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

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:¹ 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 2242nh.


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

¹ 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/afrrquiz.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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in class</td>
<td>Every class</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay (1,250 words)</td>
<td>10/8 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>In Class</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>In Class</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<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 RAJ 118</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 litchifie@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.
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.


RECESS RECESS RECESS RECESS RECESS RECESS

Week 7 [No Day 1]

Day 2: Democracy in Africa

- Moss, Chapter 5


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)