will suffer by one-third of a grade per absence.

**Late Paper Policy:**

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).
Letters of Accommodation:

Students who have Letters of Accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact me as early in the semester as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For those without Letters of Accommodation, assistance is available to eligible students through Student Accessibility Services. Please contact Jodi Litchfield at litchfie@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5936 for any information. All discussions will remain confidential.

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/ug-college-policies/ug-policies/academics 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 unless instructor specifically says otherwise.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>9/10 Course overview Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>9/12 Pre-colonial experiences</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>9/17 Colonizing Africa</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>9/19 Colonial Experiences</td>
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<td>Clifford Symposium</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>9/24 The Road to Independence</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>9/26 Decolonization</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>10/1 Independence: Early Years</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>10/3 The Age of Authoritarianism</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>10/8 Consequences of Authoritarianism: Conflicts</td>
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<td>10/10 Consequences of Authoritarianism: The “Ethnic Issue”</td>
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<td>Homecoming</td>
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<td>Côte d’Ivoire 2011</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/21 Mid-Term Recess</td>
<td>10/22 Mid-Term Recess</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>10/24 Giant Steps to Democracy</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>10/29 Mid-Term Exam (in class)</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>10/31 Democracy à la Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>11/5 (Non-)Development</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>11/7 Foreign Aid</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/12 Good Aid, Bad Aid</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>11/14 The “Good Life”?</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>11/19 Natural Resources as Political Tools (International)</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>11/21 Natural Resources as Political Tools (Domestic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>12/3 Innovations</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>12/5 Unit 3 Reflection Recap &amp; CRFs</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM</td>
<td>12/9 Reading Day</td>
<td>12/10 Exam Period Begins</td>
<td>12/11 Final Exams</td>
<td>12/12 Reading Day</td>
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Final Research Papers (Option 1) due on Friday, December 6 2019 by 4:00 pm

The Final Exam (Option 2) will take place on Saturday, December 14 2019 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm
UNIT I. FROM COLONIES TO INDEPENDENT STATES

Week 1
Day 1: Course Overview and Logistics + Africa, a Big and Diverse Continent
Day 2: Pre-Colonial Experiences
  - Mali Empire Constitution (handout on website)

Week 2
Day 1: Colonizing Africa
  - Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold’s Ghost*, pp. 21-139 [140+ recommended].
  - Moss, Chapter 2
Day 2: Colonial Experiences
  - Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism*, pp. 31-94.

Week 3
Day 1: The Road to Independence
  - Nkrumah, Kwame. 1963. Speech (see course website)
  - Nyerere, Julius. 1966. “Ujamaa—The basis of African Socialism” (see course website)

Day 2: Decolonization

Friday  Unit I Reflection

UNIT II. POST-INDEPENDENCE STATES AND NATIONS

Week 4
Day 1: Independence: Early Years

Short Essay Questions Distributed (essay due on 10/8)
Day 2: The Age of Authoritarianism

- Moss, Chapter 3

To dig deeper (recommended)...


Week 5

Day 1: Consequences of Authoritarianism: Conflicts


Wednesday: **Essay Due by 4:00 pm (118 RAJ)**

Day 2: Consequences of Authoritarianism: the “Ethnic Issue”

- Chabal & Daloz, Ch. 4.

Week 6

Day 1: The 1994 Rwandan Genocide

- 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.


Week 7

Day 1: Giant Steps toward Democracy

- Moss, Chapter 5

To dig deeper (recommended)...


Day 2: Democracy, Africa’s Way


Friday Unit II Reflection

Week 8

Day 1: Mid-Term Exam (in class)

Day 2: Democracy à la Africa

No readings (you are welcome). Instead, Watch, Learn, and Respond [in class]

UNIT III. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Week 9

Day 1: (Non-)Development

- Moss, Chapter 6
Day 2: Foreign Aid

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

To dig deeper (recommended)...


Week 10

Day 1: Development: Good Aid, Bad Aid

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

Day 2: The “Good Life”?

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

Week 11

Day 1: Natural Resources as Political Tools (International Realm)


Day 2: Natural Resources as Political Tools (Domestic Realm)


Break Week

Day 1: Individual assignments discussion (instructions on course website)
**Week 12**

**Day 1:** Initiatives and Innovations

- Screening of *What Are We Doing Here?* By Klein Brothers (excerpts), Somaliland [in class]
- Screening of African initiatives and innovations: agriculture, health, education, etc. [in class]

**Day 2:** Course Recap and Course Response Forms

- Chabal & Daloz, Ch. 10.

**Unit III Reflection**

**Friday, December 6:** Final Research Paper due at RAJ 118 by 4:00 pm

**Saturday, December 14  7:00-10:00 pm:** Final Exam (in class)