

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLS 255 POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
3 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING 2013

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka
Phone: 977-3035/3039
Classroom: McGannon 121
MWF 12:00-12:50

OFFICE: MCG 150
HOURS: MWF 10:00-11:00 a.m.
And by Appointment

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences core requirement for Global Citizenship. The course examines in greater depth the different political systems and political processes in Africa South of the Sahara. The emphasis will be on pre-colonial political systems and effects on modern politics, colonialism, various types of authoritarian rule, and multi-party constitutions. The socio-cultural, economic and political context in which institutions of government operate will be illustrated with the use of films such as “Without the King”, the “Magnificent African Cake”, “Promised Land”, “The Rise of Nationalism”, “Poison Fire,” Africa in Defiance of Democracy, etc.

II. COURSE GOALS

The goals of the course are as follows:

- A. To provide the student with an overview of the political systems of post-independent Africa South of the Sahara.
- B. To study inter-regional relations South of the Sahara.
- C. To survey the dynamics of political change in Africa South of the Sahara.

III. REQUIRED (AND OPTIONAL) TEXTS

- A. Vincent B. Khapoya, The African Experience. 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall, 2010
- B. Peter J. Schraeder. African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation. Wadsworth 2004
- C. John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild. Eds Africa in World Politics: Engaging a Changing Global Order, 5th edition Westview Press, 2013

Additional reading assignments will be placed in the reserve collection of the University library.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually. Students are required to sign the roll at each session and a record of attendance will be maintained. This instructor allows only four un-excused and undocumented class absences. The sanction for a breach of this rule is a grade of AF (excessive absence). Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before the next day's class, participate in class discussions, and prepare for case studies. There will be a unit, mid-term, and final examination. Exams are not cumulative, that is, only the material since the last exam is included. During class, **cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate mode.** If you need to respond to a call, please step outside the room.

V. COURSE GRADING

Unit Exam	20%
Mid-Semester Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Class Participation	10%

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are:

93-100 = A	77-79 = C+
90-92 = A-	73-76 = C
87-89 = B+	70-72 = C-
83-86 = B	60-69 = D
80-82 = B-	Below 60 = F

NOTE: Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

OFFICE VISITS

Students are encouraged to visit the instructor during office hours in connection with their work in this class, or to discuss any career-related problems. If unable to visit during posted hours, an appointment will be made convenient to both the student and the instructor.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHERS AND TO MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO THEM. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TEACHERS CAN BE OF HELP TO YOU OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by or revised by another person as the student's own work, copying a passage or text

directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in academic dishonesty.

Any clear violation of academic integrity will be met with appropriate sanctions. Possible sanctions for violation of academic integrity may include, but are not limited to, assignment of a failing grade in a course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University. Students should review the College of Arts and Sciences policy on Academic Honesty, which can be accessed on-line at <http://www.slu.edu/colleges/AS/> under "Quicklinks for Students" or in hard copy form in the Arts and Sciences Policy Binder in each departmental or College office.

Students with Special Needs - Disability Services

Any student who feels that he/she may need academic accommodations in order to meet the requirements of this course - as outlined in the syllabus - due to presence of a disability, should contact the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action. Please telephone the office at 314-977-8885, or visit DuBourg Hall Room 36. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

The statement above, which is recommended by the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, may be customized, edited or individualized as appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact Adam Meyer (meyerah@slu.edu), Counselor for Disabilities Services, at 314-977-8885, DuBourg Hall, room 36.

Revised 8-24-06

COURSE EVALUATION

During the last week of the semester, students will be reminded to complete an on-line course evaluation. Students will be notified when screens will be accessible for students to submit the evaluation.

VI. COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 14 COURSE OVERVIEW
WHY STUDY AFRICA?

Jan. 16, 18 MYTHS ABOUT AFRICA
Readings: Peyi-Soyinka and Edozie in Peyi-Soyinka and Edozie,
Chap. 1, Reframing Contemporary Africa

Jan. 23 **AFRICAN TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
Politics and Government in Traditional Africa
1. Decentralized Political Systems
Readings: Khapoya, Chapter 2 (emphasis on pp56-59)
Schraeder, Chapter 2, pp. 23-29
2. Centralized Political Systems
Readings: Khapoya, pp. 59-61
Schraeder, pp. 29-32

- Jan. 25** “Kings and Cities” (Film)
- Jan. 28** “Without the King” (Film) Africa’s last absolute monarch, the Kingdom of Swaziland, King Mswati 111
- Jan. 30** Discussion Questions, Problems on Previous Lectures and Readings
- Feb. 1, 4** COLONIALISM AND THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE
The Colonial Heritage
1. Definition of Colonialism
 2. Why Europe Colonized Africa
 - a. To Gather Scientific Knowledge
 - b. European Ethnocentrism
- Readings: Khapoya, Ch. 4, pp. 107-115
Schraeder, Chapter 3, pp. 50-57
- Feb. 6** Why Europe Colonized Africa (Cont’d)
1. Political
 2. Economic
- Readings: Khapoya, pp. 107-115
Schraeder, pp. Same as Sept. 16, 19
- Feb. 8, 11** Colonial Administrative Styles
1. Indirect Rule □ British
 2. Direct Rule □ French, Portuguese, Germans, and Belgians
- Readings: Khapoya, Ch. 4, pp. 126-135
Schraeder, pp. 57-61
- Feb. 13, 15** THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE COLONIAL HERITAGE
Political Impacts of Colonialism
1. Application of the European Nation-state
 2. Division of African Nations Among Several States
 3. Incorporation of Several African Nations Into One State
 4. Destruction of Traditional Checks and Balances
- Readings: Schraeder, pp. 62-69
- Feb. 18** Economic Impacts of Colonialism
1. Expropriations Land and labor
 2. Creation of Export-Oriented and Economics
 3. Evolution of Perverse Infra-structural Development
- Readings: Khapoya, pp. 134-143
Schraeder, pp. 69-75
Habeson, Chap. 2, “The Heritage of Capitalism”
- Feb. 20** “This Magnificent African Cake” □ (Film)

Feb. 22

UNIT EXAMINATION

Feb. 25, 27

NATIONALISM AND INDEPENDENCE

Trends in African Nationalism/Guest Speaker/Lecturer

1. Definition
2. Pre-colonial
3. First, Second, Third, and Fourth Waves of Independence

Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 4, pp. 81-85

Khapoya, Chapter 5, p. 150-152

Mar. 1

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. 86-89

Mar. 6

International Influences on the Rise of Nationalism

1. World Wars I and II
2. Pan-Africanism, etc.

Readings: Khapoya, pp. 150-160

Schraeder, pp. 89-96

Mar. 8

MID TERM EXAMINATION

Mar. 11

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 18

International Influences on the Rise of Nationalism (Cont'd)

Readings: Same as Mar. 6

Mar. 20

VIDEO: THE RISE OF NATIONALISM

Oct. 20, 22

AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER

1. Independence and Its Aftermath
2. African Ideologies

Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 6, pp. 131-150

Khapoya, pp. 188-222

Mar. 27

AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER (Cont'd)

Readings: Schraeder, pp. 143-150

Khapoya, Same as Oct. 20, 22

Mar. 29, Apr. 1

EASTER BREAK

Apr. 3, 5

MILITARY REGIMES

Types and Reasons for Coming to Power

Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 9, pp201-209

Apr. 8 MILITARY REGIMES (Cont□d)

1. Performance in Office
2. Comparison with Civilian Regimes
3. Transition to Civilian Rule

Readings: Schraeder, pp209-218

VIDEO: MILITARY COUPS

Apr. 10, 12 IDEA OF DEMOCRACY

Readings: Gitonga, Afrifa, K. The Meaning and Foundations of Democracy (On Reserve)
Edozie, Rita K, “New Frames in African Democratic Politics: Discourse Trajectories,” in Soyinka-Airewele and Edozie.

Apr. 15 “Promised Land” (Film) The Quest for Economic Justice

Apr. 17 **Discussions and Questions on Previous Lectures on Democracy and Film**

Readings: Habeson, Chap. 5, “Democracy, Autocracy, and the Sub-Saharan African State”

Apr. 19, 22 PHASES OF REGIME TRANSITION

1. A Crisis of Political Legitimacy
2. The Birth of Economic Protests
3. Initial Government Responses

Readings: Bratton & Van de Walle, “Africa’s Divergent Transitions, 1990-94”, pp. 97-103 (On Reserve)
Schraeder: Chap. 10, pp. 223-226

Apr. 24, 26 PHASES OF REGIME TRANSITION (Cont□d)

1. The Politicization of Demands
2. The Onset of Political Reforms
3. One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Readings: Bratton & Van de Walle, pp. 104-111
Schraeder, pp. 226-236

Sharing a Film: Students submit a reflection paper (not more than 2 pages) on Nigerian oil crisis. The film is titled “**POISON FIRE**” and it can be found online on Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq2TBOHWFRc>

Apr. 29, CONSTITUTION REFORMS, FOUNDING ELECTIONS, DIVERGENT

- May 1** TRANSITION PATHS
 Readings: Bratton & Van de Walle, pp. 111-122
 Schraeder, Same as Nov. 17, 19
- May 3** **VIDEO: AFRICA IN Defiance OF DEMOCRACY**
- May 6** REVIEW
- May 10** **FINAL EXAMINATION 12:00-1:50 p.m.**