

University of Rochester – IR 211  
Spring 2012  
Tuesday/Thursday – 3:25-4:40  
Dewey 2162

## **Political Economy of Africa**

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**Course description:** Political and economic developments in Africa since the end of the Cold War have both vindicated and belied Robert Kaplan's famous prediction of a "coming anarchy" in the region. Drawing on the rich social science literature on the political economy of contemporary Africa, the course will address a set of critical questions that will have important implications for the well-being of the people of the continent and the world in the twenty-first century. The central questions we will address are: What were the sources of the political and economic crisis that gripped Africa in the 1980s and 1990s? What has been the net impact of the massive international intervention in the continent that ensued in the wake of the crises? What explains the recent revival of democracy and growth in some parts of the continent? Will the revival of democracy and economic growth last?

### **Textbook:**

Alex Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Routledge, 2010.

**Please note:** Copies of this textbook (henceforth *Thomson*) are available for purchase from the university bookstore. All other reading materials will be available electronically through Blackboard. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, but you will be notified of any changes well in advance.

The requirements for this course include two mid-semester examinations, one end-semester examination, and active and informed class participation based on thoughtful examination of the required readings prior to coming to class. You also have the option of writing an original essay of 8-10 pages applying the concepts learned in the course. If you do choose to write the essay, you must submit a draft proposal of 2-3 pages before the second mid-semester exam. The essay will be due the last day of class. **LATE ESSAYS WILL BE GIVEN A LOWER GRADE: one/third letter grade per day late.** Example: An "A" paper two days late will drop to a "B+". **Incompletes** are not allowed.

Please note, given the emphasis on class participation, regular attendance is expected. More than 2 unexcused absences might affect your class participation grade by half a letter grade. More than 5 accumulated absences will result in 0% for the class participation portion of your overall grade. **Excused absences** require documentation such as a note from your advisor or the clinic.

**Academic Honesty:** A plagiarized paper will not receive any points. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course and sanctions determined by the University's Academic Honesty board.

**Grading:**

Participation – 10%

First Midterm Exam – 25%

Second Midterm Exam – 25%

Final Exam – 40 %

For students who take the essay option, the final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation 10%, First Mid-Semester Exam 20%, Second Mid-Semester Exam 20%, Essay 15 %, End-Semester Exam 35%.

**Classroom Etiquette:** You deserve a Professor who does not read his newspaper, listen to his I-pod, answer his cell-phone, use his laptop to access Facebook or otherwise demonstrate a lack of respect for you during class discussion and lectures. Your Professor deserves students who demonstrate the same level of respect.

## **Course Calendar:**

### **January 19: Introduction**

#### **Pre-colonial and colonial inheritance**

#### **January 24:**

Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 2.

Jan Vansina, *Antecedents to Modern Rwanda*, University of Wisconsin Press, 2004, Introduction, Ch. 3 & Ch. 5. [E-link available through Voyager]

#### **January 26:**

Read:

Crawford Young, *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, Yale University Press, 1994, Ch.8.

## **Ideology**

### **January 31:**

#### Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 3.

Jeffrey Herbst, "War and the State in Africa," *International Security*, 14 (4), 1990, 117-139.

### **Feb 2:**

#### Read:

Pierre Engelbert and Rebecca Hummel, "Let's stick together: Understanding Africa's Secessionist Deficit," *African Affairs*, 2005, 104 (416), 399-427.

Khalid Medani, "Strife and Secession in Sudan," *Journal of Democracy*, July 2011, 135-149.

### **Feb 7: Ethnicity and Religion I**

#### Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 4.

Stephen Ellis and Gerrie ter Haar, "Religion and Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 36 (2), 1998, 175-201.

### **Feb 9:**

#### Read:

Ogbu Kalu, "Punishing Adultery with Shari'a Stones in Twenty First Century Nigeria," *African Affairs*, 102 (408), 2003, 389-408.

## **Ethnicity and Religion II**

### **Feb 14:**

#### Read:

David D. Laitin, "Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Cleavages in Yorubaland," in *Bringing the State Back in*, ed. by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Robert H. Bates, "Capital, Kinship, and Conflict: The Structuring Influence of Capital in Kinship Societies," *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 24 (2), 1990, 151-164.

### **Feb 16:**

#### Read:

Edward Miguel, "Tribe or Nation? Nation-Building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania," *World Politics*, 56 (3), 2004, 327-362.

## **Social Class**

### **February 21:**

#### Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 5.

Catherine Boone, "States and Ruling Classes in Post-Colonial Africa," in *State Power and Social Forces*, ed. by Joel Migdal, Atul Kohli and Vivienne Shue, Cambridge University Press, 1994, Ch. 5.

## **Legitimacy**

### **February 23:**

#### Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 6.

Jennifer Wiidner, "Single Party States and Agricultural Policies: The Cases of Ivory Coast and Kenya," *Comparative Politics*, 26 (2), 1994, 127-148.

### **February 28: Review**

### **March 2: Mid-Semester Exam**

## **Coercion**

### **March 7:**

#### Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 7.

Donald Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*, University of California Press, 1985, Ch. 11.

### **March 9:**

#### Read:

Jimmy Kandeh, *Coups from Below*, 2004, Introduction & Ch. 7.

### **March 14: Spring Break**

### **March 16: Spring Break**

## **Sovereignty I**

### **March 21:**

#### Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 8.

William G. Thom, "Congo-Zaire's 1996-97 Civil War in the Context of Evolving Patterns of Military Conflict in Africa in the Era of Independence," *The Journal of Conflict Studies*, 19, 1999, 93-123.

### **March 23:**

#### Read:

Deborah Bräutigam and Xiaoyang Tang, "African Shenzhen: China's Special Economic Zones in Africa," *The Journal of Modern African Studies*. (Mar. 2011): 27-54.

## Sovereignty II

### March 28:

#### Read:

Thomson, Ch. 9

Christopher Clapham, *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival*, Cambridge University Press, 1996, Ch.7.

### March 30:

#### Watch:

*Bamako*

#### Read:

Giulia Piccolino, "David against Goliath in Cote D'Ivoire? Lauren Gbagbo's War against Global Governance," *African Affairs*, 111 (442), 2011, 1-23.

## Authority I

### April 3:

#### Read:

Thomson, Ch. 10.

Alison Des Forges, *Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda*, 1999, Introduction, <http://www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1999/rwanda/rwanda0399.htm>.

### April 5:

#### Read:

Alex de Waal, "Tragedy of Darfur: On Understanding and Ending the Horror," *Boston Review*, 2004, October/November. <http://www.bostonreview.net/BR29.5/dewaal.php>

Scott Straus, "Rwanda and Darfur: A Comparative Analysis," *Genocide Studies and Prevention*, 2006, 1(1), 41-56.

### April 10: Review

### April 12: Second Mid-term

## Authority II

### April 17:

#### Read:

Robert Bates, *When Things Fell Apart*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, Ch.2.

Christopher Blattman, "From Violence to Voting: War and Political Participation in Uganda," *American Political Science Review*, 103 (2), 2009, 231-247.

**April 19:**Read:

Erin Baines, "Spirits and Social Reconstruction After Mass Violence: Rethinking Transitional Justice," *African Affairs*, 109 (436), 2010, 409-430.

**Democracy and Economic Growth****April 24:**Read:

*Thomson*, Ch. 11.

Daniel Branch and Nic Cheeseman, "Democratization, Sequencing, and State Failure in Africa: Lessons from Kenya," *African Affairs*, 108 (430), 2008, 1-26.

**April 26:**Watch:

*Africa Paradis*

Read:

Steven Radelet, *Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries are Leading the Way*, Center for Global Development, 2010, TBA.

Edward Miguel, "Africa Unleashed: Explaining the Secret of a Belated Boom," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December, 2011, 155-160.

**May 1: Review**