PSCI 0431: AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SEMINAR
Middlebury College
Fall 2019
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 am in RAJ CON

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

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

e-mail: nhorning@middlebury.edu

OUR SEMINAR

Karibuni to this senior seminar! We will investigate (1) what is distinct about African political systems, (2) what Sub-Saharan Africa’s principal governance challenges are, (3) what the main explanations are for these challenges, (4) how these governance challenges are reflected in Africans’ day-to-day lives; finally, (5) how Africans are turning challenges into opportunities for positive change. Questions we will explore include: (a) What types of public goods or public “bads” have African governments produced? (b) What is being done about the public “bads?” (c) Which African governments are performing well, and which ones are not?, and why? Finally, (d) Under what conditions are Africans likely to overcome Africa’s governance challenges?

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to:

- Attend all seminars and actively participate in discussions (attendance is mandatory, not optional).
- Attend one out-of-class screening on Wednesday, October 30 (see page 4).
- Complete the assigned readings and other materials before class to ensure that discussions are informed, lively, fruitful, and interesting.
- Complete research on innovations across the continent by semester’s end (aim for 1 innovation per week—pace yourself!).
- Make connections across topics discussed in the seminar and across your learning experiences on and off campus.
- Attend and even cook for the class dinner scheduled for Thursday, November 21.

Each student will complete the following by term’s end:

- 2 short essays (1,500 words+ bibliography each) or 6 reflection pieces (500 words each) or 1 essay and 3 reflections
- One in-class group presentation (2 to 3 students per group)
- A research paper (12-15 pages + bibliography)
- An innovation portfolio in various realms of Africans’ lives (5 innovations selected from a wider pool)

according to the following schedule:
### Requirement/Assignment Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement/Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Every Class</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 analytical essays OR</td>
<td>Oct 11 and Nov 15</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 6 reflections</td>
<td>9/20; 10/4; 10/18; 11/1; 11/15; 12/4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td><strong>10/11 and 9/20; 10/4; 10/18</strong> OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 essay; 3 reflections</td>
<td><strong>10/18; 11/1; 12/4 and 11/15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Innovation portfolio and Group presentation</td>
<td>by December 5 (118 RAJ) Weeks 11, Break, and 12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 research paper</td>
<td>Dec 6 by 4:15 p.m. (118 RAJ)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OUR RULES

#### Late Paper Policy:

Please be advised that no extensions will be given for any of the assigned work, with the exception of (1) family emergencies and (2) personal health problems. Otherwise, no extensions will be considered. Since the answer is most likely to be “no,” please do not ask. A Dean’s note is needed for all special circumstances.

Assignments turned in late will be graded 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). Please plan accordingly.

#### 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/acad-honesty](http://www.middlebury.edu/about/handbook/ug-college-policies/ug-policies/academics/acad-honesty) or ask the instructor. The rule of thumb is, “when in doubt, cite your sources.”

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

#### Computer use in the classroom:

Laptops are permitted in class, but students **must stay offline** for the duration of class unless otherwise instructed.
OUR READINGS

Required Texts:¹

Copies of required texts, marked * on this syllabus, are on reserve at the Library (along with one film). On your reading list, all online materials not accessible through the library are marked "web" or "@" when they are posted on our course website (be sure to login!):
http://sites.middlebury.edu/psci0431f12/


2. Wrong, Michela. 2009. *It's Our Turn to Eat*. Harper (paper).


The following is a reference intended to give you some background on the continent’s political history. It is available at the Davis Family Library:


¹ NOTE: We will read some, but not all, books in their entirety. You may want to consider making copies of assigned passages or going to the library where these books have been placed on reserve. Some of the books are also accessible online through Google Books, so if that works for you...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>TH</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/9</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>9/12 Mis/Perceptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>9/19 Benefits of Inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dangers of Alienation</td>
<td>Benefit of Inclusion</td>
<td><strong>Clifford Symposium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/23</td>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>9/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The State</td>
<td></td>
<td>9/27 Family Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>10/3 Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Somaliland</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reflection 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>10/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Nation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1st essay (4:15 pm)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>10/17 Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reflection 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>10/24 Sovereignty 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-Term Recess</td>
<td>Mid-Term Recess</td>
<td></td>
<td>10/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/28</td>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>10/31 African Reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sovereignty 2</td>
<td>Screening @ 7:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reflection 4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>11/8 Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>11/14 Governance (Individual Work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corruption (Peer Work)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Reflection 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11/18</td>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>11/21 Prosperity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leadership (Joint Class with GEOG0210)</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>INNOVATIONS Presentations II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Class Dinner</strong></td>
<td>11/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Venue: MBH219</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>INNOVATIONS Presentations I</td>
<td>11/28 Thanksgiving Recess</td>
<td>11/29 Thanksgiving Recess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/2</td>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>12/5 Recap + CRFs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>INNOVATIONS Presentations</td>
<td>Reflection 6</td>
<td><strong>Innovation Portfolios</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Breaking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>TH</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>11/28 Final Research Paper (4:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>INNOVATIONS Presentations I</td>
<td>11/28 Thanksgiving Recess</td>
<td>Classes End 4:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/28</td>
<td>12/29</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td>12/31 Final Exams through Sunday 12/15 @ 10pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>TH</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12/12 Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>Exam Period Begins</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>TH</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>11/26</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>11/28 Final Research Paper (4:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>INNOVATIONS Presentations I</td>
<td>11/28 Thanksgiving Recess</td>
<td>Classes End 4:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/28</td>
<td>12/29</td>
<td>12/30</td>
<td>12/31 Final Exams through Sunday 12/15 @ 10pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>TH</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>12/12 Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>Exam Period Begins</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Day**
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS & OVERVIEW OF AFRICAN POLITICS

Tuesday

- Introductions (Who are “we”?)
- Course overview (syllabus + course web page)
- Overview of Sub-Saharan Africa’s Politics
web Africa’s political map. See https://www.mapsofworld.com/africa/

Thursday Africa Mis/Perceived

web “Why Africans worry about how Africa is portrayed in the Western media” available here.
web Ghanaian President to French President here [video 8’14”]
web Walé Oyéjidé “Fashion that celebrates African pride and spirit” talk available here [video 4’55”]

- Short research assignment results (see website for instructions)

WEEK 2: ALIENATION & INCLUSION

Tuesday Dangers of Alienation

web de Waal, Alex. 2016. ”African Academics Face a Huge Divide between their Real and Scholarly Selves.” Available here [1.5]

Thursday Benefits of Inclusion

* Olopade, Chapters 1-3 [50]

WEEK 3: THE STATE

Tuesday

Thursday

@ Englebert, Pierre. 2009. *Africa: unity, sovereignty, and sorrow*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapters 1, 2, 3 (1-56) [55]

**WEEK 4: CHALLENGES TO THE STATE**

**Tuesday** Somalia & Somaliland


**Thursday** Mali


Optional

web France24 (2018) ”Mali: AQIM reaffirming its presence in the center, as the Islamic state group takes foot” accessible [here](https://france24.com).  

**WEEK 5: THE NATION**

**Tuesday**

web “To Build a Nation” by Professor Philip Zelikow (University of Virginia) available [here](https://www.virginia.edu/ooc/HistoricalPerspectives/Zelikow/video29.html).  
Review Collier 2011 Chapter 8 (see Week 3)
Thursday


WEEK 6: CHALLENGES TO THE NATION STATE MODEL

Tuesday Sudan & South Sudan


Thursday Ethiopia


WEEK 7: SOVEREIGNTY 1

Thursday Western Aid’s Deeds and Misdeeds

* Olopade, Chapter 4 [24]
and
* Moyo 2009, Part I (up to p. 68)—GROUP 1

OR @ Sachs, Jeffrey. 2006. “Can the Rich Afford to Help the Poor?” “Myths and Magic Bullets” “Why We Should Do It” in The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Times (288-346) [58]—GROUP 2

To be clear, read Olopade Ch. 4 + Moyo
or
Olopade Ch. 4 + Sachs

WEEK 8: SOVEREIGNTY 2

Tuesday The China Factor

**Wednesday**  
**Screening**

**7:30 p.m.** *When China Met Africa*, Mark Francis and Nick Francis, Directors. Bullfrog Films, 2010 (75 mn). Venue TBD. Film available on reserve at the Davis Library, call #HG5853.A3 W44 2010D

**Thursday**  
China in Africa: Reactions


**WEEK 9: INSTITUTIONS**

**Tuesday**  
**Democracy**

- **web** “Akufo-Addo: Africa’s march of democracy hard to reverse-Talk to Al Jazeera” accessible [here](#) [Video 25’]

**Thursday**  
**Kenya**

- **web** The 2010 Constitution of Kenya accessible [here](#)
  *(mostly skim, but note passages that catch your attention)*

**WEEK 10: GOVERNANCE (SELF WORK AND PEER WORK²)**

**Tuesday**  
**Corruption** (Peer Work)

- ***** Wrong 2009, pp. 1-162 (163-338 recommended)
- **web** “A redefining moment for Africa” (about corruption trends) available [here](#) [1 page]

Research assignment on Corruption [See course website for instructions]

**Optional**


Research assignment on Governance [See course website for instructions]

Reports in class (informal)

---

² Extra credit offered for excellent submitted reports.
Thursday Governance (Self Work)

Research assignment on Governance [See course website for instructions]  
Reports in class (informal)

WEEK 11: LEADERSHIP & LIFE IN AFRICA

Tuesday Leadership NOTE: Venue is MBH 219 for this class

Watch in suggested sequence if possible

- web “Africa’s Cheetahs vs. Hippos” by Professor George Ayittey available here [video 17’38”]
- web Mo Ibrahim laments Africa leadership crisis available here [video 2’48”]
- web Nana Akufo-Addo on aspirations for Africa’s future available here [video 9’34”]
- web “The phenomenal mindset of Africa’s future leaders” by Nkosana Mafico available here [video 12’04”]

Thursday Prosperity (1st round of presentations)

  * Olopade. 2015. Chapters 5 & 6 [53]

• Innovation Presentations Round 1

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 6:00 pm AFRICAN DINNER (Menu + Venue TBD collectively)

BREAK WEEK: LIFE IN AFRICA

Tuesday Security (2d round of presentations)


Optional
  @ Collier 2009, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 3 (1-50, 75-100) [75]

• Innovation Presentations Round 2

WEEK 12: LIFE IN AFRICA

Tuesday Tapping into Potential (3d round of presentations)

  * Olopade. 2015. Chapters 8 & 9 [58]

• Innovation Presentations Round 3

Thursday Course Recap & Course Response Forms

  Innovation portfolios due at the beginning of class (or sooner).