

PSCI 390: Africa in a Perilous Era

Winter, 2012

QNC 1506, Thursdays, 9:30 am to 12:20 pm

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Office Hours: Available afternoons

Contact Policy:

Course Description: “African Politics in a Perilous Era: Major Challenges and Opportunities.”

This course will examine sub-Saharan Africa’s current state of development and underdevelopment. It will then systematically investigate Africa’s governance and leadership attainments and weaknesses, state failure and weakness, Africa’s startling demographic possibilities, some of the tropical causes of Africa’s slow growth, its educational attainments and deficits, the causes and impact of civil wars and ethnic conflict, the nature and destruction caused by corruption, the beneficial impact on Africa of the mobile telephone revolution, the impact of China and Chinese investment, and, finally, what the West and the world should be doing to help Africa help itself. Students will prepare in-class presentations and each write a research paper.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should have a full appreciation of contemporary sub-Saharan African politics and most of the challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa’s economic and social growth prospects. We will examine almost every opportunity for Africa’s betterment.

University Regulations:

Cross-listed courses:

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

[Academic Integrity website \(Arts\): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

[Academic Integrity Office \(uWaterloo\): http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Texts:

Robert I Rotberg, *Transformative Political Leadership* (University of Chicago Press, 2012), (Required)

(Recommended): Rotberg, *Governance and Leadership in Africa* (Philadelphia, Mason Crest Press, 2007); Rotberg, *China into Africa* (Washington, D.C. Brookings Press, 2008)

The following books are also recommended, and are one reserve in the Dana Porter Library:

1. Steven Radelet, *Emerging Africa* (Washington, DC 2009),
2. Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail* (New York, 2012);
3. Sabine Autesserre, *The Trouble with the Congo* (NY, 2010);
4. George Ayittey, *Africa Unchained* (NY, 2005);

5. Daniel Branch, *Kenya* (New Haven, 2011);
6. Padraig Carmody, *The New Scramble for Africa* (Malden, MA 2011);
7. Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion* (NY, 2007);
8. Richard Dowden, *Africa: Altered States* (London, 2008);
9. Calestous Juma, *The New Harvest* (NY, 2011);
10. Stephen Kinzer, *A Thousand Hills* (NY, 2008);
11. Moeletsi Mbeki, *Architects of Poverty* (Johannesburg, 2009);
12. Greg Mills, *Why Africa is Poor* (Johannesburg, 2010);
13. Todd Moss, *African Development* (Boulder, 2007);
14. Daniel Posner, *Institutions and Ethnic Politics* (New York, 2005);
15. Jason Stearns, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters* (New York, 2011);
16. Michaela Wrong, *It's Our Turn to Eat* (London, 2009)
17. Robert Guest, *The Shackled Continent* (Washington, D.C. 2004)
18. Jean-Michel Severino and Olivier Ray, *Africa's Moment* (Malden, MA 2011)

Texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.
Texts are on 3-hour reserve at the Dana Porter Library.

Tests & Examinations:

Students will prepare in-class presentations and write either several short papers or one longer final paper.

Week 1 (January 10) Introduction: Challenges and Opportunities

Reading: Rotberg, *Transformative Political Leadership*, intro & chs. 1 & 2

Week 2 (January 17) The Rise of Africa's Middle Class

What Constitutes an African Middle Class?

What Does it Mean to be Middle Class in Africa?

Reading 1: Radelet, *Emerging Africa*, 125-139

Reading 2: Severino and Ray, *Africa's Moment*, 77-148

Week 3 (January 24) War and Conflict: The Congo

What are the Wars of the Congo all About?

Who is Fighting?

How Many Congolese Have Died Since 1990?

Reading 1: Stearns, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters*, 181-304

Reading 2: Autesserre, *The Trouble with the Congo*, 126-179

Week 4 (January 31) War and Conflict: The Sudan, Kenya, and more

How Can We Prevent Violence in Kenya after March 4?

What are the Wars of the southern Sudan all About?

Who is Fighting Whom in South Sudan?

Why is there a War in the Central African Republic?

Why Did Tuareg Invade Northern Mali?

Reading 1: Branch, *Kenya*, 245-300

Reading 2: Williams, *War and Conflict in Africa*, 1-148

Week 5 (February 7) Corruption, Transparency, Accountability

What Does Transparency International Say About Africa's Corruption?

What is Rwanda doing to Reduce Corruption?

What is the Extent of Corruption in South Africa?

Reading 1: Wrong, *Its Our Turn to Eat*, ch. 11, epilogue

Reading 2: Rotberg, *Corruption, Global Security, and World Order*, chs. 11, 13

Week 6 (February 14) Geography and Tropicality: Possible Constraints

Does Africa Have a Location Problem?

What are Africa's Health Issues?

What are Africa's Educational Issues?

Reading 1: Carmody, *The New Scramble for Africa*, chs. 1, 2

Reading 2: Guest, *The Shackled Continent*, 200-217

Week 7 (February 21) Reading Week: No Classes

Week 8 (February 28) Resource, Infrastructural, and Energy Constraints and Traps

Reading 1: Collier, *The Bottom Billion*, 17-98

Reading 2: Carmody, *The New Scramble for Africa*, chs. 6, 7.

Reading 3: Guest, *Shackled*, 172-193

Week 9 (March 7) China's Role in Emerging Africa

Is China's Involvement Good or Bad for Africa?

Why Has China Focused so Much on Africa?

Reading : Rotberg, *China into Africa*, chs. 1, 4, 9.

Week 10 (March 14) The Mobile Telephone Revolution

How Has M-Pesa Transformed African Lives?

What Are the Potential Uses of Usahidi Methods?

Reading : Rotberg and Jenny C. Aker, "Mobile Phones: Uplifting Weak and Failed States," *Washington Quarterly* (Winter, 2013).

Week 11 (March 21) Strengthening Governance

What Are the Components of Governance?

What Are Some of the Ways of Measuring Governance?

Reading 1: Rotberg, *When States Fail*, ch. 1

Reading 2: Rotberg, *Governance and Leadership in Africa*, 20-45

Reading 3: Acemoglu and Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*,

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Week 12 (March 28) Nurturing New Leadership

How Has Johnson Sirleaf Attempted to Lead Liberia?

How Has Paul Kagame Attempted to Lead Rwanda?

Reading 1: Rotberg, *Transformative Political Leadership*, chs. 3, 4, 7

Reading 2: Mills, *Why Africa is Poor*, ch. 4

Week 13 (April 4) Sub-Saharan Africa's Future