

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLS-2520-01(Crosslist AAM/01) INTRO TO AFRICAN POLITICS
3 CREDIT HOURS, Fall 2022

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Classroom: Xavier Hall G 13

MWF 1:10-2:00 p
HOURS: MWF 2:15-3
Tues 10-11 am
And by Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of government and political processes in Africa. Using illustrations and case studies from various countries, it examines rival theoretical perspectives in the study of African politics, salient themes in African politics such as the nature of colonial experience, rival theoretical perspectives, nationalism and independence, the challenge of nation-building –identity politics and the role of the military in African Politics. The simple formulation of these themes pre-supposes comparisons among some of the many cultures of Africa. The lectures and readings will be supplemented with documentary films Promised Land, The Magnificent African Cake, The Stars Know Our Home, and Poison Fire. These films will be used to spark discussions and raise awareness about identity, sovereignty, social justice, and the triumph of culture over modernity. This course fulfills the Political Science Comparative Politics requirement and the Core Global Citizenship requirement.
The course is taught 100% on-ground/face-to

- important to them, and
- D. Able to explain the historical foundations of contemporary African politics.

REQUIRED TEXTS (These can be purchased from the university book store Barnes & Noble))

- A. Keller, E. J. Identity, Citizenship, and Political Conflict in Africa, 2014. Bloomington, Indiana University Press.
- B. Peter J. Schraeder, African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation, 2004
- C. Englebort, Pierre, & Kevin C. Dunn. 2013. Inside African Politics. Boulder, Colorado. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
- D. Khapoya, Vincent B. The African Experience. 4th Edition New York, Pearson, 2013 (Recommended. Also on Reserve Desk of Pius Library).

Films: Class readings will be supplemented with films on events in Africa.

This syllabus is subject to revision where necessary.

Fall 2022 University Policies

have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard language for syllabus statements related to disability accommodations. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for s

University Writing Services

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University [Writing Services](#) in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help

Mandatory Statement on Face Masks (until further notice)

Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class.

When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect

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When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect

ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Absences

Authorized Absence Activities

Bereavement

Official notification from the Dean of Students or Academic Dean.

Upon request to and approval by the Dean of Students Office, students shall be given up to five (5) consecutive days (not including weekends or holidays) of excused absence for bereavement.

Instructor will record your presence (online) for class from time to time. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before the next day's class, participate in class discussions and prepare for case studies. Students should be aware of how politics affects their everyday lives. Most of the time, the instructor will begin class by asking "what is the latest?" The idea is to allow you express yourself on what you have observed or read about politics at the local, state, national or international level. Your participation efforts at this level will be recorded toward class participation points.

- a. To Gather Scientific Knowledge
- b. European Ethnocentrism

Oct. 7 Domestic Influences on the Rise of Nationalism

1. Colonial Oppression
2. Educational Training and Development
3. Formation and Spread of Voluntary Associations

Readings: Khapoya, pp. 150-158

Schraeder, pp. 86-96

Oct. 10, 12, 14 International Influences on the Rise of Nationalism

1. World Wars I and II
2. Pan-Africanism
3. The League of Nations and the United States, etc

Oct. 28 FALL BREAK

3. Return to Barracks

Readings: Schraeder, pp. 209-218

Dec. 7 VIDEO—AFRICAN COUPS

Study Questions

1. What factors make military intervention in African politics more likely?
2. What is the role of ethnicity in African politics? Cite examples?
3. What are the different types of military regimes in Africa?
4. What is the nature of governance?
5. Make arguments on some myths about military involvement in politics.
- 6.

Dec. 9 Finals Review

Dec. 14 FINAL EXAMINATION (12:00– 1:50 pm)