

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE 245: AFRICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

Summer 2008

<b>Instructor</b>	John French
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<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-12:00
<b>Classroom</b>	BSB 1171
<b>Time</b>	Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-4:00

### **Course Goals**

This course will introduce students to the study of African politics and the diversity of peoples, ideas, cultures and political practices across the continent. We will examine the impact of the colonial experience and cold-war rivalries on the crises of postcolonial political development and explore the ways in which African populations, political movements and states have responded. The course will cover a number of the political issues faced by African countries and their leaders; we will also use the experience of Zimbabwe as a case study for exploring these issues in more depth. Each student will also research another country and share the results with the class.

### **Required Texts**

Andrew Meldrum, *Where We Have Hope: A Memoir of Zimbabwe*. New York; Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005.

Martin Meredith, *Mugabe: Power, Plunder, and the Struggle for Zimbabwe*. New York; Public Affairs, 2007.

Peter J. Schraeder, *African Politics & Society: A Mosaic in Transformation*. Boston & New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004.

In addition to these texts, there will be a number of articles which will be made available on the course Blackboard site.

### **Major Assignments and Deadlines**

The major assignment for this course is a report on a sub-Saharan African country (other than Zimbabwe). You will prepare an 8-10 page research paper analyzing current political problems and challenges in your chosen country, due Friday August 1. All writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced, proofread and ON TIME. Late papers, if accepted, will receive a lower grade. There will be weekly reading quizzes with 5-10 multiple choice questions, as well as a final exam. Finally, you will have a map quiz in the third week of the course.

In addition to these major assignments, each day two or three students will present approximately three news stories about Africa to the class. The recommended source for news is the BBC's Africa section (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm>), but you may use any reputable newspaper or news source (if you have questions about what counts as "reputable," see me). Students will be chosen at random each day, and your readiness to discuss the news will be a factor in your participation grade.

### **On-time Attendance**

In a shortened course such as this, attendance is extremely important. We have only 16 class meetings, so a great deal of material will be covered in each one. Circumstances may require you to miss a class. In such case, the absence must be cleared with the instructor by phone or email. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact classmates to find out what you missed. More than two unexcused absences will drop your final grade one letter.

### **Grades**

The breakdown of major assignments is as follows:

<b>Map Quiz</b>	10%
<b>Weekly Quizzes</b>	20%
<b>Final</b>	20%
<b>Term paper (8-10 pages)</b>	30%
<b>Class Participation</b>	20%

### **SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>June 17</b>	<b>Course Introduction, Syllabus, etc.</b> Film: <i>The Bible and the Gun</i>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>Major Issues and Conflicts</b> Reading: Reading Packet (Blackboard) Film: "New Conflicts"
<b>June 24</b>	<b>Major Issues and Conflicts continued</b> Reading: Reading Packet (Blackboard) Film: <i>Iron Ladies of Liberia</i>

- June 26**      **Colonialism and its Impacts**  
*Reading:* Schraeder Ch. 3  
• Young: “The Heritage of Colonialism.” (Blackboard)  
*Film:* *This Magnificent African Cake*
- July 1**      **Nationalism and Independence Movements, Zimbabwe and Elsewhere**  
*Reading:* Schraeder Ch. 4  
• Sithole Ch. 5-6 (Blackboard)  
• Meredith Ch. 2  
• “Timeline: Zimbabwe” (Blackboard)  
*Film:* *Lumumba: Death of a Prophet*
- July 3**      **Zimbabwe: Independence**  
*Reading:* Meredith Ch. 3  
• Meldrum Ch. 3  
**MAP QUIZ**
- July 8**      **The State and Stability**  
*Reading:* Schraeder Ch. 8  
• Reading Packet (Blackboard)
- July 10**      **“Tribes” and Ethnicity**  
*Reading:* Schraeder Ch. 5  
• Berman, Eyoh and Kymlicka: “Ethnicity and the Politics of Democratic Nation-Building in Africa.” (Blackboard)
- July 15**      **Zimbabwe: “The End of the Honeymoon”**  
*Reading:* Meldrum Ch. 4-6  
• Meredith Ch. 4-5  
*Film:* *Destructive Engagement*
- July 17**      **Economic Development**  
*Reading:* Schraeder Ch. 6  
Gordon and Gordon 119-143 (Blackboard)
- July 22**      **Zimbabwe: Land and Economic Decline**  
*Reading:* Meredith Ch. 7-9  
• Meldrum Ch. 10-11

**July 24**      **Zimbabwe: The Land Issue cont.**

Reading: Meldrum Ch. 12

- Meredith Ch. 10-11

Film: *Moving On*

**July 29**      **The State and Democracy**

Reading Schraeder Ch. 10

- Reading Packet (Blackboard)

Film: *Hopes on the Horizon*

**July 31**      **Zimbabwe: Opposition and Elections**

Reading: Meldrum Ch. 14 & 17

- Reading Packet (Blackboard)

Film: *Zimbabwe: Shadows and Lies*

**COUNTRY REPORTS DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 BY  
5:00 PM**

**August 5**      **Africa in World Politics**

Reading: Schraeder Ch. 12

- Behar, China in Africa (Blackboard)

Film: *Assignment Africa*

**August 7**      **FINAL EXAM**

www.graphicmaps.com



# Africa

Name the Country!

- |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 _____  | 15 _____ | 29 _____ | 43 _____ |
| 2 _____  | 16 _____ | 30 _____ | 44 _____ |
| 3 _____  | 17 _____ | 31 _____ | 45 _____ |
| 4 _____  | 18 _____ | 32 _____ | 46 _____ |
| 5 _____  | 19 _____ | 33 _____ | 47 _____ |
| 6 _____  | 20 _____ | 34 _____ | 48 _____ |
| 7 _____  | 21 _____ | 35 _____ | 49 _____ |
| 8 _____  | 22 _____ | 36 _____ | 50 _____ |
| 9 _____  | 23 _____ | 37 _____ | 51 _____ |
| 10 _____ | 24 _____ | 38 _____ | 52 _____ |
| 11 _____ | 25 _____ | 39 _____ | 53 _____ |
| 12 _____ | 26 _____ | 40 _____ | 54 _____ |
| 13 _____ | 27 _____ | 41 _____ |          |
| 14 _____ | 28 _____ | 42 _____ |          |