

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

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> 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

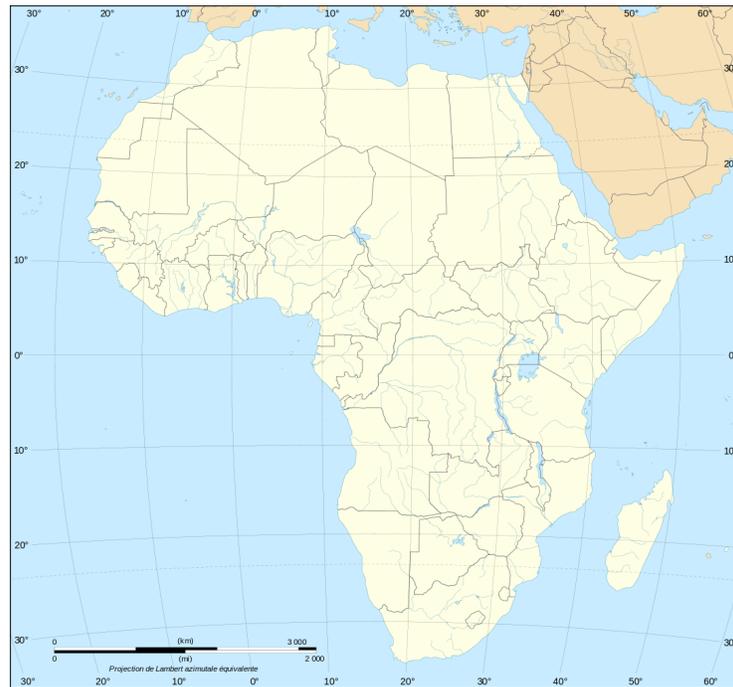
Required Texts:¹

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/>

1. Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (paper).
2. Wrong, Michela. 2009. *It's Our Turn to Eat*. Harper (paper).
3. Olopade, Dayo. 2015. *The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules and Making Change in Modern Africa*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (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:

4. Nugent, Paul. 2004. *Africa since Independence*. Palgrave MacMillan.



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 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...

FALL TERM, 2019

	M	TU	W	TH	F
1	9/9	9/10 INTRODUCTIONS	9/11	9/12 Mis/Perceptions	9/13
2	9/16	9/17 Dangers of Alienation	9/18	9/19 Benefits of Inclusion <i>Clifford Symposium</i>	9/20 Reflection 1 End Add Period <i>Clifford Symposium</i>
3	9/23	9/24 The State	9/25	9/26	9/27 Family Weekend
4	9/30	10/1 Somalia Somaliland	10/2	10/3 Mali	10/4 Reflection 2
5	10/7	10/8 The Nation	10/9	10/10	10/11 1st essay (4:15 pm) End Drop Period
6	10/14	10/15 Sudan South Sudan	10/16	10/17 Ethiopia	10/18 Reflection 3 Classes end 4:15
7	10/21 Mid-Term Recess	10/22 Mid-Term Recess	10/23	10/24 Sovereignty 1	10/25
8	10/28	10/29 Sovereignty 2	10/30 Screening @ 7:30 pm	10/31 African Reactions	11/1 Reflection 4
9	11/4	11/5 Institutions	11/7	11/8 Kenya	11/9
10	11/11	11/12 Corruption (Peer Work)	11/13	11/14 Governance (Individual Work)	11/15 Reflection 5 2d essay (4:15 pm)
11	11/18	11/19 Leadership (Joint Class with GEOG0210) Venue: MBH219	11/20	11/21 Prosperity INNOVATIONS Presentations II Class Dinner	11/22
B R E A K	11/25	11/26 Security INNOVATIONS Presentations I	11/27 Thanksgiving Recess	11/28 Thanksgiving Recess	11/29 Thanksgiving Recess
12	12/2	12/3 Potential INNOVATIONS Presentations III	12/4 Reflection 6	12/5 Recap+ CRFs Innovation Portfolios	12/6 Final Research Paper (4:00 pm) Classes End 4:15
E X A M	12/9 Reading Day	12/10 Exam Period Begins	12/11 Final Exams	12/12 Reading Day	12/13 Final Exams through Sunday 12/15 @ 10pm

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

- Lib Scott, Martin. "The myth of representations of Africa: A comprehensive scoping review of the literature." *Journalism Studies* 18.2 (2017): 191-210 [9]
- 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

- @ Englebort and Dunn. 2013. "Why Study African Politics?" in *Inside African Politics*. Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner: pp.1-16 [15]
- web de Waal, Alex. 2016. "African Academics Face a Huge Divide between their Real and Scholarly Selves." Available [here](#) [1.5]
- @ Bratton and van de Walle. 1997. "Neopatrimonial Rule in Africa," *Democratic Experiments in Africa*. Cambridge University Press: 61-96 [35]
- Lib Jackson, Robert H., and Carl G. Rosberg. 1984. "Personal rule: theory and practice in Africa." *Comparative Politics* 16(4): 421-442 [21]

Thursday Benefits of Inclusion

- * Olopade, Chapters 1-3 [50]
- @ Nugent, Paul. 2004. "Modernity and Tradition, Power and Prestige: Monarchs, Chiefs and Politicians, 1956-74," *Africa since Independence*. Palgrave MacMillan: 106-137 [31]

WEEK 3: THE STATE

Tuesday

- Lib Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa." *International Security* 14(4): 117-139 [22]
- @ Collier, Paul. 2011. *Wars, guns and votes: Democracy in dangerous places*. Random House. Chapter 8 (169-187) [18]

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

- Lib Samatar, A. I. 1992. "Destruction of state and society in Somalia: Beyond the tribal convention." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 30(4): 625-641 [16]
- Lib Ahmed, Ismail I. and R. H. Green. 1999. "The heritage of war and state collapse in Somalia and Somaliland: local-level effects, external interventions and reconstruction." *Third World Quarterly* 20(1): 113-127 [14]
- Lib Doornbos, Martin. 2002. "Somalia: alternative scenarios for political reconstruction." *African Affairs* 101(402): 93-107 [14]

Thursday Mali

- Lib Bratton, Michael, Massa Coulibaly, and Fabiana Machado. 2002. "Popular views of the legitimacy of the state in Mali." *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 36(2): 197-238 [41]
- Lib Bøås, M., & Torheim, L. E. 2013. "The Trouble in Mali—corruption, collusion, resistance." *Third World Quarterly* 34(7), 1279-1292 [13]
- Lib Wing, Susanna D. 2013. "Mali: Politics of a crisis." *African Affairs* 112(448): 476-485 [9]

Optional

- web Digital Journal (2014) "France to deploy 3,000 soldiers in Sahel" accessible [here](#).
- web France24 (2018) "Mali: AQIM reaffirming its presence in the center, as the Islamic state group takes foot" accessible [here](#).
- web Arieff, A. and K. Johnson (2013, January). *Crisis in Mali*. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress [18] accessible [here](#).

WEEK 5: THE NATION

Tuesday

- web "To Build a Nation" by Professor Philip Zelikow (University of Virginia) available [here](#). [Video 29']
- Lib Laasko, Liisa and Adebayo O. Olukoshi. 1996. "The Crisis of the Post-Colonial Nation-State Project in Africa," in Olukoshi, A. O., & Laakso, L. *Challenges to the Nation-State in Africa*. Nordiska Afrikainstitutet; Institute of Development Studies, Univ. of Helsinki: 7-39 [32] available [here](#).
- Review Collier 2011 Chapter 8 (see Week 3)

Thursday

- Lib Topan, Farouk. 2008. "Tanzania: the Development of Swahili as a National and Official Language," in Simpson, Andrew, ed. *Language and National Identity in Africa*. Oxford University Press: 252-266 [14] available [here](#).
- Lib Nyerere, J. K. 1967. "Education for self-reliance." *The Ecumenical Review*, 19(4): 382-403 [21] available [here](#).

WEEK 6: CHALLENGES TO THE NATION STATE MODEL

Tuesday Sudan & South Sudan

- @ Natsios, Andrew S. 2012. *Sudan, South Sudan, & Darfur: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford, Oxford University Press: Chapters 1, 4, 5. pp. 1-13; 41-79 [59].

Thursday Ethiopia

- Lib Selassie, Alemante G. 2003. "Ethnic Federalism: Its Promise and Pitfalls for Africa." *The Yale Journal of International Law* 28(51): 51-107 [56] Note: PDF version [here](#).

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

- web Moyo, Dambisa. 2012. "Beijing, a Boon for Africa," *New York Times* Op-Ed (June 27) accessible [here](#).
- web The Conversation. 2016. "How and Why China Became Africa's Biggest Aid Donor" accessible [here](#).
- @ Bräutigam, Deborah. 2009. "Orient Express: How Does Chinese Aid and Engagement Work?" in *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. (131-161) [30]

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

- web Spring, A. and Jiao, Y., 2008. "China in Africa: African views of Chinese entrepreneurship." *Global and Local Dynamics in African Business and Development*, pp.55-64 [9].
- web Rebol, M., 2010. "Public perceptions and reactions: Gauging African views of China in Africa." *Alternatives: Turkish Journal of International Relations*, 9(4), pp.149-186 [37].

WEEK 9: INSTITUTIONS

Tuesday Democracy

- Lib Ake, Claude. 1993. "The Unique Case of African Democracy." *International Affairs* 69(2): 239-244 [5]
- Lib Chabal, Patrick. 1998. "A few considerations on democracy in Africa." *International Affairs* 74(2): 289-303 [14]
- web "Akufo-Addo: Africa's march of democracy hard to reverse-Talk to Al Jazeera" accessible [here](#) [Video 25']

Thursday Kenya

- web Murray, Christina. 2013. "Kenya's 2010 constitution." *Neue Folge Band Jahrbuch des Offentlichen Rechts* 61: 747-788 [41].
- 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

- @ Burgis, Tom. 2015. *The Looting Machine: Warlords, Tycoons, Smugglers, and the Systematic Theft of Africa's Wealth*. Introduction and Chapter 1 (Angola) [27]

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)

- web The Conversation. 2016. "Poor Data Affects Africa's Ability to Make the Right Policy Decisions." Accessible [here](#) [1]
- * 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)

- @ Englebert and Dunn. 2013. "The shifting landscape of conflict and security," in *Inside African Politics*. Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner: pp. 267-312 [45]

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).