Georgia Institute of Technology
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Government and Politics of Africa
Course Syllabus

INTA 3240 * Spring 2020
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 am - 10:45 am

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor:	**Keith Jennings, Ph.D.**
Building/Room Location:	**G-17**
Office Hours:	**Thursday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**
Contact Number:	**404-894-4267**
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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Cheeseman, Nic, David M. Anderson, and Andrea Scheibler. (eds). **Routledge Handbook of African Politics**, London and New York, NY: Routledge, 2015.

Nyabola, Nanjala. **Digital Democracy and Analog Politics: How the Internet Era is Transforming Politics in Kenya.** London: Zed Books, 2018

Thompson, Alex. **An Introduction to African Politics**, Fourth Edition. London and New York, NY: Routledge, 2016

GENERAL/RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

There will also be a variety of supplementary articles, cases and materials provided as handouts or uploaded to Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Government and Politics of Africa is a survey course designed to introduce students to contemporary African politics and the historic patterns of development of the state in Africa. While the study of African politics necessitates some generalization, throughout this course every attempt will be made to avoid over generalizing about the process of decolonialization, the Independence period and significant political developments in the post-cold war era.

Politics in Africa and the relative democratic progress made in the first two decades of the 21st century, appears to have given way to setbacks, democratic reversals, and authoritarian governance by leaders that takes advantage of state resources; ignores the independence of the courts; constrains the media; and curtails the legitimate rights of the opposition.

Among the major challenges of government and politics in Africa today include states' response to global issues impacting their respective citizens, such as the continued marginalization of women and youth; responses to each countries' position in the global economy; and other factors, such as globalization, ethnic cleavages, management of natural resources, contested elections and corruption.

Some observers believe that Africa's diversity and state of development are not able to support western style democracy. However, others believe that African states must develop their own systems of democratic governance based on its particular social, economic, political and historical circumstances. Still others believe that economic development must precede democratic development, therefore civil and political rights, in their estimation, are not as important as economic, social and cultural rights.

Government and Politics of Africa also considers a number of thematic issues, including, national political structures, transnational health concerns, migration, climate change, poverty and inequality and the role and impact of non-state actors such as transnational corporations, terrorist networks and non-governmental organizations on public policy and politics.

Throughout the course special attention is also given to post-Cold War efforts to achieve sustainable development. Toward that end, we will review the key thematic issues within specific countries contexts including Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Organization of the Course

Government and Politics of Africa is divided into three sections. The introductory unit covers the challenge of understanding the African context and the theoretical underpinnings of the major methodological approaches to the study of African politics.

The second unit covers regional governance and several global thematic issues currently influencing the discourse on African politics. Our third and final unit will focus on contemporary struggles for democratic governance in countries drawn from different regions of the continent.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Government and Politics of Africa

Course Objectives:

This course has three major objectives. They are:

- Introducing students to major theoretical approaches, ideological perspectives, concepts and scholars associated with the study of African politics
- Providing an in-depth overview of the historical development of the African state, governance structures and key debates regarding the struggle for democratic governance and sustainable development in Africa
- Exploring several of the major social, economic and political issues and processes influencing the contemporary study of African politics in the era of globalization

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Conduct scholarly research on thematic concerns and make substantive presentation that demonstrate sound knowledge of the literature on African politics.
2. Display a broad understanding of the key concepts, thematic issues and debates within the discourse on African politics.
3. Possess a broad understanding of the roles that enslavement, colonialism and the Cold War played in the development of modern governance structures, politics and socio-economic development policies in Africa.
4. Engage in informed dialogues about the historical development of African states, their governance structures and contemporary challenges to democratic governance and sustainable development.
5. Outline the key features of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Discuss the impact of the internet and social media on contemporary politics and democratization processes in Africa; and
7. Have the ability to identify African countries and their geographic location.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 January 7	Course Overview, Pre-test and Map quiz		
January 9	Studying African Politics Today	Concepts/Identifications	Thompson 1 Cheeseman Intro & 28
Week 2 January 14	Impact of Enslavement and Colonialism on Africa's Development	Concepts/Identifications	Thompson 2
January 16	African Political Ideologies and the Anti-colonial/National Liberation Struggle	Concepts/Identifications	Thompson 3
Week 3 January 21	Independence, the Evolution of the State and National Political Structures	Concepts/Identifications	Cheeseman 20 & 21
January 23	The Cold War, African Socialism and One-Party States in Africa	Concepts/Identifications	Cheeseman 1
Week 4 January 28	Military Rule, Structural Adjustment Programs and External Influences on African Politics	Concepts/Identifications	Thomson 7, 8 & 9
January 30	The Post-Cold War Agenda: "The End of History," Good Governance and Market Economies	Concepts/Identifications ***Research Paper Topic Due***	Cheeseman 23
Week 5 February 4	Regional Governance: From the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU)	Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
February 6	The AU's Regional Economic Commissions and Regional Integration	Concepts/Identifications	Cheeseman 29

Week 6 February 11	The New Scramble for Africa	***Guest Speaker*** Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
February 13	Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	***Guest Speaker*** Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
Week 7 February 18	Climate Change	Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
February 20	Migration and Trafficking	Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
Week 8 February 25	The Struggle for Democratic Governance	Concepts/Identifications	Thomson 11
February 27	Corruption	Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
Week 9 March 3	Ethnic Diversity	Concepts/Identifications ***Mid-term Exam***	Cheeseman 8 Thomson 4
March 5	Gender Equality and Women's Participation	Concepts/Identifications	Cheeseman 12
Week 10 March 10	The Youth Bulge and Youth Marginalization	Concepts/Identifications	Canvas
March 12	Terrorism, Peace and Security In Africa	Concepts/Identifications	Cheeseman 30
Week 11 March 24	Politics of Religion	Concepts/Identification	Cheeseman 10
March 26	The Internet, Social Media and Contemporary African Politics	Concepts/Identifications	Nyabola 2-5
Week 12 March 31	Political Parties and Social Movements	Concepts/Identifications	Cheeseman 21
April 2	Conflict and Post Conflict Peacekeeping		Cheeseman 16
Week 13 April 7	Angola		Canvas

April 9	Egypt		Canvas
Week 14 **April 14**	Ethiopia		Canvas
April 16	Kenya		Nyabola 8-9
Week 15 **April 21**	Nigeria	***Research Papers Due***	Canvas
April 23	Rwanda		Canvas
Week 16 **April 28**	South Africa		Canvas
April 30	Sudan		Canvas

COURSE EVALUATION CRITERIA

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE IN PERCENT	DUE DATE
Class Participation and Concepts/Identifications	10%	Ongoing
Mid-term Examination	25%	March
Oral Presentation	15%	TBD
Research Paper	25%	April
Final Examination	25%	May
TOTAL	100%	

GRADING SCALE

A	4.00
B+	3.50
B	3.00
C+	2.50
C	2.00

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

Class Participation

- Students should attend all classes, as scheduled, and come on time. All students are strongly encouraged to engage in classroom debates and raise questions based on the assigned readings or your experiences.

- The concepts/identifications should be turned in to the instructor at the beginning of each class. The concepts/identifications will account for 15 percent of the final grade.

Assignment Guidelines

- Each student is expected to deliver a 10-15 minute oral presentation on one of the thematic topics or on one of the identified country case studies. The schedule for the presentation will be set in consultation with the instructor following the selection by the student. The presentation accounts for 15% of the final grade.

- Everyone is expected to write a 10-page research paper on the role of social media in a contemporary struggle for democratic governance in one of the countries under review in the course. The proposed research question should be presented, as part of the one-page outline, to the instructor no later than **January 30, 2020**. The paper is due on **April 21, 2020** and should be submitted before the end of class. Papers will be graded based on clear and concise writing reflective of careful consideration of the lectures, class discussions, and other information sources (articles, books, case studies, etc.). The research paper will account for 35% of the final grade. Please use 12-point times roman font. Citations should follow the standard citation format used by the Nunn School. ***All written work is to be in your own words.***

- The mid-term exam will be distributed on March 1, 2020. It will be a take home exam. The exam is due on March 3, 2020. All students are expected to answer four of the seven essay questions and 15 of the 25-key concept/Identifications. The mid-term will account for 25% of the final grade.

- The final exam will be an in-class exam. Students are expected to answer four of the seven essay questions and provide explanatory answers for 15 of the 25 key concepts listed. The final exam will account for 25% of the final grade.