

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLS-2520-01/AAM-2520 01 INTRO TO AFRICAN POLITICS  
3 CREDIT HOURS, Fall 2023

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MWF 12-12:50 p  
HOURS: MF 1:10-2:10  
Tues: 9-10 am  
And by Appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the study of government and political processes in Africa. Using illustrations and case studies from various countries, it examines rival theoretical perspectives in the study of African politics, salient themes in African politics such as the nature of colonial experience, rival theoretical perspectives, nationalism and independence, the challenge of nation-building –identity politics and the role of the military in African Politics. The simple formulation of these themes pre-supposes comparisons among some of the many cultures of Africa. The lectures and readings will be supplemented with documentary films Promised Land, The Magnificent African Cake, The Stars Know Our Home, and Poison Fire. These films will be used to spark discussions and raise awareness about identity, sovereignty, social justice, and the triumph of culture over modernity. This course fulfills the Political Science Comparative Politics requirement and the Core Global Citizenship requirement. Occasionally lecture notes will be sent to students via canvas or email attachments.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the course are as follows:

- A. To provide students with an overview of the politics of post-independent Africa; and thus introduce them to some dimensions of diversity in the African experience.
- B. To introduce students to some of the paradigmatic differences in understanding African politics and society.
- C. To expose students to the major external and internal factors influencing African politics and society, and
- D. To develop students critical and analytical skills.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After taking this course, students will be able to:

- A. To apply different theories to understand and explain political, economic, and social events in Africa
- B. Recognize and apply major concepts in the study of African politics
- C. Able to assess the effects of various social and political structures to determine which are more likely to promote equality, justice, freedom, or other values important to them, and

- D. Able to explain the historical foundations of contemporary African politics.

**REQUIRED TEXTS (These can be purchased from the university bookstore Barnes & Noble))**

- A. Keller, E. J. Identity, Citizenship, and Political Conflict in Africa, 2014. Bloomington, Indiana University Press. (A copy on Pius Library reserve desk).
- B. Peter J. Schraeder, African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation, 2004. (A copy on Pius Library reserve desk)
- C. Englebert, Pierre, & Kevin C. Dunn. 2013. Inside African Politics. Boulder, Colorado. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.
- D. Khapoya, Vincent B. The African Experience. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition New York, Pearson, 2013 (Recommended. Also, on Reserve Desk of Pius Library).

Films: Class readings will be supplemented with films on events in Africa.

This syllabus is subject to revision where necessary.

## **Fall 2022 University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is “the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: [https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy\\_academic-integrity\\_6-26-2015.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf).

Additionally, each SLU College, School, and Center has its own academic integrity policies, available on their respective websites.

### **Disability Accommodations**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not

have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

## **Title IX**

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [anna.kratky@slu.edu](mailto:anna.kratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp>. To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

## **Student Success Center**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., [prior experience](#), study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit the [Student Success Center](#) to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

## **University Writing Services**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University [Writing Services](#) in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit the [Student Success Center](#) or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

## Basic Needs Security

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

## Absences

In addition to authorized absences, instructors have the authority to excuse absences for other reasons.

Documentation for short-term absences may be required at the instructor's discretion.

In the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Medical documentation may be required in cases of serious illness or medical conditions which impact a student's ability to participate in courses for an extended period.

In the event of a chronic medical condition or disability, students are strongly advised to contact the Dean of Students and/or the Office of Disability Services to explore potential accommodations.

## Authorized Absence Activities

As previously stated, in the event that several classes have been missed and students are unable to meet course objectives they should consult with the instructor and academic advisor about course extensions (see the [Incomplete Course](#) policy) or a course withdrawal (see [Course Withdrawal](#) policy).

Each instructor will excuse students from class for authorized activities (see below) and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual instructor as soon as they return to complete any required work.

Missed required work may be replaced by alternative assignments at the instructor's discretion.

## **Bereavement**

Official notification from the Dean of Students or Academic Dean.

Upon request to and approval by the Dean of Students Office, students shall be given up to five (5) consecutive days (not including weekends or holidays) of excused absence for bereavement.

Students will be expected to complete assigned readings before the next day's class, participate in class discussions and prepare for case studies. Students should be aware of how politics affects their everyday lives. Most of the time, the instructor will begin class by asking "what is the latest?" The idea is to allow you express yourself on what you have observed or read about politics at the local, state, national or international level. Your participation efforts at this level will be recorded toward class participation points.

**As part of class participation, during the last week of the semester students will be reminded to complete an on-line course evaluation. Students will be notified when screens will be accessible for students to submit the evaluation.**

**Students are reminded that this document is subject to revision(s) where necessary.**

## V1. EVALUATION

### A. Methods

Quizzes, class participation, midterm and final examinations will be used in evaluating the performance of students.

1. Students will be required to take the mid-semester and the final examinations.
2. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled. Exams are primarily short essay questions. Exams are not cumulative, that is, only the material since the last exam is included. Class participation will be determined by your constructive contributions to class discussions, questions and answers. Also, you will be expected to participate in group discussions. There will be two quizzes.

### Grading Scale and Distribution of Points

- |    |                           |    |
|----|---------------------------|----|
| 1. | Quizzes .....             | 10 |
| 2. | Mid-Semester Exam . . .   | 40 |
| 3. | Final Exam . . . . .      | 40 |
| 4. | Class Participation ..... | 10 |

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	60-69 =D

Below 65 = F

NOTE: Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Aug. 23**      **Course Overview**

**Aug. 25**      **Africa: Introduction**  
Why Study African Politics?  
Readings: Englebert & Dunn. Chap 1, pp. 1-6

## **COLONIALISM AND THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE**

**Aug. 28, 30, Sep. 1**    **The Colonial Heritage**

1. Definition of Colonialism
2. Why Europe Colonized Africa
  - a. To Gather Scientific Knowledge
  - b. European Ethnocentrism
  - c. Political
  - d. Economic

Readings: Khapoya, pp. 99-111  
Schraeder, pp. 57-62  
Englebert & Dunn, Chap 2 pp. 17-27

Study Questions:

1. What type of political institutions existed in Africa before the coming of the Europeans? How were they organized?
2. What were the myths perpetrated by the Europeans about pre-colonial Africa?
3. Can you give examples to debunk some of the myths?

## **THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE COLONIAL HERITAGE**

**Sept. 6, 8**      **Political Impacts of Colonialism**

1. Application of the European Nation-state
2. Division of African Nations Among Several States
3. Incorporation of Several African Nations into One State
4. Destruction of Traditional Checks and Balances

Readings: Schraeder, pp. 62-69

**Sept. 11, 13**    **Economic Impacts of Colonialism**

1. Expropriations Land and Labor
2. Creation of Export-Oriented and Economics
3. Evolution of Perverse Infra-structural Development

Readings: Khapoya, pp. 134-143  
Schraeder, pp. 69-75  
Englebert & Dunn, pp 27-32

**Sept. 15**      **“This Magnificent African Cake” (Film)**

**Study Questions:**

1. Give examples of subjugation of African culture to European values?
2. According to the texts there were examples of fight of sovereignty in pre-colonial

- Africa before the advent of European invasion of Africa. What were they?
3. How did British experiences in India influence its administrative style in Africa?
  4. What forms of racism, issues of justice and human rights are depicted in the documentary film *The Magnificent African Cake*?
  5. How authoritarian were European colonial administrative styles?

**Sept 18 Quiz 1 This is fifteen minutes quiz on the documentary film “This Magnificent African Cake.” (5 points)**

### **Rival Theoretical Perspectives**

**Sept. 20, 22 The Modernization School**

1. Forms  
Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 13, pp. 302-304

**Sept. 25 Critiques of the Modernization Approach**

1. Irrelevance of Modernization Theory to African Realities
2. Ethnocentric
3. Modernization Not Uni-linear  
Readings: Schraeder, pp. 304-307

**“The Stars Know Our Home.” This film illustrates the issues of human rights and conflict between tradition and modernity (Here’s a link to the film: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/1965726/video/37752706>)**

**For a cultural approach to understanding development read Burtler, Anthony: South Africa’s HIV/AIDS Policy, 1994-2004: How can it be explained? *African Affairs, Volume 104, Issue 417, October 2005, pp. 591-614, <https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adi036>***

### **Study Questions:**

1. Define development by stating its conceptual and operational aspects?
2. What are some of the criticisms of Eurocentric definition of development with respect to African societies?
3. How does the film *The Stars Know Our Home* reflect some of these criticisms?
4. What do you understand by symbiotic relationship between tradition and modernity?

**Sept. 29 Concern with Stability and the “Politics of Order”**

(Late 1960-Early 1970s)  
Readings: Schraeder, pp. 308-313

### **STUDY OF AFRICA WITHIN THE CRITICAL TRADITION**

**Oct. 2, 4 Dependency and Underdevelopment Theories**

Readings: Schraeder, Chap. 14, pp. 323-327  
Strengths and Weaknesses  
Readings: Schraeder, pp. 325-330

**Oct. 6 New Directions for both Liberal and Critical Traditions (1990-Present) Readings: Schraeder, pp. 313-318; 333-336**

Study Questions:

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of dependency and underdevelopment theories?
2. Why does Englebert characterize African economies as subsistence or “informal”?
3. How can Englebert’s description of African economies serve as explanations of recent events in either Ethiopia, Nigeria, or Mali?

## **NATIONALISM AND INDEPENDENCE**

### **Oct. 9 Trends in African Nationalism**

1. Definition
  2. Pre-colonial
  3. First, Second, Third, and Fourth Waves of Independence
- Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 4 pp. 81-85  
Khapoya, Chapter 5, pp. 148-150

### **Oct. 11 Domestic Influences on the Rise of Nationalism**

1. Colonial Oppression
  2. Educational Training and Development
  3. Formation and Spread of Voluntary Associations
- Readings: Khapoya, pp. 150-158  
Schraeder, pp. 86-96

### **Oct. 13, 16, 18 International Influences on the Rise of Nationalism**

1. World Wars I and II
  2. Pan-Africanism
  3. The League of Nations and the United States, etc.
- Readings: Khapoya, pp 158-166  
Schraeder, pp 89-96

#### **Study Questions:**

1. How did the nature of colonial administration influence of the rise of nationalism?
2. What were the contradictions in missionary education?
3. What was the earliest form of Pan-Africanism?
4. What were the three most important evolutions of Pan-Africanism?

### **Oct. 18 MID TERM EXAMINATION REVIEW**

### **Oct. 20 MID TERM EXAMINATION**

**Oct. 23 Discussion: Illustrate with examples whether colonialism was “good” or “bad.” Class will be divided into two groups. One group for “good” and other “bad.” The leader of each group gets 2 points on class participation and every other student who submits responses to the leader of her/his group gets 1 point. We shall elaborate more on this in class.**

## **INDEPENDENCE AND AFTER: THE CHALLENGE OF NATION-BUILDING**

### **Oct. 25 Problems at Independence**



1. Popular Expectations
  2. Economic Development
  3. Political Stability
- Readings: Khapoya, chapter 6, pp. 183-191

**Oct. 27**                      **Fall Break**

**Oct. 30**                      **Identity Politics - Ethnic Dimension of African Politics and Society**

1. Conceptualizing Ethnicity
- Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 5, pp. 101-103  
Arriola, Leonardo and Martha Johnson. 2014. "Ethnic Politics and Women's Empowerment in Africa: Ministerial Appointments to Executive Cabinet." *American Journal of Political Science*, 58 (2): 495-510

Study Questions

1. What was the assumption of Western scholars about the role of concept of ethnicity in their approach to studying African politics and society?
2. What was the attitude of post-independent African leaders on ethnicity?
3. What is the role of women in African politics and under what conditions has that role changed?

**Nov. 1, 3, 6**                **Ethnicity and African Politics** Cont'd

1. The Ethnic Intermediary's Critical Role
  2. Ethnic Violence and Breakdown of Ethnic Compacts
- Readings: Schraeder, pp. 103-110

**Nov. 8**                      **Quiz 2** Will be on "Problems at Independence" and "Ethnic Dimension of African Politics and Society."

**Nov. 10, 13**              **Class Dimension of African Politics and Society**

1. Conceptualization
  2. Class Divisions Within African Society
  3. Class Cooperation and Conflict
- Readings: Schraeder, pp. 110-124

Study Questions

1. Explain the saliency of ethnicity in an African country from a cultural perspective?
2. Conceptualize ethnicity and explain how you came to such definitions?
3. What are some of the weaknesses of applying class analysis in African politics and society?

**RETHINKING IDENTITY, CITIZENSHIP, and SOCIAL CONFLICT IN AFRICA**

**Nov. 15, 17**              Roots of the Crises of Identity and Citizenship  
Readings: Keller, Chap. 1 pp 3-13

**Nov. 20**                      Conceptualizing Citizenship in Africa  
 Readings: Keller, Chap.

**Nov.22, 24**              **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Nov. 27**                      Quiz 2: On crises of identity and citizenship in Africa (worth 5 points)

Readings: Lectures and course readings Nov. 14-21

## **MILITARY REGIMES**

- Nov. 29**      **Reasons For Coming to Power**  
    Readings: Schraeder, Chapter 9, pp. 201-204  
    Thomson, “Why has Africa experienced so many military coups?”  
    pp. 129-137  
    Case Study: Burkina Faso. This is a MUST read, What factors explain political instability and who are the key players, etc?  
    <https://thetricontinental.org/newsletterissue/burkina-faso-coup/>  
    See also, *Aljazeera 1 Aug. 2023. The Take: What’s driving the power struggle in Niger?* – Video/
- Dec 1, 4**      **MILITARY REGIMES (cont’d)**  
    1. Performance in Africa  
    2. Comparison with Civilian Regimes  
    3. Return to Barracks  
    Readings: Schraeder, pp. 209-218
- Dec. 6**      **VIDEO—AFRICAN COUPS**  
    Study Questions  
    1. What factors make military intervention in African politics more likely?  
    2. What is the role of ethnicity in African politics? Cite examples?  
    3. What are the different types of military regimes in Africa?  
    4. What is the nature of governance?  
    5. Make arguments on some myths about military involvement in politics
- Dec. 8**      **Finals Review**
- Dec. 11**      **FINAL EXAMINATION (12:00– 1:50 pm)**