

GVPT484: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF AFRICA

**University of Maryland
Spring 2017**

Prof. John F. McCauley
Office: 2117E Chincoteague Hall
Email: mccauley@umd.edu
Telephone: (301) 405-6354

Mon/Wed 3:30-4:45pm
Francis Scott Key Hall 0123
Office Hours: Mon 11-2, 2-3
and by appt.

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this course is to explore the themes, issues, and trends that shape politics in Africa, across approximately 54 countries and over one billion people. I hope the course will inspire in you an interest in African affairs. I also hope it will give you an opportunity to think critically about how context shapes political behavior and about how the sociopolitical world works.

The material we will cover is organized around five broad issues: 1) the foundations of contemporary African politics, 2) political leadership in Africa, 3) the politics of identity, 4) pressing current issues in African politics, and 5) economic and political change in Africa. The expectation is that, by the end of the course, you will have a better understanding of common trends in this part of the world, which should help you in evaluating political behavior more generally.

This course is not designed as a study of individual countries in Africa; it is a theme-based course. Nevertheless, in exploring the themes and trends that dominate politics in Africa, we will learn quite a bit about a variety of countries on the continent, and you will have additional opportunities to learn the details of specific countries.

REQUIREMENTS

The course is taught in two lectures per week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 in Key 0123. Attendance is mandatory.

There are six requirements for this course. First, students are expected to participate regularly in class discussions and activities. Second, to help you get familiar with this vast, complex, and changing geographic region, there will be a map quiz. Third, students will work on a project to address a specific issue in African politics and will do a write-up and presentation of their findings. Fourth, there will be a research paper due at the end of the semester; this paper will give you an opportunity to do rigorous analysis on a topic and country of your choosing. Students will also take a midterm and a non-cumulative final exam. The relative weights accorded to each of these requirements are as follows:

- Map Quiz (Feb 13) 5 percent
- Midterm (Mar 13) 20 percent
- Project (Apr 17, 19) 15 percent
- Final Exam (May 10) 25 percent
- Paper (May 15) 20 percent (parts due on 2/20, 4/3, 5/1, 5/15)
- Participation 15 percent

READINGS

The readings for this course are essential for understanding the themes and controversies discussed in class; to do well and to get as much as possible out of the course, you will have to do all of them. All readings will be provided via the course website. If you're interested in an additional overview, Martin Meredith's book, *The Fate of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005) offers an excellent introduction to Africa and African Politics.

ABSENCE & OTHER POLICIES

If you would like your absence to be excused, you are required to email me regarding your absence **in advance** of the class if at all possible, and to bring documentation to support your excused absence on the day you return. Late papers will be penalized. Details of grading policies can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

Use of computers is **prohibited** in class, except for group project days and days when we do data work. Any student who wishes to receive special permission to use a computer (solely for the purpose of note-taking) must see the professor. Inappropriate or unauthorized use of computers will count as an absence.

Any evidence of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Dean's office.

If you require special assistance or face extenuating circumstances that could affect your performance in class, please come see me right away or as soon as the issue arises.

For more information on UMD course-related policies, please visit the following link: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 25: Introduction – The Diversity of Africa

- Read this syllabus.
- NPR. 2016. "Attention Students: Put your Laptops Away." April 17.

Jan 30: Pre-Colonialism and the Scramble for Africa

- Thomas Pakenham, *The Scramble for Africa, 1876-1912* (1991), Introduction, pp. xxi-xxiii.
- Jeffrey Herbst, “The Europeans and the African Problem,” in *States and Power in Africa* (2000), Ch. 3.

Feb 1: Colonialism—Policies

- Peter Ekeh, “Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (Jan 1975), pp. 91-112.
- Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda* (1998), Ch. 4.

Feb 6: Colonial and Historical Legacies

- “Africa: The Heart of the Matter,” *The Economist*, May 13, 2000.
- Nathan Nunn (2008) "The Long Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 123, No. 1, pp. 139-176.
- Niall Ferguson. 2003. “Why We (the British) Ruled the World.”
- Washington Post. 2016. “Georgetown Joins Brown, UVA, and Others in Looking Anew at Slavery.” 4 Sept.

Feb 8: National Independence Movements

- Martin Meredith, “L’Afrique Noir” in *The Fate of Africa* (2005), Ch. 4.
- Kwame Nkrumah, “I Speak of Freedom: A Statement of African Ideology,” (1961).
- G. Pascal Zachary, “As Qaddafi Died, So Did His Craziest Dream and Mistake: Pan-Africanism.” *The Atlantic*, 2013.

Feb 13: Personal Rule and Strong Leaders in Africa

- Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “The Political Economy of African Personal Rule,” in Apter and Rosberg, *Political Development and the New Realism in Sub-Saharan Africa* (1994), pp. 291-322.
- Wall Street Journal. 2015. “The Return of Africa’s Strongmen.” Dec 5.
- New York Times. 2015. “Nobody Should be President for Life, Obama Tells Africa.” July 28.

**** Map Quiz**

Feb 15: Weak State Institutions in Africa

- Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “Why Africa’s Weak States Persist: The Empirical and Juridical in Statehood,” *World Politics* 35 (Oct 1982), pp. 1-24.
- “The Road to Hell is Unpaved,” *The Economist*, 21 December 2002.

Feb 20: Clientelism and Citizen Responses to the State

- Leonard Wantchekon, “Clientelism and Voting Behavior,” *World Politics* 55, 3 (2003), pp. 399-422.
- The Guardian. 2015. “How Second Hand Clothing Donations Are Creating a Dilemma for Kenya.” July 6.

**** Paper Part I due**

Feb 22: Traditional Power in Africa

- Edward Miguel. 2005. “Poverty and Witch Killing.” *Review of Economic Studies* 7: 1153-1172.
- “Africa’s Albinos Seek Their Place in the Sun,” Global Post, May 30, 2010.
- USA Today. 2017. “Cameroon Uses Witchcraft to Fight Boko Haram.” 12 Jan.

Feb 27: Democracy and Political Change in Africa

- Carothers, Thomas. 2007. “The ‘Sequencing’ Fallacy.” *Journal of Democracy* 18, 1: 12-27 and the debate with Mansfield, Edward D., and Jack L. Snyder. “The Sequencing ‘Fallacy’.” *Journal of Democracy* 18, 3 (2007), 5-10.
- Lisa Anderson. 2011. “Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya.” *Foreign Affairs* 3 (May/June): 2 – 8.

Mar 1: Corruption in Africa

- J.P. Olivier de Sardan, “A Moral Economy of Corruption in Africa ?” *Journal of Modern African Studies* 37 (1999), pp. 25-52.
- “Corruption in Nigeria: the Only Thing that Works,” *Economist*, 6/20, 2015
- Ray Fisman and Edward Miguel. 2008. “Corruption, Norms, and Legal Enforcement: Evidence from Diplomatic Parking Tickets.” (UN Global Corruption Report).

Mar 6: Analyzing Data on African Political Perspectives

- Read the Afrobarometer Data Methodology and Codebook for your country.
- Lekelock, Rorisang and Sibusiso Nkomo. 2016. “South Africans Demand Government Accountability Amid Perceptions of Growing Corruption.” Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 126.
- Richman Kokera and Stephen Ndoma. 2016. “In Zimbabwe, Tolerance Crosses Ethnic, Religious, National – but Not Sexual – Lines.” Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 124.

Mar 8: Corruption in Africa Up-Close

- No reading.

Mar 13: MIDTERM

Mar 15: No Class – Prof in Senegal

**** SPRING BREAK ****

Mar 27: Identity Politics—Ethnicity

- Blaine Harden, “Battle for the Body,” in *Africa: Dispatches from a Fragile Continent* (1990), Ch. 3.
- Eifert, Ben, Edward Miguel and Daniel Posner. 2010. “Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa.” *American Journal of Political Science* 54, 2 (April): 494-510.

Mar 29: Identity Politics—Religion & Race

- New York Times. 2002. “Africans Fill Churches that Celebrate Wealth.”
- Reuters. 2014. “Gay Community in Liberia Under Attack over Ebola Outbreak.” Oct 23.
- Gibson, James. 2015. “Apartheid’s Long Shadow: How Racial Divides Distort South Africa’s Democracy.” *Foreign Affairs* Mar/Apr.

Apr 3: Conflict and War

- James Fearon and David Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,” *American Political Science Review* 91 (2003), pp. 75-82.
- “Africa’s Forever Wars: Why the Continent’s Conflicts Never End,” *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2010.
- Economist. 2014. “Post-Conflict Societies: To Hell and Back.” Apr 5.

**** Paper Part II due**

Apr 5: Terrorism in Africa

- Caryl, Christian. 2015. “Want to Beat the Islamic State? Help Tunisia.” *Foreign Policy*. Nov 21.
- Economist. 2015. “Jihafica: Africa’s Jihadists.” July 18.
<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21657801-biggest-threat-african-peace-and-prosperity-comes-dangerous>.

Apr 10: Natural Resources and African Politics

- Paul Collier, “The Natural Resource Trap” in *The Bottom Billion* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), ch. 3.
- “The Resource Curse: Why Africa’s Oil Riches Don’t Trickle Down to Africans.” *Knowledge@Wharton*, Law and Society Project, Oct 31, 2007.

Apr 12: Africa’s Health Crises

- Pascaline Dupas. 2011. “Do Teenagers Respond to HIV Risk Information? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* Vol. 3: 1-34.
- Kim Dionne. 2014. “Why West African Governments are Struggling in Response to Ebola.” *Washington Post*. July 15.
- Economist. 2015. “Malaria Eradication: Breaking the Fever.” Oct 10.

Apr 17: Group Projects

**** in-class presentations and materials due**

Apr 19: Group Projects (cont.)

**** in-class presentations and materials due**

Apr 24: Africa's Economic Challenges

- Acemoglu, Darren and James Robinson. 2010. "Why is Africa Poor?" *Economic History of Developing Nations* 25, 1: 21-50.
- Paul Collier and Jan Willem Gunning, "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13 (Summer 1999), pp. 3-22.
- BBC. 2009. "Why Is the African Continent Poor?" BBC World News. 8/24.

Apr 26: Economic Reform and Foreign Aid

- Dambisa Moyo, 2009, *Dead Aid*. New York: FSG Press. Forward & Ch. 1.
- Jeffrey Sachs. 2005. "The Development Challenge." *Foreign Affairs*.

May 1: China and Africa

- "Africa: Made in China," *Foreign Policy*, Mar 19, 2012.
- Deborah Brautigam. 2010. "Africa's Eastern Promise: What the West Can Learn from Chinese Investment in Africa." *Foreign Affairs*, Jan 5.

**** Paper Part III due**

May 3: Interventions and Humanitarianism

- Stayton, Michelle. 2015. "7 Reasons Why Your Two-Week Trip to Haiti Doesn't Matter: Calling Bull on 'Service Trips'." The Almost Doctor's Channel. Dec 15. <http://almost.thedoctorschannel.com/14323-2/>.
- Martin, Courtney. 2016. "The Reductive Seduction of Other People's Problems." The Development Set. Jan 11. <https://medium.com/the-development-set/the-reductive-seduction-of-other-people-s-problems-3c07b307732d#.66i1rr41t>.
- Blackledge, S. 2013. "In Defense of 'Voluntourists'." The Guardian. Feb 25. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/feb/25/in-defence-of-voluntourism1>.

May 8: Conclusion: the Future of Africa

- Edward Miguel, "Is it Africa's Turn?" and responses by Robert Bates, Ken Banks, David Weil, Jeremy Weinstein, Smita Singh, Paul Collier, and Rachel Glennerster, *Boston Review* (May-June 2008).
- "Africa's Hopeful Economies." *Economist*, Dec 3, 2011.

May 10: EXAM

RESEARCH PAPER: Final version due MAY 15

Useful Sources for Information on Africa:

- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/africa/>
 - <http://allafrica.com/>
 - <http://www.africanews.org/>
 - <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr>
 - <http://www.afrika.no/English/index.html>
 - <http://www.thisisafricaonline.com/>
-
- *Country Pages:* http://www.africa.upenn.edu//Home_Page/Country.html
 - *Country Pages:* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
 - *Country Pages:* <http://country.eiu.com/AllCountries.aspx>

Grading Scale

93 – 100	A
90 – 93	A-
87 – 90	B+
83 – 87	B
80 – 83	B-
77 – 80	C+
73 – 77	C
70 – 73	C-
67 – 70	D+
63 – 67	D
60 – 63	D-
< 60	F

Calculation of Participation Grades

Your participation grade is worth 15 percentage points, determined as follows:

- 10 points for attendance
- 5 points for contribution

Example Participation Grades

A student comes to every meeting, listens, shares her/his views, responds to questions, and demonstrates familiarity with the readings. $10 + 4/5 = 14$ or 15 A

A student comes to every meeting but never engages, responds to questions, shows attentiveness to others, or demonstrates familiarity with the readings. $10 + 0/1 = 10$ or 11 C-

A student has two unexcused absences. He/she contributes occasionally but doesn't show familiarity with readings or offer thoughtful insights. $8 + 2/3 = 10$ or 11 C-

A student comes to every meeting and occasionally responds to questions, shows attentiveness, and once in a while comments on a reading. $10 + 3/4 = 12$ or 13 B

A student has four unexcused absences but otherwise contributes well when present. $6 + 3/4 = 9$ or 10 D