

Professor: Aili Mari Tripp
Office: 3327 Sterling Hall
Phone: 890-3890
Email: atripp@wisc.edu

Semester II Spring 2020
Time: MW 8:00-9:15 am
Location: Ingraham 120
Office Hours: M 1-3 pm, Th 9:30 am-11:30 am
Appointment: ailitripp.youcanbook.me

POLITICAL SCIENCE 329: AFRICAN POLITICS

OBJECTIVES

This is a very exciting time to be studying African politics. Many changes are underway in Africa today, from economic growth to a decline in conflict, the ascendance of women as political leaders, and the larger role Africa is playing on the world stage, given its possession of key natural resources like oil, coltan, and uranium. Since 1990, much of the continent has experienced political reform. This last wave of democratization has now hit a plateau, with profound implications for the daily lives of Africans. This course critically examines the consequences and nature of these transformations. It looks at these dynamics in their historical, social, economic, political, and cultural contexts.

The course looks, for example, at colonial legacies influencing contemporary African politics; problems of state building; political, economic and social dimensions of conflict in Africa; the role of ethnicity, gender and identities more generally; Africa's economic challenges; problems of democratization in Africa; human rights; the politics of foreign aid and of food; and Africa's new and old engagements with the world. One of the main themes in the course focuses on unwritten, non-formal institutions and "hidden transcripts that shape political and economic dynamics, e.g., the informal economy, clientelist relationships, and local governance structures.

The course provides students with both concrete knowledge of African politics as well as tools for thinking about some of the broader analytic issues and themes in political science. It aims to sharpen student critical analytical skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Intellectual and practical skills: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; basic quantitative literacy (reading tables); Information and media literacy.
- Personal and social responsibility: civic knowledge, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, foundations and skills for lifelong learning.
- Integrative learning: Application of knowledge and skills to complex problems.

REQUIREMENTS (45 hours x 3 credits = 135 hours)

Any changes to the course and email notifications will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check these notices on a regular basis.

Reading and videos (69 hours): I expect students to have read the assigned material, watched assigned videos, and come to class prepared to discuss the readings and videos.

Class attendance (30 hours): Class attendance is critical in order to engage the material in an effective way. The exams draw to a large extent on lectures and class discussion and cannot be adequately completed without participating in and attending class. Please come to class on time out of respect for

other class participants, but mostly for your own sake since being late adds stress to your life and causes you to feel you are not in control.

Participation (2 hours): Debates and commentary are especially encouraged. I also strongly encourage class participation in various forms, especially through discussion in class. Participation can improve one's grade, especially if it is borderline between grades. I will often start the Monday class asking about news regarding Africa. Come prepared to talk about what is in the news.

Assignment (preparation 10 hours): There will be one assignment throughout the course of the semester. It involves a choice between a 1) 5-7 minute presentation of your term paper to our class in *pecha kucha* style (see videos on Canvas for how to do this); 2) a 10 minute podcast based on your paper or 3) a 10 minute video based on your paper.

Quizzes (preparation 4 hours): There will be one map quiz and several other quizzes to make sure you are keeping up with the readings and absorbing class material.

Paper (20 hours): One (8-10 page) term paper is required of undergraduate students and a 20-page research paper is required of graduate students. The papers must use course themes as a starting point. An abstract (paragraph summary) of the paper should be submitted to the Canvas in doc format (not pdf). Students should try to meet with me before turning in their summary. If the topic is later changed, a new abstract must be submitted and approved. Start early with your paper.

Final Exam: One open book final exam is required. The open-book exam will involve essays that integrate material. McBurney Students and students for whom English is a second language students may request more time for the exam in advance.

NOTE: All exams, papers, and the abstract must be submitted in Canvas in doc format (not pdf). Please do NOT email them to me or give me a hard copy unless you experience difficulties uploading to Canvas.

GRADING CRITERIA

Participation (5%); quizzes (20%); assignment (15%); paper (30%); final exam (30%)

DEADLINES

February 3	Map quiz in class
March 2	Abstract due in Canvas at 5 pm
April 3	Term paper due 5 pm in Canvas
April 27	Assignment due (<i>pecha kucha</i> presentations, videos and podcasts)
May 7	Final exam 12:25 pm to 2:25 pm on Canvas

OFFICE HOURS

Please sign up for all appointments during office hours with Professor Tripp through ailitripp.youcanbook.me. Office hours are Monday 1-3 pm, Thursday 9:30-11:30 am in 3327 Sterling. If these times do not work feel free to contact atripp@wisc.edu to arrange another time.

CANVAS

Explore Canvas, which is a key resource for course updates, sources for your paper, videos, maps, links to additional readings, suggested movies, and other useful information. Add information about yourself on the About Us page on the Discussions tab, including fun facts, photos, connections to Africa if any, background and interests. Please bookmark the Canvas course. Links to all videos are on Canvas.

LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONE USE

Students may use laptops in class but only for taking notes. Cell phones must be turned off and put away. I cannot compete with these devices, which are a source of distraction.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer to <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

People with disabilities will be fully included in this course. Please inform the professor if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to participate fully. Confidentiality of the shared information will be strictly maintained. Certain accommodations may require the assistance of the McBurney Disability Office on campus. The McBurney Disability Center can be reached at (608) 263-2741 or via email at mcburney@odos.wisc.edu. McBurney statement on accommodations: <http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php>

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

"Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world."

<https://diversity.wisc.edu/>

READINGS

The required books are available for purchase from the University Book Store and can be borrowed from the Helen C. White Reserve Room. A course packet is available from the L&S Copy Center in the Sewell Building. Articles in the packet can also be found on Canvas. Topical readings from the news with links to the Canvas will be assigned throughout the course as they appear in the media.

- 1) Alex Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 4th edition, 2016. ISBN 113878284X
- 2) Richard Bourne, *Nigeria: A New History of a Turbulent Century*. Oxford, Zed Books, 1st edition, 2015. ISBN 1139781780329.
- 3) Trevor Noah, *Born a Crime*, Spiegel & Grau, 2016. ISBN 9780399588174.

COURSE OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN POLITICS

January 22

Introduction to the Course

January 27

Continent of Contrasts

- Binyavanga Wainaina, 2005. "How to Write About Africa," *Granta*, 92.
- Laura Seay. 2012. "How Not to Write About Africa," *Foreign Policy*, April 25.
- Thomson Chapter 1
- **Optional video:** The Danger of a Single Story. TED Talk by Chimamanda Adichie (link on Canvas)

January 29

The Political Legacy of the Pre-Colonial Political Systems

- Thomson Chapter 2
- **Video:** *Africa, Episode 4: The King & The City* presented by Basil Davidson (link on Canvas)

February 3

Political Legacy of the Colonial State

- **Quiz #1: Map**
- Bourne Sections 1 and 2
- **Video:** *Africa, Episode 6: The Magnificent African Cake* presented by Basil Davison
- **Optional videos:**
October 1 (Netflix)
The Battle of Algiers (link on Canvas)

THE POST-COLONIAL STATE

February 5

The Rise of Personalized Rule and State Expansion

- Thomson Chapters 3 and 6
- **Video:** Watch Parts One and Two of *Mobutu King of Zaire* and come ready to class to discuss questions on Canvas. (Links on Canvas)

February 10

Military Rule

- Bourne Section 3
- Thomson Chapter 7
- **Optional video:** *The Last King of Scotland*

February 12

State Collapse

- Thomson Chapter 10
- Stuart A. Reid, "Congo's Slide into Chaos: How a State Fails," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2018.
- **Video:** Part 3 of *Mobutu King of Zaire*. ([Link on Canvas](#))
Come to class prepared to discuss why the state collapsed in Zaire.

SOURCES OF CONFLICT

February 17, 19

Rise and Decline of Conflict

- **Quiz#2 Feb 17:** The Postcolonial State
- Ibrahim Elbadawi and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Why are there so many civil wars in Africa? Understanding and preventing violent conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9 (3): 244-269.
- Scott Straus. "Wars Do End! Changing Patterns of Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa," *African Affairs*, 111 (443): 179-201.

February 24

Conflict in the Sahel

- Sebastian Elischer, "Governing the Faithful: State Management of Salafi Activity in the Francophone Sahel," *Comparative Politics* January 2019.

Making Sense of Boko Haram

- Brandon Kendhammer, "The Sharia Controversy in Northern Nigeria and the Politics of Islamic Law in New and Uncertain Democracies," *Comparative Politics*, April 2013, 45:3, 291-311.

POLITICS OF IDENTITY

February 26

Politics of Ethnicity

- **Quiz #3:** Sources of Conflict
- Bourne Section 5: Ethnicity and Religion
- Thomson Chapter 4
- Benjamin J. Spatz, and Kai M. Thaler. "Has Liberia Turned a Corner?" *Journal of Democracy* 29, no. 3 (2018): 156–70.
- **Video:** *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* and come to class prepared to answer questions on Canvas.

March 2, 4

Women and Politics

- Aili Mari Tripp, Preface, Chapters 1 and 4, *Women and Power in Postconflict Africa*
- Aili Mari Tripp, *Seeking Legitimacy: Why Arab Autocrats Adopt Women's Rights*: Chapter 6: Tunisia
- Aili Mari Tripp, "New Trends in Women and Politics in Africa," In *The Palgrave Handbook of African Women's Studies*, Eds. Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso and Toyin Falola. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019.
- **Video recommended:** Are Women Closing the Gender Gap in Tunisia?

March 9

Human Rights: LGBTQ Rights as Human Rights

- **Quiz #4:** Politics of Identity
- Sylvia Tamale. 2013. "Confronting the Politics of Nonconforming Sexualities in Africa." *African Studies Review* 56 (2): 31–45.
- Neela Ghoshal. 2018. *Audacity in Adversity: LGBT Activism in the Middle East and North Africa*. New York, N.Y.: Human Rights Watch. Focus on p. i-5 and 24-62 (Glossary, Summary, Methodology, and Part II. "Effective Activism in Constrained Spaces")
- **Video:** *Call me Kuchu*
- **Optional video:** *God Loves Uganda*

REGIME CHANGE

March 11

- Peter Lewis. "Aspirations and Realities in Africa: Five Reflections." *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 3 (2019): 76-85.
- E. Gyimah-Boadi. "Aspirations and Realities in Africa: Democratic Delivery Falls Short." *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 3 (2019): 86-93.

*****BREAK March 14-22*****

REGIME CHANGE

March 23, 25, 30

Democratic Norms and Challenges of Authoritarianism

- Jon Temin, and Yoseph Badwaza. "Aspirations and Realities in Africa: Ethiopia's Quiet Revolution." *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 3 (2019): 139–53.
- Mai Hassan, Ahmed Kodouda, "Sudan's Uprisings: The Fall of a Dictator," *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 3 (2019): 89-103.
- Ayo Obe. "Aspirations and Realities in Africa: Nigeria's Emerging Two-Party System?" *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 3 (2019): 109–23.
- Rachel Beatty Riedl, Ndongo Samba Sylla, "Aspirations and Realities in Africa: Senegal's Vigorous but Constrained Election," *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 3 (2019): 94-108.
- Thomson Chapter 11
- Bourne Section 4: 16-18
- **Video:** *The Supreme Price*
- **Video:** *An African Election*

ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS

April 1, 6

Africa's Economic Opportunities and Challenges

- Ewout Frankema, Marlous van Waijenburg, "Africa Rising? A Historical Perspective," *African Affairs*, Volume 117, Issue 469, October 2018, Pages 543–568.
- Ian Taylor (2016) Dependency Redux: Why Africa is Not Rising, *Review of African Political Economy*, 43:147, 8-25.
- Thomson Chapter 9
- UN Economic Commission on Africa. 2019 Africa Sustainable Development Report

LEGACIES OF APARTHEID

April 8, 13

- **Quiz #5:** Democratic Norms and Authoritarian Challenges plus Economic Opportunities and Challenges
- Trevor Noah, *Born a Crime*
- Sisonke Msimang, "All Is Not Forgiven: South Africa and the Scars of Apartheid," *Foreign Affairs* Jan/Feb 2018.

AFRICA AND THE WORLD

April 15

- Thomson Chapter 8
- Frances Webber, "Europe's Unknown War." *Race and Class*, 59(1) 2017: 36-53.
- **Video:** *The Land Between*

April 20

US and Africa

- Nicholas Westcott, "The Trump Administration's Africa Policy," *African Affairs*, Volume 118, Issue 473, October 2019, Pages 737–749.
- James McBride, "How Does the US Spend its Foreign Aid," *Council on Foreign Relations*, 4.11.17.

April 22

Africa and China

- **Quiz #6:** Legacies of Apartheid; Africa and the World Minus China
- Ian Taylor, "Perspective: Africa After the China Boom," *Current History*, May 2016.

CONCLUSION

April 27, 29

- *Pecha chucha* presentations, videos and podcasts
- Bourne Section 5
- Thomson Chapter 12

May 7 Final Exam: 12:25 pm-2:25 pm on Canvas