

## **GVPT484: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF AFRICA**

**University of Maryland  
Fall 2017**

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Mon/Wed 2:00-3:15pm  
Tydings 2106  
Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30  
and by appt.

### **OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this course is to explore the themes, issues, and trends that shape politics in Africa, across 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. You will also develop concrete skills in social science research that will serve you beyond this course.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

The course is taught in two meetings per week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:15 in Tydings 2106.

There are five requirements for this course. First, students are expected to come to every class and 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, you will take a midterm exam. Fourth, students will work on a group project to address a specific issue in African politics and will do a write-up and presentation of their findings. Finally, you will produce a research paper over the course of the semester; this paper will give you an opportunity to do rigorous analysis on a topic and country of your choosing. The relative weights accorded to each of these requirements are as follows:

- Map Quiz (Sept 19) 5 percent
- Midterm (Oct 5) 35 percent
- Project (Nov 7, 9) 15 percent
- Paper (Dec 19) 30 percent [parts on 9/25, 10/13, 11/6, 11/29, 12/12]
- 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. One book is required and is available at the campus bookstore:

McCauley, John F. 2017. *The Logic of Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

All other readings (aside from the book) will be provided via the course website at [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu). Select GVPT 484 and you'll find the readings for each meeting under the Files tab.

## 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.

**Use of computers is prohibited** in class, except for group project and data analysis days. 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.

Exam grades cannot be changed except in the case of a tabulating mistake. To contest an exam grade, you must inform the professor in writing. The professor will re-grade the entire exam. Any evidence of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Dean.

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

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

## SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

### **Aug 28: Introduction – The Diversity of Africa**

- Read this syllabus.
- NPR. 2016. “Attention Students: Put Your Laptops Away.” April 17.

### **Aug 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.

### **Sept 4: No Class – Labor Day**

### **Sept 6: 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.

### **Sept 11: 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.” Sept 4.

### **Sept 13: National Independence Movements and Pan-Africanism**

- 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.

### **Sept 18: 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**

**Sept 20: Research Paper Development**

- Read guidelines for Part 1.
- Read through the Afrobarometer codebook and do some Control-F keyword searches to get ideas for your research question. Available at: [http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/data/round-6/merged\\_round\\_6\\_codebook\\_20161.pdf](http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/data/round-6/merged_round_6_codebook_20161.pdf)

**Sept 25: 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.

**\*\* Paper Part 1 due**

**Sept 27: 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.

**Oct 2: Traditional Power in Africa**

- Miguel, Edward. 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. “Cameroon Uses Witchcraft to Fight Boko Haram.” Jan 12.

**Oct 4: Analyzing Data on African Political Perspectives**

- Read the Afrobarometer Data Methodology and Codebook for your country.
- Richman Kokera and Stephen Ndoma. 2016. “In Zimbabwe, Tolerance Crosses Ethnic, Religious, National – but Not Sexual – Lines.” Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 124.

**Oct 9: Democracy and Political Change in Africa**

- Lisa Anderson. 2011. “Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya.” *Foreign Affairs* 3 (May/June): 2 – 8.
- Carothers, Thomas. 2007. “The Sequencing Fallacy.” *Journal of Democracy* 18, 1: 12-27.

**Oct 11: Identity Politics—Ethnicity**

- Blaine Harden, “Battle for the Body,” in *Africa: Dispatches from a Fragile Continent* (1990), Ch. 3.
- Deng, Francis. 1997. “Ethnicity: An African Predicament.” *Brookings Institution*. June 1.

**\*\* Paper Part 2 due on Friday, Oct 13**

**Oct 16: Identity Politics—Religion**

- McCauley, Chapters 1, 2, 3.
- Reuters. 2014. “Gay Community in Liberia Under Attack over Ebola Outbreak.” Oct 23.

**Oct 18: Consequences of Ethnic Politics**

- McCauley, Intro to Part II, Chapter 5, at least one of Chapters 6-8, and Conclusion.
- 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.

**Oct 23: \*\* MIDTERM \*\***

**Oct 25: 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.
- Economist. 2015. “Corruption in Nigeria: the Only Thing that Works,” June 20.
- Ray Fisman and Edward Miguel. 2008. “Corruption, Norms, and Legal Enforcement: Evidence from Diplomatic Parking Tickets.” (UN Global Corruption Report).

**Oct 30: Conflict and War**

- The Economist. 2014. “Post-Conflict Societies: To Hell and Back.” Apr 5.
- “Africa’s Forever Wars: Why the Continent’s Conflicts Never End,” *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2010.

**Nov 1: Terrorism in Africa**

- 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>.
- Caryl, Christian. 2015. “Want to Beat the Islamic State? Help Tunisia.” *Foreign Policy*. Nov 21.

**Nov 6: Natural Resources, the Environment, and African Politics**

- The Guardian. 2017. “Global Warming Brews Big Trouble in Coffee Birthplace Ethiopia.” June 19.
- “The Resource Curse: Why Africa’s Oil Riches Don’t Trickle Down to Africans.” *Knowledge@Wharton*, Law and Society Project, Oct 31, 2007.

**\*\* Paper Part 3 due**

**Nov 8: 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.

**Nov 13: Group Projects**

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

**Nov 15: Group Projects (cont.)**

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

**Nov 20: Analyzing Data**

- Lekalake, Rorisang and Sibusiso Nkomo. 2016. "South Africans Demand Government Accountability Amid Perceptions of Growing Corruption." *Afrobarometer Dispatch* No. 126.

**Nov 22: No Class – Happy Thanksgiving**

**Nov 27: Africa's Economic Challenges**

- Acemoglu, Darren and James Robinson. 2010. "Why is Africa Poor?" *Economic History of Developing Nations* 25, 1: 21-50.
- BBC. 2009. "Why Is the African Continent Poor?" *BBC World News*. 24 August.

**Nov 29: 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*.

**\*\* Paper Part 4 due**

**Dec 4: China and Africa**

- Alex Vines. 2008. "China in Africa: A Mixed Blessing?" *Current History*: 213-219.
- "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.

**Dec 6: Interventions and Humanitarianism in Africa**

- 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, Sam. 2013. "In Defense of 'Voluntourists'." The Guardian. Feb 25. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/feb/25/in-defence-of-voluntourism1>.

***Dec 11: 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.

**\*\* Dec 12: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (Part 5) due \*\***

**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](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