

**POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA – AAST 245**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO – SPRING 2009**  
**M,W,F (1:00-1:50 p.m.) – 369 BEHAVIORIAL SCIENCES BUILDING**

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Office Hours: 2:15-3:45 p.m. M,W and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course begins with an analysis of the conquest and subsequent colonization of the African continent. It provides students with an examination of the legal, social, economic, and political consequences of colonialism and imperialism both for the Europeans and Africans. Students learn about the struggles by Africans for liberation and independence. The post-independence era is discussed as new leaders, ideologies, and institutions emerge. The last part of the course is an examination of the political and economic challenges faced by the continent in the second half of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first—neo-liberal economic policies, struggles for democracy, the role of civil society in upholding human rights, the issues surrounding forced migration, and finally Africa’s role in global policies is covered.

**Required Texts:**

The following are available for purchase at the UIC bookstore.

Ake, Claude. *Democracy and Development in Africa*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1996.

Nicolas, van de Walle. *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Zezeza, Tiyambe. *Smouldering Charcoal*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1992.

**Required Readings:** There are a number of journal articles that serve as required readings for the class that are indicated on the syllabus. They can be accessed from the University’s library on JSTOR. Reading that will be handed out in class are also required.

**Course assignments:** There will be a take home mid-term examination (25% of grade) and a take home final examination (25% of grade). The exams (in essay form) must be typed, double-spaced with a 12 point font. Exams must be between 8-10 pages. Due dates are indicated on the syllabus.

There will be 6 quizzes (true/false, multiple choice, and fill in the blank (15% of grade).

An individual project is required (20% of grade). The project must be typed, double-spaced with a 12 point font and between 6-8 pages. Details on the project will be handed out in class.

Attendance and participation will be evaluated (15% of grade).

**Grade Distribution:** Students can earn a total of 400 points for the course.

Grades will be distributed as follows:

Attendance	60 points
Project	80 points
Midterm	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Quizzes	60 points

**Grade Evaluations:**

360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
240-279	D
Below 240	F

**Miscellaneous Information:**

Attendance is required and students are expected to come to class on time. If you are 5 minutes late to class, you will be considered absent. **Students with 3 or more unexcused absences will not receive a passing grade. Excused absences, the acceptance of late assignments, and make up examinations are limited to the instances of severe illness (documentation is required) and crises within one's immediate family. All other reasons for missing class will most likely be considered unexcused. Leaving class early is considered an unexcused absence.** Chronic or extreme tardiness is also considered an unexcused absence. **All assignments, with the exception of the final examination, must be turned in at the beginning of class. Papers will not be accepted electronically, from another student, my mailbox, or from under my door.**

**Academic Integrity**

UIC defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect for other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty

by other, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs Office for possible further disciplinary sanctions.

### **Disability Access**

UIC encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or State or Federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Course Outline:**

- Jan. 12                    **Introduction to Course and Course Organization**
- Jan. 14,16                **Christianity, Commerce, and Civilization – Colonialism in Africa**  
Jean and John Comaroff, "Christianity and Colonialism in South Africa," *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (February 1986):1-22. Available from JSTOR
- Jan. 19                    **Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday – No Class**
- Jan. 21,23                **Gender and the Colonial Experience**  
Jean Allman, "Rounding up Spinster: Gender Chaos and Unmarried Women in Colonial Asante," *Journal of African History*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (1996):195-214. Available from JSTOR  
Emily Lynn Osborn, "Circle of Iron: African Colonial Employees and the Interpretation of Colonial Rule," *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (2003):29-50. Available from JSTOR  
**Quiz #1**
- Jan. 26,28,30            **Colonialism and the Legal System**  
Sandra Fullerton Joireman, "Inherited Legal Systems and Effective Rule of Law," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 39,4 (December 2001):571-596. Available from JSTOR
- Feb. 2,4,6                **Africans Respond to Colonialism**  
Alois Mlambo, "Colonial Conquest and Resistance," To be handed out in class.  
Kwaku Korang, "Intellectuals: colonial," To be handed out in class

- Feb. 9,11,13      **The Rise of Nationalism in Africa**  
Wunyabari Maloba, “Nationalist Movements,” To be handed out in Class  
**Quiz #2**
- Feb. 16,18,20      **The Struggles for Independence – Violent and Non-Violent**  
Alicia Campos, “The Decolonization of Equatorial Guinea: The Relevance of the International Factor,” *Journal of African History*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (2003):95-116. Available from JSTOR  
Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, “Decolonization,” To Be handed out in class
- Feb. 23,25,27      **Post-Independence Africa**  
Zeleza, Entire Book  
**Quiz #3**
- March 2,4,6      **Development and Democracy in Africa**  
Ake, Chapters 1,2,3
- March 9,11,13      **Development and Democracy in Africa**  
Ake, Chapters 4,5  
**Quiz #4**
- March 16,18,20      **African Economies, 1979-1999**  
Van de Walle, Introduction, Chapters 1,2  
**TAKE HOME MID-TERM DUE**
- March 23-27      **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES**
- March 30, April 1,3      **African Economies, 1979,1999**  
Van de Walle, Chapters 3,4
- April 6,8,10      **African Economies, 1979-1999**  
Van de Walle, Chapters 5,6,7  
**Quiz #5**
- April 13,15,17      **Civil Wars and Civil Unrest in Africa**  
Jok, Madut Jok and Sharon Elaine Hutchinson. “Sudan’s Prolonged Second Civil War and The Militarization of Nuer and Dinka Ethnic Identities.” *African Studies Review* 42, no. 2. (September 1999):125-145). Available from JSTOR  
Ibrahim Abdullah, “Bush Path to Destruction: the origin of the Character of the Revolutionary United Front/Sierra Leone,” *Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 36 (1998):203-235. Available from JSTOR  
**Quiz #6**

April 20,22,24

**The Politics of Forced Migration in Africa**

Cassandra Veney, "Refugees," To Be handed out in class  
Karen Jacobsen, "Can Refugees Benefit the State" Resources and African State Building," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 4, (December 2002)"577-596. Available from JSTOR

**PROJECT IS DUE**

April 27,29,May 1

**Africa and International Politics**

Ian Taylor and Paul Williams, "South Africa's Foreign Policy and the Great Lakes Crisis: African Renaissance Meets Vagabond Politique?," *African Affairs*, Vol. 100, No. 399 (April 2001):265-286. Available from JSTOR

Carol B. Thompson, "US Trade with Africa: African Growth and Opportunity?," *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol. 31, No. 101, An African Scramble (September 2004):457-474. Available from JSTOR

Tandeka C. Nkiwane, "Africa and International: Regional Lessons for a Global Discourse," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (July 2001):279-290. Available on JSTOR

May 4

**TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE**