International Relations 367—Africa in International Affairs

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Class Time: MWF 2:00-3:20
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

In this course, we will examine the international relations and domestic politics of the states of sub-Saharan Africa. There is no other continent that is veiled in obscurity like Africa. And this last continent to experience wholesale de-colonization, African relations has been marked by conflict, underdevelopment, corruption, pandemic disease, and environmental degradation. But it possesses extremely valuable resources, a large and growing population, and instances of nations beginning to emerge from poverty. As such, the goal of this course is to identify the causes of conflict and underdevelopment with an eye toward offering solutions to the continent’s ills. Your emphasis will be on empirical research, using general IR theories as well as continent-level variables to illuminate the challenges that African states and African peoples face in the 21st Century. As such we will answer the following questions:

1) How has Africa come to be in such a state of conflict and underdevelopment, with an eye toward colonialism, investment patterns post-colonialism, and the underdevelopment of the political and economic class?

2) How has the continent’s endemic internal conflicts, at the expense of international wars, influenced the state of African politics?

3) How can the end of the Cold War and the start of the 21st Century, with the expansion of warfare to state-to-state conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, potentially transform African relations?

4) What role has poor governance played in the lack of development, with a particular eye toward corruption and the lack of development of true national institutions (as well as a lack of national identity)?

5) Can continental governance, in the form of the African Union as well as the regional organizations, help to overcome some of the shortcomings of African sovereignty?

6) What role can the West play in aiding the political and economic development of the continent, with a particular emphasis on the advancement of justice following a conflict?

This course will have a heavy emphasis on conflict issues, both because of the endemic conflict in the region, as well as its impact on poor economic development. But this course is about more than conflict in Africa. It also will examine issues of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic, environmental degradation, corruption issues, the war on terror, human rights concerns, gender, and migration and refugee issues. The grades for this class are as follows:

3 short quizzes on material: 5% each (15% total)
Mid-term: 20%
Research paper: 30%
Final: 30%
Class participation: 5%

We will have 3 short quizzes, testing whether you have been keeping up to date with the material. One of these quizzes will be a geography quiz, and you will be required to know the nations of Africa. The other two will cover the material to date, and serve as a means to keep track of your progress in the course. The research paper will be a topic of your choosing, in consultation with
me. It will either examine the politics and economics of one of the nations of the continent, or a broader regional or continental development within Africa. The mid-term and final are both in-class and traditional exams with an objective as well as a subjective component, with plenty of writing required. Class participation evaluates both attendance as well as the quality of input you provide to the discussions.

The following books are required for the class:


January
10: Introductions and hand out Syllabi
12: African Geography and History
   Gordon & Gordon, Chapters 1-3, pgs 1-56
17: No Class, Martin Luther King’s Birthday
19: General African Politics and Economics
   Gordon & Gordon, Chapters 4-5, pgs 57-154
24: African International Relations
   Gordon & Gordon, Chapter 6, pgs 155-201
   Makinda and Okumu, Intro, Chapters 1-2, pgs 1-57
   Quiz 1 will be during this week
26: Crisis in Cote d’Ivorie
   Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 3, pgs 88-105
   Collier, On Blackboard
31: Causes and Costs of Conflict in Africa
   Nhema and Zeleza, Introduction, Prologue & chapter 1, pgs 1-70
   Makinda and Okumu, Chapter 4, pgs 75-93

February
2: Religion in Africa—the Islam/Christian divide
   Gordon & Gordon, Chapter 11, pgs 317-350
7: The History of Conflict in Sudan
   Cockett, Chapters 1-2, pgs 1-95
   Quiz 2 will be during this week
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Islamism in Sudan</td>
<td>Cockett, Chapters 3-4, pgs 96-167</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Darfur</td>
<td>Cockett, Chapters 5-6, pgs 168-249</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>The Referendum and its aftermath</td>
<td>Cockett, Chapters 7-8, pgs 250-299, Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 2, pgs 71-87</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>No Class, President’s Day</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Gender in Africa</td>
<td>Gordon &amp; Gordon, Chapter 10, pgs 293-316, Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 5, pgs 136-165</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>The AIDS pandemic</td>
<td>Gordon &amp; Gordon, Chapter 7, pgs 203-234</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Africa’s Environmental Challenges and Food Security</td>
<td>Gordon &amp; Gordon, Chapter 8, pgs 235-264, Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 8, pgs 199-213</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Kinship and Literature in Africa</td>
<td>Gordon &amp; Gordon, Chapter 9, pgs 265-292, Gordon &amp; Gordon, Chapter 12, pgs 351-396</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
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<td>14, 16</td>
<td>Spring Break, No Class</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Rebellions throughout the Continent</td>
<td>Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 4, pgs 106-135, Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 6, pgs 166-180</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Antecedents and the Congo War</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 1-3, pgs 1-50</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>The Kabilas and regime supporters</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 4-6, pgs 53-105</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Kabila’s opponents and their benefactors</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 7-9, pgs 109-165</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>The ongoing war and its aftermath</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 10-13, pgs 169-233</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Legal Responses to Africa’s Challenges</td>
<td>Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 7, pgs 181-198, Sriram and Pillay, Introduction, pgs 1-18</td>
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<td>Makinda and Okumu, Chapter 3, pgs 58-74</td>
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11: Concepts of Justice in Africa
Sriram and Pillay, Chapters 1-5, pgs 19-134

*Quiz 3 will be during this week*

13: Truth and Reconciliation Processes
Sriram and Pillay, Chapters 6-10, pgs 135-219

18: War Crimes Tribunals
Sriram and Pillay, Chapters 11-13, pgs 221-274

20: Indigenous Tribunals
Sriram and Pillay, Chapters 14-15, pgs 275-314

*Papers due*

25: The International Criminal Court
Sriram and Pillay, Chapters 16-17, conclusion, pgs 315-357

27: Trends and Opportunities for Africa
Gordon & Gordon, Chapter 13, pgs 397-415
Nhema and Zeleza, Chapter 9, pgs 214-238
Makinda and Okumu, Chapters 5-6, pgs 94-121

May 2: voluntary Review Session

*Final Exam: Monday, May 9, 2-4 pm*