

GO 356 - Africa in International Affairs

Department of Government

Skidmore College

Fall 2008

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Time: MW 4:00– 5:20 PM
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& by appointment

I. Course Overview

Despite having enormous natural resources, Africa remains the most marginalized continent in the political and economic affairs of the contemporary world. Moreover, recurrent violent communal and regional conflicts, coupled with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and economic and environmental scarcity, has caused widespread human insecurity throughout the continent. Africa is constantly in need of humanitarian aid and is host to the largest U.N. peacekeeping mission in the world.

This course examines the evolution of the international system since World War II and the implications and ramifications for Africa. We will survey dominant theoretical approaches in international relations and their relevance for our understanding of concepts such as state, sovereignty, power and security in the African context. We will place emphasis on major topics and themes that have shaped Africa’s relations with global centers of power, e.g., colonialism and decolonization, national development and international trade, war and peace, regional integration and globalization, and democratization and good governance. Competing scholarly and policy perspectives on the role of external (structure of the international system) and internal (African domestic policies) factors in Africa’s continued marginalization will be examined. We will investigate shifts in the international system and how they impact foreign policies of major European powers, the United States, and China towards Africa and vice versa since the end of the Second World War.

The course also examines the rising role of non-state actors such as multinational corporations, regional trading blocs, ethnic militias, and international governmental and non-governmental organizations in conflict/cooperation and development in Africa. We will analyze a number of specific cases of international efforts at democratization, conflict prevention/resolution, and economic development in Africa to identify factors responsible for failure and success. At the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the impact of globalization on the states and peoples of Africa, causes of conflict and cooperation in international relations, the impacts of the structure of international economy on economic development of African states, the emerging role of

Africa in ensuring global energy security, and the U.S. national security interests and policies in Africa.¹

II. Course Requirements

1. Complete a well-researched paper on any topic covered in the course following consultation with the instructor no later than October 30. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, approximately 15-20 pages in length. It must draw on a rich mix of sources, including books, journals, magazines, newspapers and electronic media. You will receive further instruction for this project in class.
2. Actively/positively participate in class discussion of assigned readings.
3. Choose 3 class meetings for which you will prepare a 2-3-page summary of assigned readings and give a 15-minute oral presentation. Your written work should summarize the main points made by the authors, as well as critique their major arguments. You are required to distribute copies of your write-up in class.
4. Observe required attendance rule and meet all standards of academic integrity as set forth by the College. Please refer to the Dean's Web site for pertinent information: http://cms.skidmore.edu/dean_of_studies/integrity/ethics.cfm.
5. Take a mid-term and a final examination (see IV below).

III. Course Materials

Required Texts

Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds., *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, Boulder, Co: Lynne Rienner, 2006.

April A. Gordon and Donald L. Gordon, eds., *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, 4th Ed., Boulder, Co: Lynne Rienner, 2007.

Adekeye Adebayo and Ismail Rashid, eds., *West Africa's Security Challenges: Building Peace in a Troubled Region*, Boulder, Co: Lynne Rienner, 2004.

John Ghazvinian, *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa's Oil* (New York: Harcourt Books, 2007).

Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters* (New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007).

James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006.

¹ This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor based on the needs of the class.

Additional reading materials are on reserve at the College Library under GO 356.

Helpful resources

You are encouraged to keep up with current events in Africa and world affairs. Useful resources include, but are not limited to the following. **Newspapers & Magazines:** The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Christian Science Monitor, Newsweek, and The Economist. **Academic Journals:** Nations and Nationalism, Journal of Modern African Studies, African Affairs, Africa Today, Foreign Affairs, Comparative Politics, International Studies Quarterly, International Organization, Third World Quarterly, and Journal of Third World Studies. You may also find the following Internet/electronic sources useful for background and up-to-date information on specific countries and for preparing your written assignments:

Institutional Resources

University of Pennsylvania: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html

Columbia University: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/area/Africa/>

The Carter Center: <http://www.cartercenter.org/homepage.html>.

Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Democracy Links: <http://www.idea.int>

Inter Parliamentary Union: <http://www.ipu.org/>.

National Endowment for Democracy, Democracy News: <http://www.ned.org>.

Parliamentary Elections Around the World:

<http://www.universal.nl/users/dersen/election/home.htm>

Nigeria: <http://www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/Africa/Nigeria.html>.

United States African development Foundation: <http://www.adf.gov/programs.html>

USIP: <http://www.usip.org/>

Stanford University: <http://www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/intrel.html>

IICD - Institute for International Cooperation and Development

<http://www.iicd-volunteer.org/>

InterAction: <http://www.interaction.org/alpi/>

FPIF Foreign Policy in Focus: <http://www.fpif.org/fpifindex/africa/>

U.S. Department of State: <http://www.state.gov/g/rls/rm/64105.htm>

News updates: <http://www.africanews.org/index.html>

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) <http://www.cfr.org>

The World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

International Monetary Fund: <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

Afrobarometer: <http://www.afrobarometer.org>

Organizations

ECOWAS: <http://www.ecowas.int/>

African Union: <http://www.africa-union.org/>

Southern Africa Development Community- SADC: <http://www.sadc.int/>

Transparency International: <http://www.transparency.org/>

UN: <http://www.un.org/>

UN Mission in Sierra Leone: http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/unamsil/body_unamsil.htm

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

IV. Course Evaluation

Final grade for the course will be based on the following elements:

Mid-term examination: 25%*

Final examination: 25%*

Research paper: 35%

Participation/Attendance: 15%

Summaries: 25%*

You are required to complete all of the above elements, with the exception of the final examination. If you take the final examination, your lowest grade among the three elements denoted with an asterisk will be dropped. Upon request, you may be exempted from taking the final examination, in which case your grades in the two remaining asterisked elements cannot be substituted and will automatically be used in computing your final grade. I generally will not give an incomplete grade. If you have any problems/concerns, see me during my office hours to discuss.

Important Dates

- Summary of readings due: At class time
- Mid-Term Exam: October 15
- Research paper proposal due: October 30
- Research paper due: December 10 in class
- Final Exam: TBA

V. Lecture/Discussion Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1 (Sept. 3): **INTRODUCTION**

- Course syllabus

Week 2 (Sept. 8): **OVERVIEW AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

- April A. Gordon & Donald L. Gordon, eds., *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, pp. 1-108.

Week 2 (Sept. 10):

- Kevin Dunn, "Africa and International Relations Theory," in Kevin C. Dunn and Timothy M. Shaw, eds., *Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), pp. 1-8.
- John F. Clark, "Realism, Neo-Realism and Africa's International Relations in the Post-Cold War Era," in Kevin C. Dunn and Timothy M. Shaw, eds., *Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory* (New York: Palgrave, 2001), pp. 85-102.

Week 3 (Sept. 15): **LIBRARY AND ELECTRONIC ONLINE RESEARCH**

- Guest speaker: Barbara Norelli, Social Science Librarian

Review: <http://www.skidmore.edu/library/courses/AfricanPol/index.htm>;
<http://hudson2.skidmore.edu/library/howdoi.htm>

Week 3 (Sept. 17): **OVERVIEW AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES (2)**

- Peter J. Schraeder, “African International Relations,” in April A. Gordon & Donald L. Gordon, eds., *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, pp. 155-201.
- Christopher Clapham, *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival*, (London: Cambridge, 1996), pp. 3-74.
- James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006, Ch. 2, “Paradoxes of Sovereignty and Independence: “Real ” and “Pseudo-” Nation-States and the Depoliticization of Poverty,” pp. 50-68.

Week 4 (Sept. 22): **REGIONALISM AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

Case: West Africa

- Adekeye Adebayo and Ismail Rashid, eds., *West Africa’s Security Challenges: Building Peace in a Troubled Region*. Chs. 2, 8, &11.

Week 4 (Sept. 24):

Case: West Africa

- Adekeye Adebayo and Ismail Rashid, eds., *West Africa’s Security Challenges: Building Peace in a Troubled Region*. Chs. 13, 14, &15.

Recommended

- Abiodun Alao, “The Role of African Regional and Sub-regional Organisations in Conflict Prevention and Resolution, *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, Published by UNHCR*, 2000. <http://www.jha.ac/articles/u023.htm>.
- Abiodun Alao, *The Burden of Collective Goodwill: The International Involvement in the Liberian Civil War*, Ashgate, 1998

Week 5 (Sept. 29): **EXTERNAL INTERVENTION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

Cases: Rwanda, and Sudan/Darfur

- Lee Feinstein, “Darfur and Beyond: What is needed to Prevent Mass Atrocities,” in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.
- Howard Adelman and Astrid Suhrke, *The International Response to Conflict and Genocide: Lessons from the Rwanda Experience*, Executive Summary, Introduction, Chapters 1-4; Chapter 7, <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/nordic/book2/pb021.html>

Week 5 (Oct. 1):

Case: The Horn of Africa

- Terrence Lyons, "Avoiding Conflict in the Horn of Africa: U.S. Policy Toward Ethiopia and Eritrea," in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.
- Ruth Iyob and Edmond J. Keller, "The Special Case of the Horn of Africa," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 99-124.

Recommended

- Howard W. French. *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa*, Ch 3., pp. 48-68; Ch. 5, pp. 88-110; Ch. 6, pp. 111-124; Ch. 7, pp. 125-149; and Ch. 9, pp. 170-188.
- Carin Zissis, "Darfur: Crisis Continues," CFR Backgrounder, *Council on Foreign Relations*, May 4, 2006. <http://www.cfr.org/publication/10600/darfur.html>

Week 6 (Oct. 6):

GLOBAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (1)

- April A. Gordon & Donald L. Gordon, eds., *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, Ch. 5, pp. 109-154.
- Christopher Clapham, *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival*, (London: Cambridge, 1996), Ch. 7, "The International Politics of Economic Failure," pp. 163-186.

Week 6 (Oct. 8):

- Thomas Callaghy, Ronald Kassimir and Robert Latham, eds., *Intervention and Transnationalism in Africa: Global-local Networks of Power* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002), Ch. 6, pp. 115-148.
- James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order* "Introduction," pp. 1-24, Ch 1: pp. 25-49; and Ch 3: pp. 69-88.

Week 7 (Oct. 13):

GLOBAL INTEGRATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (2)

Cases: Nigeria, Chad, Angola,

- John Ghazvinian, *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa's Oil*, New York: Harcourt Books, 2007, Chs. 1 and 3.

Week 7 (Oct. 15):

Cases: Nigeria, Chad, Angola,

- John Ghazvinian, *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa's Oil*, New York: Harcourt Books, 2007, Ch. 6.
- Emmanuel Chike Onwuka and Agatha Eguavoen, "Globalization and Economic Development: The Nigerian Experience." *J. Soc. Sci.*, 14(1): 45-51 (2007). <http://www.krepublishers.com/02-Journals/JSS/JSS-14-0-000-000-2007->

Web/JSS-14-1-000-000-2007-Abst-Text/JSS-14-1-045-051-2007-409-Onwuka-E-C/JSS-14-1-045-051-2007-409-Onwuka-E-C-Tt.pdf

Recommended

- J. Anyu Ndumbe. "The Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipeline: Hope for Poverty Reduction?" *Mediterranean Quarterly*, 2002, 13(4): 74-87.
- Howard W. French. *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa*, Chs. 1, 2, 4, and 8.

Week 8 (Oct. 20): **UNITED STATES AND AFRICA (1)**

- Edmond J. Keller "Meeting the Challenges of Globalization," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds., *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 1-22.
- Thomas Callaghy, "Debt and Debt Relief," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 191-216

Week 8 (Oct. 22): Fantu Cheru "Aid and Trade Policies: Shifting the Debate," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 217-244.

Recommended

- Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.

Week 9 (Oct. 27 - 29): **UNITED STATES AND AFRICA (2)**

- Princeton N. Lyman, "A Strategic Approach to Terrorism," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 49-64.
- Donald Rothchild and Nikolas Emmanuel, "US Intervention in Africa's Ethnic Conflicts: The Scope for Action," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 65-98.
- Donald Rothchild, "Trends in US-Africa Relations: Implications for the Future," in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 245-267.

Week 10 (Nov. 3): **UNITED STATES AND AFRICA (3)**

Case: Somalia

- Lee Feinstein, "Somalia's Terrorist Infestation," in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.
- Read "Blackhawk Down: An American War Story," online at <http://inquirer.philly.com/packages/somalia/sitemap.asp>

Week 10 (Nov. 5):

Case: Somalia

- Black Hawk Down (Film)

Week 11 (Nov. 10): **AFRICA AND GLOBAL DEMOCRACY PROMOTION**

- James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006, Ch. 4, “Transitional Topographies of Power: Beyond “the State” and “Civil Society” in the Study of African Politics,” pp. 89-112.
- Joseph T. Siegle, Michael M. Weinstein, and Morton Halperin, “Why Democracies Excel,” *Foreign Affairs*, Sept./Oct. 2004.
- Joseph Siegle, “Effective Aid Strategies to Support Democracy in Africa,” paper prepared for the “Africa Beyond Aid” conference, June 24-26, 2007, Brussels Belgium, hosted by Brenthurst Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, and DANIDA.
- Stephen Ellis, “How to Rebuild Africa,” in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.
- F. Gregory Gause III, “Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?” *Foreign Affairs*, Sept./Oct. 2005, Vol. 84 Issue 5, pp. 62-76.

Week 11 (Nov. 12):

Cases: Kenya, Nigeria

- Stephen N. Ndegwa, Kenya: “Third Time Lucky?” *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 14, No. 3, July 2003, 145-158.
- Robert I. Rotberg, “Nigeria: Elections and Continuing Challenges,” in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007
- Review Web site: *Current State of Democracy in Kenya*.
<http://josephkaroki.wordpress.com/2007/12/31/hello-world/>
- Jean Herskovits, “Nigeria’s Rigged Democracy” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2007. <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070701faessay86409/jean-herskovits/nigeria-s-rigged-democracy.html>

Recommended

- Lee Feinstein, “Somalia’s Terrorist Infestation,” in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007

Week 12 (Nov. 17 - 19): **AFRICA AND GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY**

- Cyril I. Obi “Foreign Interests and Environmental Degradation,” in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds. *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 167-190.
- Raymond Gilpin, "Enhancing Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea," *Strategic Insights*, Volume VI, Issue 1 (January 2007),
<http://www.ecc.nps.navy.mil/si/2007/Jan/gilpinJan07.pdf>

- Xu Yi-chong, “China and the United States in Africa: Coming Conflict or Commercial Coexistence?” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, (2008), 62:1, 16-37.
- John Ghazvinian, *Untapped: The Scramble for Africa's Oil*, New York: Harcourt Books, 2007, Ch. 7.
- Cohen Herman J. “In Sub-Saharan Africa, Security is Overtaking Development as Washington’s Top Policy Priority,” *American Foreign Policy Interests*, (2008), 30:2, 88-95.
- Sandra T. Barnes, “Global Flows: Terror, Oil, and Strategic Philanthropy.” *African Studies Review* 48.1 (2005) 1-22.
http://muse.jhu.edu/demo/african_studies_review/v048/48.1barnes.html

Recommended

- Princeton N. Lyman, “China Ups the Ante in Africa,” in Princeton Lyman, and Patricia Dorff, *Beyond Humanitarianism: What You Need To Know About Africa and Why It Matters*, New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.

Week 13 (Nov. 24): **ENVIRONMENTAL/RESOURCE SCARCITY AND VIOLENT CONFLICT**

Case: Niger Delta

- Sweet Crude: A Film About the Niger Delta

Week 13 (Nov. 26): **(NO CLASS)**

Week 14 (Dec. 1): **HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC (1)**

Cases: Kenya, South Africa

- Sandra F. Joireman, “HIV/AIDS in Africa,” in Donald Rothchild and Edmond J. Keller, eds., *Africa-US Relations: Strategic Encounters*, pp. 147-166.
- April A. Gordon & Donald L. Gordon, eds., *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, Ch. 7, pp. 203-230.
- Film (1) *The Age of Aids*.

Week 14 (Dec. 3): **HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC (2)**

- Films: (1) *Left Behind: Kenya Aids Orphans* (Films Media Group); (2) *Nkosi: A Voice of Africa's AIDS Orphans*.

Week 15 (Dec. 8 - 10): **WRAP UP**

- Presentation of research