



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations  
Political Science & International Relations Programme

## COURSE OUTLINE

**INTP-376: Special Topic: African Politics  
(CRN 13558)  
Trimester I 2008**

**Lecturer:** Dr Christopher LaMonica  
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**Office Hours:** Weds. & Thurs. 10:00-12:00, or by appointment.

**Lecture Time/Location:** Thursday, 2:10-4:00 p.m.  
Easterfield LT006

**Tutorials:** There will be no tutorials for this course.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

Following a survey of the pre-colonial history of the African continent, this course considers the history of African state formation, African political practices and ideas, and ongoing debates regarding development in the sub-Saharan African region.

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

- be familiar with the general history of Africa and, in particular, African state formation;
- understand the theoretical debates on African political practice;
- have a general knowledge of the major issues and debates within the political science and development literature on Africa; and, combined with some consideration of practical 'real world' concerns on the African continent,
- be well prepared for further study within the field of African politics.

### **Books:**

Goran Hyden, *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006). ISBN: 978-0-521-67194-1.

The above book is now available at the VUW Bookstore; should their supply run out, I encourage you to purchase these used via Amazon.com or other internet bookseller. Other books, listed below, are available at the VUW Library Reserve Desk (central closed reserve).

**Additional Readings:** Citations for additional readings are provided below.

**Reserve Readings:** Indicated below.

**Additional Information:** Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in lectures and posted on the Blackboard notice board.

### **Course Content:**

INTP 376 is divided into four parts: I) Survey of African History; II) Colonial Politics; III) Post-Colonial ('First' Independence Era) Politics and IV) Current Debates.

#### **I. Survey of African History:**

Part I is an introduction to African history. Although our later emphasis will be on sub-Saharan African states, this part of the course will contemplate historical connections throughout the entire continent. One cannot begin to understand modern African politics without some reflection on Africa's history, including the intercontinental movements of peoples and ongoing African-wide relations, the rise and demise of Africa's ancient kingdoms, and African relations with other parts of the world.

#### **II. Colonial Politics:**

Part II is a brief introduction to some of the politics underlying Africa's colonial period (ca. 1500-1960s). This period includes the 400-year pillaging of Africa's resources (including the slave trade with the Americas), the eventual formation of Africa's modern state borders and the dominant institutional structure of most modern African states. We consider the classic novel, *Heart of Darkness*, and the debates that have emerged from it, ever since its (1899) publication.

#### **III. Post-Colonial ('First' Independence Era) Politics:**

Part III reviews the initial optimism (1950s-60s) and broad failures of Africa's first 'independent' states. We consider some of the debates within the literature of the time, as well as what might have gone wrong and why (1960s-80s). Regional patterns of domestic state politics during this post-independence period are reviewed.

#### **IV. Current ('Second' Independence Era) Debates:**

In Part IV we consider the dramatic changes and outcomes (real and potential) post-Cold War. We look at the ongoing political marginalization of African states in world affairs, and in scholarship, and contemplate the merit of various approaches to these problems.

#### **Expectations:**

It is expected that students stay on top of the assigned readings and attend lecture.

#### **Mandatory Course Requirements:**

- a) Take the *two* in-class tests (scheduled for 27 March 2008 and 29 May 2008); and
- b) Submit a Research Paper (4,000 words).

**Work Load:** The workload for this course should not exceed the 18 hours per week recommended by the University.

## Assessment:

### **a) Research Paper Proposal (5%)**

A Research Paper Proposal (one page) is due on **Thursday, 10 April 2008** (in class). This will form the basis of the Research Paper (below). The proposal should include: 1) clear and concise indication of the topic to be investigated; 2) a proposed bibliography.

### **b) Research Paper: (35%)**

Students are expected to submit a research paper (4,000 words maximum) that addresses an issue relevant to African politics. The topic is subject to approval by the Course Coordinator (Research Paper Proposal above). Further details regarding the paper will be provided in lecture and posted on Blackboard. Research papers are due by **14:00** (2:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, 15 May 2008**.

#### Submitting the Research Paper:

Research Papers **MUST** be submitted in **TWO** ways: 1) A print out of the essay should be submitted in class by the due time/date, as above (with the Programme Cover Sheet attached; these will be posted on Blackboard); and 2) An electronic version of the essay must also be placed in the 'Essays' folder on Blackboard by the due date.

#### Penalties for Late Research Papers:

Extensions can be given **ONLY** by the Course Coordinator who will normally expect to be furnished with a medical certificate. Late essays will be penalised with a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Essays submitted more than eight days late will be accepted as fulfilling the mandatory course requirement, but will not be graded.

### **c) In-Class Tests (60%)**

Two in-class tests will be administered; the first test (27 March 2008) is of one-hour duration, the second test (29 May 2008), of two-hours duration, is comprehensive (includes material from the entire trimester); both include terminology introduced in the course and several essay questions. A terminology study list for the second in-class test will be provided on Thursday, 15 May 2008 (also posted on Blackboard). There will also be a final review (as noted below).

**NB:** The first in-class test (one hour) is worth **20%** of the overall grade; the second in-class test (two hours) is worth **40%**.

#### **Relationship between assessment and course objectives:**

The in-class tests are based on content from the lectures and assigned readings; successful performance on these should provide students with a basic understanding of African history and of some of the primary issues and debates within the literature on African politics. The second (two hour) in-class test is meant to evaluate your comprehension of the course as a whole. The research paper is meant to evaluate your capacity to formulate an answer to a question on African politics that is clear, coherent, 'informed' (i.e. referring to authoritative sources) and cogent.

## Part I: Survey of African History

### Week One

Thursday, 28 February 2008

Introduction/ Administrative Matters

- Why study African politics?
- Course Objectives.
- African history: Start!

### Week Two

Thursday, 6 March 2008

- African history: Why don't I know this?
- Exploring African connections: west-east; north-south.

**Assigned Reading:**

- Roland Oliver & J.D. Fage, *A Short History of Africa*, Chs. 4-9 (start) (on reserve).
- Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa* [any edition] (New York: St. Martin's Press), leaf through, esp. Chs. 5-10 (start) (on reserve).

NB: Do not get overwhelmed with the readings for this week, i.e. 'keep the pages turning.' Over the next two weeks, the goal is to get a general overview of African history; key points from this reading will be stressed in lecture.

**To Discuss:**

- Basil Davidson, *The Lost Cities of Africa*, (Boston: Little, Brown, 1959) (on reserve);
- Barnaby Rogerson, *A Traveller's History of North Africa*, (New York: Interlink Books, 1998); and
- M. Fortes and E.E. Evans-Pritchard, eds., *African Political Systems*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1940).

### Week Three

Thursday, 13 March 2008

- What was that?
- Africa's Ancient Civilizations: A mystery?

**Assigned Reading:** (same as Week 2)

- Roland Oliver & J.D. Fage, *A Short History of Africa*, Chs. 4-9 (start) (on reserve).
- Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa* [any edition] (New York: St. Martin's Press), leaf through, esp. Chs. 5-10 (start) (on reserve).

**Developments to Watch For:** Robin Walker, *When We Ruled* (2006) and the like; parallels with *1421* (2003) and other attempts to reclaim world history.

## Week Four

Thursday, 20 March 2008

- Got it. What about 'African Politics'?
- Study List for in-Class Test #1 (distributed).

### Assigned Reading:

→ Goran Hyden, *African Politics in Comparative Perspective* (2006), Ch. 1, "The Study of Politics and Africa."

→ Edward A. Alpers and Allen F. Roberts, "What Is African Studies? Some Reflections," *African Issues*, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 11-18.

## Part II: Colonial Politics

## Week Five

Thursday, 27 March 2008

- The 'Age of Exploration,' Mercantilism and beyond.
- **IN-CLASS TEST #1.**

### Assigned Reading:

→ Roland Oliver & J.D. Fage, *A Short History of Africa*, Ch. 16, "The European Scramble for African Colonies" (on reserve);

→ Peter Schraeder, *African Politics and Society*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., (Thomson, 2004) Ch. 3, "Political and Economic Impacts of Colonialism (1884-1951)" (on reserve).

### To Discuss:

→ Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (on reserve).

→ Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, (Mariner Books, 1998) (on reserve); and

→ Thomas Pakenham, *The Scramble for Africa: White Man's Conquest of the Dark Continent*, (Harper, 1992) (on reserve).

## Part III: Post-Colonial ('First' Independence Era) Politics

## Week Six

Thursday, 3 April 2008

### **Horn of Africa: An Overview**

Guest Lecturer: Yilma Tafere Tasew

Brief documentary by Michela Wrong.

### Assigned Reading:

→ To be announced.

**Week Seven****Thursday, 10 April 2008**

→ **RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE: Thursday, 10 April 2008 (in class)**

**Assigned Reading:**

→ Hyden, Chs. 2, 3 and 5: Ch. 2, "The Movement Legacy"; Ch. 3, "The Problematic State"; Ch. 5, "Big Man Rule."

→ Peter Schraeder, *African Politics and Society*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., (Thomson, 2004) Ch. 4, "Nationalism and the Emergence of the Contemporary Independence Era (1951-present)" (on reserve).

**To Discuss:**

→ Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1959) (on reserve).

→ Samuel P. Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (1965, 1968) (on reserve).

→ Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rosberg, *Personal Rule in Black Africa* (1982).

→ Robert I. Rotberg, "Modern African Studies: problems and Prospects," *World Politics* (1966);

→ Martin Kilson, "Authoritarian and Single-Party Tendencies in African Politics," *World Politics*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (Jan. 1963).

**Other 20th-Century Debates to Discuss:**

→ W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington.

→ Ralph Bunche, *A World View of Race*, (Port Washington, NY: Kennikat Press, Inc., 1968, orig. pub. 1936).

**MID-TRIMESTER BREAK  
14 – 27 April 2008****Part IV: Current Debates****Week Eight****Thursday, 1 May 2008**

- Where were we?
- **Sudan**

**Assigned Reading:**

→ Hyden, Chs. 8-10: Ch. 8, "Gender & Politics"; Ch. 9, "Ethnicity & Conflict"; Ch. 10, "The External Dimension";

→ Ian Taylor, "Governance in Africa and Sino-African Relations: Contradictions or Confluence?" *Politics*, Vol. 27, No. 3;

→ "Growth in Africa: It Can Be Done," *The Economist*, June 29, 1996: 19-21.

**Week Nine****Thursday, 8 May 2008**

- **Zimbabwe**
- **South Africa**

**Assigned Reading:**

- Hyden, Ch. 6, "The Policy Deficit," and 7, "The Agrarian Question";
- "Leaders: Making Africa Smile," *The Economist*, Jan. 17, 2004;
- Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rosberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood," *World Politics*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Oct. 1982);
- Douglass C. North, "Institutions," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Winter 1991, Vol. 5, No. 1.

**To Discuss:**

- Donald Woods, *Biko*, (London: Paddington Press, 1978) (on reserve).

**Week Ten****Thursday, 15 May 2008**

- **RESEARCH PAPER DUE: Thursday, 15 May 2008 (at start of class).**
- **Final Study List (distributed).**

**Assigned Reading:**

- Hyden, Chs. 11, "So What Do We Know?" and 12 "Quo Vadis Africa?"
- Martin Staniland, "Who Needs African Studies?" *African Studies Review*, Vol. 26, No. 3,4 (Sep-Dec 1983): 77-97.
- Gavin Kitching, "Why I Gave Up African Studies," *African Studies Review & Newsletter*, Vol. XXII, 1 (June 2000).

**Of Possible Interest:**

- Harvey Sindima, "Liberalism and African Culture," *Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Dec. 1990).

FILM: *Cry Freedom* (1987) portions.

**Week Eleven****Thursday, 22 May 2008**

- Final Review.

**Of Possible Interest:**

- Michael Friis Jønsen and Peter Gibbon, "Africa and the WTO Doha Round: An Overview," *Development Policy Review*, 2007, (1): 5-24.
- Tandeka C. Nkiwane, "Africa and International Relations: Regional Lessons for a Global Discourse," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (2001).

**Week Twelve****Thursday, 29 May 2008**

- **LAST CLASS: IN-CLASS TEST #2 (2-hours).**

### **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **Statement on the use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

### **General University policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support