American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies

IRLS322

African Politics

Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: IRLS210

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Instructor Information

Instructor:
Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

Course Description (Catalog)

A study of Sub-Saharan Africa, its governments and politics. This course addresses the region's internal country relations along with its external relations with a focus on economics, internal security, and defense issues.

Course Scope

This course is intended to present an overview of African governmental systems and politics, with an attempt to explain how politics "work" in Africa. The principal focus is on Sub-Saharan countries, with some discussion of North Africa. Clearly, one course cannot cover in detail an entire continent with disparate histories, governments, and societies. It is possible, however, to identify commonalities and trends among the countries in Africa, along with consideration of their differences.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Identify the effects both pre-colonial and colonial structures have had on current African governmental systems.

CO-2: Describe the effects of ethnicity on stability within African countries.

CO-3: Analyze the role of the military in the African political system.

CO-4: Identify common features of African political systems.

CO-5: Describe the role of gender in African societies.

These course objectives harmonize with the Degree Program Objectives, which require graduates to:

- Compare and contrast the political, economic, and military components of foreign policy decision making and analyze the impact of foreign policy on domestic decisions.
- Draw conclusions about the implications of foreign policy as it is currently applied to various regions of the world.
- Evaluate the "national interest" and how it is formulated, assess alternatives to current policies, and examine their likely impact on the United States, its allies, and other nations.
- Examine the theory, nature, and causes of war and their relationship to diplomacy; assess the contributions of diplomacy to accomplishment of war objectives.
- Critically assess the unique principles, structure, and organization of the major international organizations.
- Examine the prospects of governance by international organizations.
- Assess the economic and political processes in international development; diagnose social issues in international development; appraise the need for sustainable international development.
- Evaluate the multidimensional effects of globalization.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

The **required** text for this course is: This course does not utilize a course text.

- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 25 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Midterm assignment - 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Progress assignment - 25 percent

Specialized Exercise - Simulation. 6 pages including research and analysis.

Final assignment – 25 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	**25**
Midterm Assignment	**25**
Progress Assignment	**25**
Final Assignment	**25**
Total	**100**

8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Week	Topic(s)	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1	Introduction: Theoretical Approaches to Africa	**CO-4:** Identify common features of African political systems.	**The Economist. The Scramble for Africa.** **Nordic Africa Institue, India , Russia, and The United States. The Scramble for African Oil** **Professor James Giblin. Introduction: Diffusion and other Problems in the History of African States** **Nicholas Kristof, "Westerners on White Horses."**	*Forum*: Topic One: Introduction
2	Pre-Colonial and Colonial History	**CO-1: Identify the effects both pre-colonial and**	Ehiedu E. G. Iweriebor. The Colonization of	Week 2 Forum

		colonial structures have had on current African governmental systems.	Africa	
			Berlin 1885	
		.	License to Colonize	
			European Colonialism and Territorial Disputes in Africa: The Gulf of Guinea and the Indian Ocean.	
			Review of How Colonialism Preempted Modernity in Africa (Please note that the full book is available at the APUS library if you are interested)	
3	The Struggle for Independence, and Ethnicity, Class, & Ideology	CO-1: Identify the effects both pre-colonial and colonial structures have had on current African governmental systems.	Routes to Independence in Africa Sharp. Peace Profile: The African Resistance	Week Three Forum Discussion Midterm Assignment

			Movement.	
		CO-2: Describe the effects of ethnicity on stability within African countries.	The Ethiopian Connection To The Pan-African Movement. O'Sullivan, Christopher. "The United Nations, Decolonization, And Self-Determination In Cold War Sub-Saharan Africa, 1960-1994	
4	The State & Civil Society, and the Military & Democracy	**CO-2: Describe the effects of ethnicity on stability within African countries.** **CO-3: Analyze the role of the military in the African political system.**	Democratic Governance and Actors' Conceptualization of 'Civil Society' in Africa: State-Civil Society Relations in Ghana from 1982-2000 McDonald. Africa's Long Struggle. The State of Liberal Democracy in Africa	Week Four Forum Discussion
5	Foreign Relations	CO-4: Identify common features of African political systems.	**Thirst for African Oil** **A Conversation on President Obama's trip to Africa - Read or**	Week 5 Forum

			listen **Colliding Geopolitics and African Resources**	
6	Congo War and Congo Peace	CO-2: Describe the effects of ethnicity on stability within African countries. CO-3: Analyze the role of the military in the African political system.	Africa's Forgotten War Tandon, Yash. "Root Causes Of Peacelessness And Approaches To Peace In Africa Causes of Conflict in the Congo War and Peace in the DRC	*Forum six* Progress Assignment
7	Gender	**CO-5**: Describe the role of gender in African societies.	**Text:** "Gender and Post-conflict Civil Society: Eritrea," *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, vol. 7, no.3, 2005. "'A Second Liberation': Lobbying for Women's Political Representation in Zambia, Botswana and Namibia." By: Geisler, Gisela. *Journal of Southern African Studies*, March 2006, Vol. 32 Issue 1, p69-"84.	*Forum 7*

			"Women and Fish-for-Sex: Transactional Sex, HIV/AIDS and **Gender** in African Fisheries." By: Béné, Christophe; Merten, Sonja. *World Development*, May 2008, Vol. 36 Issue 5, pp. 875-899	
8	Rival Theoretical Perspectives	CO-4: Identify common features of African political systems.		*Forum 8* *Final Assignment*

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.
See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm. All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1" margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- ***Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:*** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- *Tutor.*com: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)
The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

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