Political Science/Africana Studies 452  
Politics and Society of Sub-Saharan Africa  

Fall 2019  
Section 001  

Monday-Wednesday-Friday 12:20-1:10pm  
HSS 220  

Will Jennings  
africanpolitics@utk.edu (checked daily)  
Office Phone: 974-7053 (checked rarely)  

Office Hours (also by appointment):  
McClung Tower 1008E  
MF: 9:00-9:45am and MW 11:15-Noon  

Course Description and Purpose  
This class is not designed to be solely an overview of the politics of Africa, but rather a multidisciplinary introduction to the history, culture, religion, geography, and major social and political issues that affect the continent today. After successfully completing this class, you will be able to understand what makes the culture and politics of Senegal different from what is found in Mozambique. Also, you should be able to understand the unique political dynamics of each region of Africa. This course will prepare you to visit an African country and have a fairly good idea about the country as you disembark from the plane. This course will give you a greater understanding of the tremendous diversity of Africa’s peoples and the depth of the challenges they face, in addition to the amazing potential of several African countries.  
This class will help you think about Africa’s role in the lives of the average American. With many Tennesseans tracing at least part of their lineage to Africa and everyone being affected by the African influence on our music, food, and language, this class will help you to understand what role Africa has played in your development as an individual. Additionally, Africa is playing an increasing role in American business and foreign policy, as an ally in the battle against global terrorism, an alternative supplier of crude oil, a producer of components in our cars and cell phones, and as brewer of our beer and source of many of our diamonds.  

University/College/Departmental Curricular Objectives Met  
Political Science 452 fulfills an upper level distribution requirement for the Social Sciences and is a Comparative Politics and Government course within the major. It is usually suggested, but not necessarily required, that Political Science 102 be completed before taking PS 452. The class is characterized as writing emphasis.  

Program-Level Learning Objectives that the Course Supports  
Students will learn about the characteristics of political power in Africa with a primary emphasis on sources of political power, development, and democratization.  

Required Textbooks  

Required Websites  
Kenyan: www.standardmedia.co.ke/  
Nigerian: www.nigeriaworld.com  
South African: www.iol.co.za  
African: www.allafrica.com
Graded Assignments and Course Requirements

Students will be expected to complete all readings by the date assigned. In addition to the textbook, Gordon and Gordon (G&G), the book by Martin Meredith (M) gives a personal perspective on some of the major events in Africa over the last sixty years. Students are required to keep up with all major African news events in the New York Times, BBC, and the three African news sites listed. All class sessions will include a seven-minute discussion of African current events to start class.

In addition to a Midterm (October 7th) and a Final (December 12th), there will be a participation/attendance grade, two geography quiz grades (September 4th and September 16th), Pray the Devil Back to Hell Reaction Essay (October 23rd), Tsotsi Reaction Essay (November 22nd), and three pop quizzes on the readings of which the two highest quiz grades are recorded.

Geography Quizzes  (2 at 5% each=10% of your grade)

Familiarity with the countries and cities of the African continent is a requirement of understanding the events and issues of Africa. Therefore, on September 4th and September 16th, there will be short geography quizzes on Africa’s regions. An attached handout will detail the countries, capitals, and geographic features to know before each quiz. You will be asked to label a blank map with the twenty countries and capitals that I call out. Map games for studying can be found at: http://www.sporcle.com/games/g/africacapitals and http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/African_Geography.htm

Reading-Based Pop Quizzes  (top 2 of 3 at 4% each=8% total)

You will be given three pop quizzes on the assigned reading for that day. These quizzes will include both broad questions and questions specific to that week’s reading. Of the three quizzes, only your two highest grades will be counted. If you miss a quiz for any reason, that will count as the grade to be dropped. Further absences will result in zeros for your quiz grade.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell Reaction Essay  (12% of your grade—Due October 23rd)

While watching Pray the Devil Back to Hell, you will need to take notes to prepare to write a 3-page (double-spaced with 1” margins, a title page, and 12-point Times New Roman font) reaction to the events and women depicted in the film. Pray the Devil Back to Hell looks at the challenges that women in Liberia face as well as the ability of brave determined women to be agents of political change and face down a dictator. We will watch the film in class and your reaction essay is due on October 23rd. It should not be necessary to use outside sources, be sure to document any outside materials that you use with parenthetical documentation (MLA, APA, etc.).

Midterm Exam  (20% of your grade—October 7th)

The midterm exam will cover information covered in class from the start of the semester to the end of class on October 4th. It will include essay, short answer, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and current event matching components. A Review Sheet will be passed out around September 27th, and a Review Session will be held on October 4th during the last few minutes of class.

Tsotsi Reaction Essay  (12% of your grade—Due November 22nd)

After watching the movie, Tsotsi, during class on November 13-15, you are to write a write a 3-page (double-spaced with 1” margins, a title page, and 12-point Times New Roman font) reaction to the movie. What factors have shaped Tsotsi’s life? How does his life differ from your own? How does his external environment shape his decision making? This paper is a reaction to the movie, so you shouldn’t summarize the plot. As with all assignments for this course, you must use parenthetical documentation of all outside sources.

Final Exam  (23% of your grade—December 12th at 10:15am)

The final exam will be cumulative but will focus largely on the information covered after the midterm. It will include a variety of questions including short answer, identifications, matching, and multiple choice, as well as a short essay and a cumulative essay that may draw upon general information from the first half of the class. A final exam review sheet will be passed out around November 25th.
Participation (15% of your grade)

Keeping up with the assigned reading, attending class, and regularly updating the class with news from the list of required African news websites will ensure a good participation grade. I have almost never failed a student who has attended more than 90% of class sessions. **However, students who miss more than twelve unexcused class sessions will fail the course automatically. This is the equivalent of missing a full month of class sessions.**

While the attendance policy is rigorous, if you are deathly ill, or have just been informed of the death of a close relative, don’t come to class. Bring a copy of your medical paperwork (with any personal information crossed out) or the obituary of your departed loved one (with the dates you missed class written on the paperwork), and the absence will be excused. Getting excuses to me is your responsibility, and they must be turned in by the last class session on December 4th.

**Use of your laptop for non-note-taking purposes, listening to an MP3 player, reading a non-Political Science 452 book or the Daily Beacon, or texting on/playing with your phone during class time will result a lowered course grade.**

Extra Credit (+3.33 {each} up to a maximum of 10.0% {for three} added to your Participation Grade)

Since awareness of African culture is an important part of understanding and enjoying this class, you can benefit from attending various African cultural opportunities during the semester. These could include scholarly lectures, African movies, and musical performances. Appropriate events will be announced in class, and you should be able to fit one, two, or a maximum of three into your semester. After attending the event you will need to write a 1.5-page (double-spaced with 1” margins and 12-point Times New Roman font) description of both what you saw and how it influenced your thinking about African culture/politics/society. These extra-credit points will benefit your participation grade but won’t substitute for class absences. All Extra Credit must be turned in by the last day of class on December 4th.

My Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.00-99.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.00-92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.00-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.00-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.00-82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.00-79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.00-76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.00-72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.00-69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63.00-66.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60.00-62.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canvas and Communication of Announcements

By checking the grades posted on Canvas, you will be able to keep up to date on your progress in the class. Grades will usually be posted on Canvas about 1-2 days before being handed back in class. You will be able to view your exams during class sections, but for security reasons you can’t keep your exams. You will also be informed of class schedule changes via Canvas or email; pertinent announcements about assignment or room changes will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to frequently monitor your UTK email account and look at the Canvas site when informed of course changes.

Notice on School-Sponsored Absences

If you miss class because of a school-sponsored academic or athletic event, your absence is considered excused if you give me prior notification. However, all assignments are due in the Political Science Department (10th floor of McClung Tower) before you depart or at the start of class on the date due.

The Student’s Role in Improving Teaching and Learning through Course Assessment

At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.
Policy on Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty

Each student is responsible for his/her personal integrity in academic life and for adhering to UT’s Honor Statement. The Honor Statement reads: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

As defined in Hilltopics, “plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit.” I expect every student to live up to the UT Honor Code (as amended in 1995) and to document all papers using MLA, APSA, or APA parenthetical documentation styles. I have caught and successfully prosecuted instances of plagiarism and cheating, and I am good at detecting it. Don’t risk your college career to save yourself a few minutes. Signing the roll for a friend who is not present in lecture hall counts as an honor code violation and we have become good at detecting it.

The use of studyblue.com (or similar websites) for anything other than sharing notes or blank study guides will be treated as plagiarism. If a completed study guide is put online or shared on an email list, the class will not have a study guide for the subsequent exam and the poster will be referred to the Dean of Students for suspension or expulsion.

Writing and Class Assistance

Sadly, only about one out of every four students take advantage of a professors’ office hours to discuss their academic progress. My office hours are from 9:00-9:45am on M/F and 11:15-12:00pm on M/W in McClung Tower 1008E. In addition, please use the Writing Center in HSS 211. They are open for extended hours to help with writing assignments; they can be contacted at 974-2611 writingcenter@utk.edu. Their phone number can also serve as a grammar hotline.

University Civility Statement – http://civility.utk.edu/
“Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, gracious-ness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteous-ness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus.”

Emergency Alert System – http://safety.utk.edu/
The University of Tennessee is committed to providing a safe environment to learn and work. When you are alerted to an emergency, please take appropriate action. Learn more about what to do in an emergency and sign up for UT Alerts. Check the emergency posters near exits and elevators for building specific information. In the event of an emergency, the course schedule and assignments may be subject to change. If changes to graded activities are required, reasonable adjustments will be made, and you will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines.

Accessibility – http://accessibility.utk.edu/
UT values accessibility for everyone in our community and has expressed this value in system-wide policy. All communications, learning material, and technology at UT should be accessible. For more information about accessibility including the full policy and opportunities for training, visit the UT accessibility webpage.

Students with Disabilities – http://sds.utk.edu
“Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Student Disability Services (SDS) at 865-974-6087 in 100 Dunford Hall to document their eligibility for services. Student Disability Services will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.” Requests for the use of the Testing Center must be made at least one week prior to the exam.

Wellness – http://counselingcenter.utk.edu/ and http://wellness.utk.edu/
The Student Counseling Center is the university’s primary facility for personal counseling, psychotherapy, and psychological outreach and consultation services. The Center for Health Education and Wellness manages 974-HELP, the distressed student protocol, case management, the Sexual Assault Response Team, and the Threat Assessment Task Force.
Alteration of this Syllabus
The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter and/or amend this syllabus, as necessary. Students will be notified by email and/or Canvas of any such revisions, alterations and/or amendments.

Key Resources for Students
- Political Science Department Website: http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/
- Academic Planning: http://www.utk.edu/advising
- Arts and Sciences Advising Services: http://artsci.utk.edu/advising/
- Student Success Center: http://studentsuccess.utk.edu
- Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs: http://catalog.utk.edu
- Hilltopics: http://dos.utk.edu
- Course Timetable: https://bannerssb.utk.edu/kbanpr/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched
- Library: http://www.lib.utk.edu
- Career Services: http://career.utk.edu

Travel Advice
While Africa can be challenging for novice travelers in some areas, it is an increasingly popular destination for cultural tourism, wildlife viewing, and an amazing array of tropical beaches. My life has been greatly enriched by visiting thirteen African countries, and after you get over the shock of buying your plane ticket to get there, most countries can be very inexpensive vacation or study abroad options. Previous students in this course had studied abroad at universities in Uganda, Ghana, Botswana, and South Africa. Feel free to ask for my help in planning any African trip or Study Abroad opportunity. I spent most of 2002 at the University of Stellenbosch outside Cape Town; you can access their website at www.sun.ac.za. During the spring semester of 2017, my family and I participated on Semester at Sea (www.semesteratsea.org) an intensive 12-country voyage from San Diego to Hamburg.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 21 (W) Introduction to the Class

August 23 (F) Getting an Overview of Africa
Meredith (M): (pages 1-14)
Thomson (T): (1-6)

August 26 (M) The Geography of Africa

August 28 (W) Africa’s Precolonial Inheritance
T: (p. 7-30)

August 30 (F) Ideology and African Politics
T: (p. 31-58)

September 2 (M) No Class—Labor Day Holiday
September 4 (W)  **Ethnicity and Religion in Africa**  
T: (p. 59-83)

*First Geography Quiz: East and Southern Africa*

September 6 (F)  **Colonialism in Africa (Ghana and Egypt)**  
M: (p. 17-43)

September 9 (M)  **Colonialism continued (Algeria, French West Africa, and Southern Africa)**  
M: (p. 44-92)

September 11 (W)  **Social Class and the Study of African Politics**  
T: (p. 84-107)

September 13 (F)  **Colonialism’s End: Independence for African States**

September 16 (M)  **Case Studies of the Belgian Congo and White Minority Governments**  
M: (p. 93-137)

*Second Geography Quiz: West, North, and Central Africa*

September 18 (W)  **Early Years of Freedom: Africa’s Founding Fathers**  
M: (p. 141-178)

September 20 (F)  **Centralization of Power in the African State**  
T: (p. 108-129)

September 23 (M)  **Fading Nkrumah and the End of Nigeria**  
M: (p. 179-205, 260-274)

September 25 (W)  **Dying Emperors and Rising Tyrants**  
M: (p. 206-248)

September 27 (F)  **Africa’s Economic Prospects and Problems**  
T: (p.183-212)

September 30 (M)  **Economic Malaise, Ujamaa and The Lost Decade**  
M: (p. 249-259, 275-292, 368-377)
October 2 (W) Mobutu and The Crisis of Accumulation
M: (p. 293-308) T: (p. 213-239)

October 4 (F) White Dominoes in the South
M: (p. 309-328)
*Bring Questions for a Short Midterm Review Session*

October 7 (M) Midterm Exam

October 9 (W) Women in Africa: The Driving Force in Developing the Continent

October 11 (F) Viewing of “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”

October 14 (M) Viewing of “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”

October 16 (W) *No Class—Early Fall Break!*

October 18 (F) *Fall Break*

October 21 (M) The Scourge of AIDS
M: (p. 362-367)

October 23 (W) Urbanization and Black Gold
M: (p. 602-618)
*Pray the Devil Back to Hell Reaction is Due!*

October 25 (F) Military Interventions in African Politics
T: (p. 130-150)

October 28 (M) 1980s: Spotlight on the Horn of Africa
M: (p. 331-361)

October 30 (W) The Struggle for Democracy
M: (p. 378-411) T: (p. 240-271)

November 1 (M) External Influences on African Politics
T: (p. 151-182)
November 4 (M)  The 1990s: Blackhawk Down and the Rwandan Genocide  
M: (p. 464-507)

November 6 (W)  Genocide in Rwanda and War in the DRC  
M: (p. 507-544)

November 8 (F)  Spotlight on Transformation in South Africa (The Early Struggles)  
M: (p. 412-440)

November 11 (M)  Spotlight on Transformation in South Africa (The Future of Mandela Magic)  
M: (p. 653-685)

November 13-15 (W-F)  Viewing of Tsotsi

November 18 (M)  The Quest for South Sudan’s Independence  
M: (p. 588-601)

November 20 (W)  Blood Diamonds: Wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia  
M: (p. 545-573)

November 22 (F)  Mugabe and the Struggle for Relegitimizing Democracy in Africa  
M: (p. 619-652)  T: (p. 240-271)  
Tsotsi Reaction Paper is Due!!

November 25 (M)  The State, Civil Society, and External Interests in Africa  
T: (p. 272-284)  M: (p. 575-587)

November 27-29 (W-F)  No Class—Thanksgiving Break

December 2 (M)  NGOs, IGOs, and External Interests in Africa

December 4 (W)  America’s Relationship with Africa, Signs of Hope  
M: (p. 686-704)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday December 12th at 10:15pm in HSS 220!!
## East and Southern Africa (September 4th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Luanda</td>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>Windhoek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Gaborone</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Kigali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Bujumbura</td>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Moroni</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Mogadishu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo-DRC</td>
<td>Kinshasa</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Pretoria (Executive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Republic of</td>
<td>Brazzaville</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>Mbabane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Dodoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Khartoum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Asmara</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>Juba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Addis Ababa</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>Mbabane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Dodoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>Maseru</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>Nouakchott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>Antananarivo</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Kampala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Lilongwe</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Lusaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>Port Louis</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Harare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Maputo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lakes: Nyasa, Tanganyika, Victoria

## West, North, and Central Africa (September 16th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Algiers</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Tripoli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Porto Novo</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>Bamako</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>Ouagadougou</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>Nouakchott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Yaounde</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Rabat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>Bangui</td>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>Niamey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>N’Djamena</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>Abuja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
<td>Yamoussoukro</td>
<td>São Tome and Principe</td>
<td>Lagos (Com.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>Abidjan (Com.)</td>
<td>São Tome</td>
<td>São Tome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabón</td>
<td>Malabo</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Dakar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>Libreville</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>Freetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Banjul</td>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Lome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
<td>Accra</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Tunis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Bissau</td>
<td>Western Sahara</td>
<td>El Aaiún</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>Conakry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lakes: Chad

---

**Blank and Labeled maps are available at:** [http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/africa.html](http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/africa.html)

For each quiz, you will receive a blank map and will be asked to label twenty of the countries, capitals, major cities, or lakes called out by the instructor.

**KEY**

(Com.) means Commercial Center/Economic Capital