

Be sure to read this syllabus carefully. Modifications will be made in it as needed. You will be notified via UB Learns and in class. Be sure to keep up with all requirements.

PSC 521, African Politics, fall 2008

Thursdays 2-4:50, 502 Park

Professor Claude E. Welch
417 Park

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Office hours TU 10:15-noon, 2:30-4:30, and by special appointment.

Course philosophy and objectives

After World War II, and especially in the 1960s, dramatic transformations occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. This seminar introduces politics in the continent of Africa as a whole, with particular attention to tropical Africa. Cultural, economic and historic contexts will be examined, to determine their impact on political attitudes and change. This course presupposes no prior knowledge of Africa, although some members may have lived in or visited the continent. The point is to share a common learning experience, enriching each others' understandings in discussion and in research.

To facilitate your learning, a textbook is available at the University Bookstore: Schraeder, *African Politics and Society* (2nd edition). Specific assignments appear below.

Course requirements

The most important 'output' for this seminar will be your seminar **paper**. Effective participation in class discussions is also significant, however. Please note these expectations for the paper:

- Length: 20-25 pages ideal (double-spaced, 12-point type, 1" margins)
- Documentation: no less than 40 sources, a majority of them 'academic' [i.e., not websites]; endnotes and sources consulted don't count in overall page limit
- Subject matter: selected by participants, but discussed with/approved by me
- Steps in preparation: follow this timetable:
 - Choose topic, discuss with me – **by October 1**
 - Prepare preliminary bibliography and submit it for comment – **by October 15**. This will count **5%** of your grade.
 - Complete abstract for listserv – **by November 1**. This will count **5%** of your grade.
 - Present research findings to entire class – **last two or three seminar sessions**. This will count **20%** of your grade.
 - Submit final version – **by December 20**. This will count **50%** of your grade.
- **Participation** in seminar discussions will count **20%** of your grade.

General considerations

In preparing papers or any other material for the course, you are expected to be familiar with and abide by the University's academic integrity policies, available in the Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual <<http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/policies/index.php>>. Plagiarism detection software may be used by me or UB as a whole to aid in determining the originality of student work. Persons who are not native speakers of English must have their papers read by at least two native speakers prior to submitting them – frankly, my time is better spent focusing on the substance of your papers rather than correcting potential errors in how they are written.

Out of courtesy to others, **turn off** cell phones and pagers **prior to** class, and take care of personal food and hygiene needs in advance. Any student with a diagnosed physical, learning or psychological disability which impedes your carrying out required course work, or which requires accommodations such as readers or extended time on examinations and/or assignments, should register with the Office of Disability Services and advise me *during the first two weeks of the course* so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations. Persons dealing with

stress-related problems (e.g., break-ups, family difficulties) should visit the Counseling Center, 120 Richmond Quad, or the Office of Disability Services, 25 Capen.

Our sessions will focus on the following – subject to change, naturally.

Date	Research questions	Readings
28-Aug	How does Africa fit into comparative politics?	Alpers and Robert, "What is African Studies"; Sklar, "African Frontier in Political Science"; Welch, "African Political Systems"
4-Sep	Impact of slavery (Jason Young); pre-colonial societies	Continue/conclude readings from first week; Schraeder, 23-48
11-Sep	Creation of states	Herbst, <i>States and Power in Africa</i> , pp. 35-96; Hohne, "Political Identity, Emerging State Structures and Conflict in Northern Somalia" http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=7&did=1106780821&SrchMode=3&sid=5&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1213190333&clientId=39334&aid=3 ; Schraeder, 50-99
18-Sep	Ethnicity, class, anthropology and Africa	Ekeh, "Social Anthropology and Two Contrasting Uses of Tribalism in Africa" http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/178957.pdf ; Fortes and Evans-Pritchard, "African Political Systems"; Moore, "Changing Perspectives"; Schraeder, 101-120
25-Sep	Women and political change; ethnic conflict	Diduk, "The Civility of Incivility" http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1514886.pdf ; Ikelegbe, "Engendering Civil Society" http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=7&did=897081401&SrchMode=3&sid=1&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1213189784&clientId=39334&aid=1 ; MacLean, "Mediating Ethnic Conflict at the Grassroots: Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana" http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=5&did=766981541&SrchMode=3&sid=2&Fmt=6&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1213189972&clientId=39334&aid=2 ; and Meagher, "Hijacking Civil Society"
2-Oct	Current crises: food; environmental pressures; perhaps HIV-AIDS; (Marieme Lo)	"Persistent Hunger: Perspectives on Vulnerability, Famine, and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa"; potential HIV/AIDS article
9-Oct	Yom Kippur no class	
16-Oct	Democratization, 1	Baker, "Cape Verde: The most democratic nation in Africa?"; Santiso and Loada, "Explaining the unexpected: Electoral reform and democratic governance in Burkina Faso"; Schraeder, 177-221; Young, "The Third Wave of Democratization in Africa"
23-Oct	Random draw of dates for individual presentations	
23-Oct	Democratization, 2; apologies and demands for reparations	Harris, "Liberia 2005: An unusual African post-conflict election"; Howard-Hassmann and Lombardo, "Framing Reparations Claims"; Kelsall, "Shop Windows and Smoke-Filled Rooms" [Tanzania]; Lindberg and Morrison, "Exploring Voter Alignments in Africa" [Ghana]; Schraeder, 223-243
30-Oct	Human rights in Africa	Mutua, "Human Rights in Africa"; Welch, "Civil Society and Human Rights NGOs"
6-Nov	Crises in the Great Lakes area (Shaun Irlam)	Readings to be determined;

13-Nov	<i>[If needed, due to size of class, presentation of research findings, 1]; otherwise, topic based on preference of course members</i>	
20-Nov	Presentation of research findings	
27-Nov	THANKSGIVING -- NO CLASS	
4-Dec	Presentation of research findings	