INTL 190: Politics of Africa

Wednesdays 9-11:50  
SSB 107

Professor Clark Gibson  
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Office Hours: Monday 8:30-9:30. Other times to meet can be arranged upon request.

Overview:

This course seeks to introduce students to the politics of Africa. It covers the essentials for understanding contemporary African governance, including the effects of colonialism, independence movements, authoritarian rule, the nature and powers of the African state, the continent’s recent movement towards democracy, Africa’s slow economic growth, ethnic politics, AIDS, and civil war.

Course Requirements and Grading:

The course will have a midterm (20%), final (20%), class work (20%), and final paper (40%).
- The Exams will be comprised mainly of short answers.
- Class Work means that students are expected to be able to discuss with authority the readings assigned. Reading is to be finished for discussion on the date listed. Note that class work is assigned the same total value as the exams.
- The Final Paper is expected to be between 20 and 30 pages long (double spaced), excluding bibliography. I will assign the topics. Deadlines for outlines, bibliography, and final paper are indicated below.

INTL 190 Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

WEEK 1 – January 9

Introduction: Diversity

WEEK 2 – January 16

The Legacy of Colonialism
- Philip Gourevitch, We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda (New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1998), ch. 4.

National Independence Movements

**Test on the Map of Africa.**

**Paper Topics Assigned.**

WEEK 3 – January 23

**The Centralization of Authority and the Rise of Personal Rule**
- Patrick Chabal and Jean-Pascal Daloz, “W(h)ither the State?” and “Recycled Elites,” in Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument (Oxford: James Currey, 1999), chs. 1 and 3.

WEEK 4 – January 30

**State Capacity and State Decay**
- “The Road to Hell is Unpaved,” The Economist, 21 December 2002.

**Agricultural Policy**

WEEK 5 – February 6

**Disengagement from the State**

**Midterm.**

WEEK 6 – February 13

**Identity Politics: Ethnicity**
Identity Politics: Class

**Bibliography due.**

WEEK 7 – February 20

Political Change in Africa in the 1990s

**Outline due.**

WEEK 8 – February 27

Explaining Slow Economic Growth in Africa
- Martin Meredith, “The Lost Decade” in *The Fate of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005), ch. 22.
- Film: *Our Friends At the Bank*

WEEK 9 – March 5

The Domestic Politics of Economic Reform in Africa

The International Politics of Economic Reform in Africa: Aid and Debt
WEEK 10 – March 12

Current Issues


Final Paper Due.

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**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship (http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm). Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in forbidden conduct will be subjected to the disciplinary process. Cheaters will receive a failing grade on the assignment or the exam and/or in the entire course. They may also be suspended from UCSD.