POLITICS OF AFRICA (Y26.6667)
Syllabus, Spring 2009

Instructor: Eric N. Mvukiyehe
Email: enm1@nyu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
Class Time: Mondays, 6:20 - 8:50 pm
Location: 25W4, C-11

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of issues and problems confronting contemporary Africa. The course will examine five core questions: (i) Why are some African state structures weaker than others? (ii) Why are some African countries more prone to pervasive economic crises than others? (iii) What explains variation in democratic transitions and consolidation in Africa? (iv) Why do some African countries suffer from violent civil wars while others are spared? And (v) Why are new threats such as diseases or environmental problems so prevalent in some African countries, but not in others? Throughout this course, we will learn that, contrary to the sensational international news coverage of Africa, there is in fact great variation and diversity in the social, economic and political realities within Africa. That is, in spite of severe political and economic crises in several African countries, many others manage to maintain stronger state structures, experience higher levels of economic growth, get spared from violent civil wars and so forth. Our aim will be to explain these differences.

The main objectives of this course are: (i) to help students gain a more comprehensive understanding of the complex social, economic and political issues and problems confronting contemporary Africa; and (ii) to provide students with analytical skills enabling them to challenge their previously held beliefs about the way Africa works and become critical consumers of news coverage of Africa. In view of this, focus in this course will be less on individual cases (though we will discuss many such cases) and more on social science tools (i.e. concepts and arguments) from diverse fields such as political science, economics, history and others.

The course is divided in four substantive parts. In the first part, we will conduct a quick historical review of Africa's past, focusing on pre-colonial and colonial contexts in which structures and politics of contemporary Africa might have formed. In the second part, we will examine the socio-political forces such as the state, ethnicity, race, religion, classes and civil society that shape contemporary African politics. In the third part, we will focus on five major aspects of Africa's current conditions: (i) weakness or failure of state structures; (ii) pervasive economic crises; (iii) democratic transitions and consolidation; (vi) civil wars; and (v) other threats to Africans such as HIV and AIDS, Malaria and environmental issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Readings:
Regular class attendance and arrival on time are required. Beepers, cell phones, ipods must be turned off during class. This will be a very demanding course. The reading, research and writing assignments are on the heavy side. To make the course successful, you will be

expected to do all the required reading for the week before class session for that week and come prepared to take an active role in discussion. The syllabus has both required and further readings. The latter are optional, but I highly encourage you to at least skim them through as they provide a different perspective.

To ensure that you are doing the reading closely and reflectively, I will be sending out a question or two during the week before each session and you will be asked to write a short, but thoughtful paragraph in response to one of the questions. These responses should be posted on the course's blackboard by **Midnight every Sunday.** While these responses will not be graded, I will consider them when determining your participation grades (more on this below).

2. Current Events

While this is not a course on current events, you will realize that many issues related to the topics of this course will be developing in real time some where on the continent. Therefore, in addition to doing all the required readings, you will be expected to read African sections of at least four major international news papers (e.g. the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian, the London Times etc.) and listen to programs such as BBC's *Africa Today* (http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/) or *Voice of America* (http://www.voanews.com/english/africa/index.cfm). You will be especially responsible for tracking the news for your country of expertise (see below). These news readership and listenership will provide you with background knowledge necessary for your country case and class discussion. We will be spending 10–15 minutes at the beginning of each class to discuss current events.

3. Country expertise:

The emphasis in most lectures will be on concepts and arguments rather than on individual cases. However, given that knowledge of what goes on in particular countries is necessarily to evaluate the arguments and explanations that will be discussed in this course, each student will be required to pick a country of his or her choice and develop expertise on it. Your role as a **country expert** will be to apply the concepts and arguments discussed in class on your country-case. This expertise will allow you to get a richer understanding of the readings and help you in your research and witting assignments (more on this below). The countries will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, I may ask you to volunteer for important countries that were left out.

4. Grading :

Your final grade for the course will be determined by the following:

Participation in class discussion: 20% of your grade will be based on your participation (not just the quantity, but also the quality) in class discussions and responses to weekly readings or to films that we will be viewing in class. A key component of your participation grade is the reaction paragraphs to each week's readings that you will be required to post on the course's blackboard.

Map and "basic knowledge" quiz: 15% of your grade will be based on a map and "basic knowledge" quiz that will take place in third week of the course. The quiz will test your basic knowledge of the names, locations and capitals of all African countries as well as their

official languages and names of their chiefs executive. Most of this background knowledge can be found of the CIA's World Factbook page: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/ and at http://www.africa.upenn.edu//Home_Page/Country.html

Individual presentations: 25% of your grade. Students will be required to prepare a 20 minutes power point presentation. The presentation should evaluate arguments from one or more weekly topics covered in the first six weeks of class, using empirical evidence from one's country of expertise. Students will do the presentations on Monday, **March 09 in class.**

Final Written Assignment: 40% of your grade. Each student will be required to research and write an 8-12 pages research paper on one or more contemporary topics (i.e. topics from weeks 6-15), focusing on their country of expertise. You will be expected to draw on the lectures and class readings to develop an argument and conduct a genuine test of this argument on your country case. This means that your paper should: (i) raise a specific issue or problem confronting your country case (e.g. economic turmoil or civil war); (ii) discuss two or more explanations addressing the issue or problem in question; and (iii) evaluate the different explanations (i.e. use empirical evidence from your country case to adjudicate between the explanations).
<u>Note:</u> **The paper will be due on May 4, 2009 in class. If you are interested in writing about a topic that won't be covered until latter in the semester, you may do the reading for that topic in advance and discuss them with me.**

Alternative Assignments:

Option1: Students may trade power-point presentations for community service-learning. Participants in community service-learning will be required to spend 10 to 15 hours over the course of the semester working in a community-based program with one of the many African refugee or immigrant communities in the New York City area. The goal of the community service component is to provide students with an alternative venue to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diversity of African politics by interacting with and learning about people from different African countries. Students electing this alternative must write a 1-2 page proposal of the project they intend to do and discuss it with me for approval. They will also be required to document their experiences and to share these with the rest of the class after completion of the project.

Option2: In lieu of the final written assignment, students may elect to research and write a 5-7 pages policy memo addressing a real-world issue or challenge confronting their country of expertise. The memo should succinctly summarize the issue or challenge in question, discuss how it impacts the country's population and outline policy prescriptions (practical ways) of how it might be dealt with. Policy prescriptions should be more than "opinions!" Rather, they should be informed by arguments from the various themes and topics discussed throughout the semester. **Policy memos will be due on May 4, 2009 in class and the authors will be asked to present their memo to the class on the same date.**

All assignments will be graded according to their thoughtfulness (i.e. how well students develop and defend their arguments) and originality.

TEXT BOOKS

There is no coursepack for this class. Many of the readings are available online (through JSTOR or in the libraries). The following three text books are required and can be purchased at the University Bookstore or on-line:

Collier, Paul and Sambanis, Nicholas (2005). *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, Vol. 1—Africa.* Washington, DC: The World Bank.
Chazan, Naomi, Peter Lewis, Donald Rothchild, Stephen. Stedman, and Robert Mortimer (1999). *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa—3rd edition.* Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). *Understanding Contemporary Africa* (4th edition). Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
Thompson, Alex (2004). *An Introduction to African Politics* (2nd edition). London and New York: Routledge.

The following books are recommended, but not required (significant portions of these books are assigned and so you may wish to purchase them):

Chabal, Patrick and Daloz, Jean-Pascal (1999). *Africa Works.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
Herbst, Jeffrey (2000). *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Hyden, Goran (2006). *African Politics in Comparative Perspective.* New York: Cambridge University Press.
Ottaway, Marina (1999). *Africa's New Leaders: Democracy or State Reconstruction?* Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Week 1   01/26   Housekeeping & Course Logistics

Week 2   02/02   Introduction & Pre-colonial Political Structures

"Africa: The Heart of the Matter," *The Economist*, 11 May 2000.
 **"The Diversity of African Politics: Trends and Approaches," in Naomi Chazan et al., *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999), pp. 1-32.
**Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). *Understanding Contemporary Africa*—4th edition. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Pp1-7 and pp23-40
**Bates, Robert (1983). The Preservation of Order in Stateless Societies: A Reinterpretation of Evans-Pritchard's *The Nuer* Chapter 1 in *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa.* Berkeley: University of California Press.
Herbst, Jeffrey (2000). Power and Space in Precolonial Africa, Chapter2 in *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control.* Princeton: Princeton University Pres.
**Kenyatta, Jomo (1938). The Gikuyu System of Government, Chapter 9 in *Facing Mount Kenya: The Tribal Life of the Gikuyu.* New York: Vintage.

Film: Life on Earth or the Gods Must be Crazy

Further reading

Cooper, Frederick. (2002). *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge
        University Press. Chapter1
Hyden, Goran (2006). The study of politics in Africa, Chapter1 in *African Politics in
        Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Ambler, Charles (1988). The Formation of New Societies, Chapter 1 in *Kenyan
        Communities in the Age of Imperialism: The Central Region in the Late Nineteenth Century*.
        New Haven: Yale University Press.
Bates, Robert (1983). The Centralization of African Societies, Chapter 2 in *Essays on the
        Political Economy of Rural Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Week 3   02/09   Colonization, Decolonization, and Legacies of Colonialism

**Chamerlain, M. E. (1999). *The Scramble for Africa* (2nd edition). New York: Longman Part
        IV, pp 94-125
**Fanon, Franz (1965). "On Violence," Chapter1 in *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press.
Schmidt, Elizabeth (2005). Top Down or Bottom Up? Nationalist Mobilization
        Reconsidered, with Special Reference to Guinea (French West Africa). *American
        Historical Review* 110 (4):975–1014.
**Ekeh, Peter (1975). "Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical
        Statement," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 17 (1):91-112.
**Crowder, Michael (1964). Indirect Rule: French and British Style. *Africa: Journal of the
        International African Institute* 34 (3):197–205.

Film: Battle of Algiers or Lumumba

Further reading

Hochschild, Adam (1999). King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in
        Colonial Africa. Mariner Books
Lonsdale, John (1975). The European Scramble and Conquest in African History. In
        Cambridge History of Africa, edited by J. D. Fage and R. Oliver. Cambridge:
        Cambridge University Press.
Birmingham, David (1996). *The Decolonization of Africa*. London and New York: Routledge.
Kaunda, Kenneth D (1962). A Year of Decision, Chapter 17 in *Zambia Shall be Free*.
        London: Heinemann.
 Mamdani, Mahmood (1996). *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late
        Colonialism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapters 1-3.
Curtin, Philip (1994). The Impact of Europe. In *African History: From Earliest Times to
        Independence*, edited by P. Curtin, S. Feierman, L. Thompson and J. Vansina.
        London & New York: Longman.
Thompson, Alex (2004). History: Africa's pre-colonial and colonial inheritance (case study:
        Kenya), Chapter2 in *An Introduction to African Politics* (2nd edition). London and New
        York: Routledge.

Week 4   02/16   The African State Part I (Independence – 1989): The Big Men and Political Kingdoms

**"State Institutions and the Organization of the Public Arena," in Naomi Chazan et al., *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*, 3rd ed. (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999), pp37-68.

**Hyden, Goran (2006). *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 and 5

Young, Crawford and Thomas Turner (1985). The Patrimonial State and Personal Rule, Chapter6 in *The Rise and Decline of the Zairian State*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

McGowen, Patrick (2003). "African Military Coups d'Etat, 1956-2001," *Journal of Modern African* Studies 41(3): 339-343 and 355-359.

**Jackson, Robert and Carl Rosberg (1982). Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood. *World Politics* 35 (1):1-24.

Thompson, Alex (2004). Legitimacy: neo-patrimonialism, personal rule and the centralization of the African state. (personal rule in Cote d'Ivoire), Chapter 6 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2nd edition)*. London and New York: Routledge.

Film: Mobutu, King of Zaire (original French title: Mobutu, Roi du Zaïre)

Further reading

Bayart, Jean-Francois (1993). *The State in Africa: the Politics of the Belly*. London: Longman. PartI [The Genesis of the State].

Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). *Understanding Contemporary Africa* (4th edition). Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter4

Jackson, Robert and Carl Rosberg, "The Political Economy of African Personal Rule," in Apter and Rosberg, *Political Development and the New Realism in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1994), pp. 291-322.

Herbst, Jeffrey (2000). "The Political Kingdom in Independent Africa," Chapter4 in *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press

Thompson, Alex (2004). Coercion: military intervention in African politics (Uganda's 1971 military coup), Chapter7 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2nd edition)*. London and New York: Routledge.

Week 5   02/23   Political Forces Part I: The African State and Identity Politics (Ethnicity, Race, Class and Religion)

**Chazan, Naomi et.al (1999). "Ethnicity, Class, and the State," Chapter4 in *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Posner, Daniel (2004). The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi. *American Political Science Review* 98 (4):529–45.

de Waal, Alex (2005). Who are the Darfurians? Arab and African Identities, Violence and External Engagement. *African Affairs* 104 (415):181-205.

**Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). Religion in Africa, Chapter11 in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Thompson, Alex (2004). Ethnicity: ethnic groups, 'tribes', and political identity (case study: Nigeria), Chapter4 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2nd edition)*. London and New York: Routledge.

Further reading

Bates, Robert (1983). Modernization, Ethnic Competition and the Rationality of Politics. In *State versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*, edited by D. Rothchild and V.A. Olunsorola. Boulder: Westview Press.

Young, Crawford (1965). The Politics of Ethnicity, Chapter 11 in *Politics in the Congo. Decolonization and Independence*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Mamdani, Mahmood (2001). When Victims Become Killers, Princteon: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3.

Chabal, Patrick and Daloz, Jean-Pascal (1999). "The Use and Abuse of the Irrational: Witchcraft and Religion," in *Africa Works*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Week 6   03/02   Political Forces Part II: The African State and Civil Society

**Young, Crawford (1999). "In Search of Civil Society," in *Civil Society and the State in Africa*, edited by Harbeson, John and Rothchild, Donald. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

**Posner, Daniel (2004). "Civil Society and the Reconstruction of Failed States," Chapter11 in *When States Fail: Causes and Consequences*, edited by Rotberg, Robert. Princeton, Princeton University Press

Monga, Celestin (1996). Civil Society and the Public Sphere: The New Stakeholders. In *The Anthropology of Anger*. London: Lynne Rienner.

**Holm, John D, Patrick P. Molutsi, and Gloria Somolekae (1996). "The development of civil society in a democratic state: The Botswana model," *African Studies Review* 39(2):43-69

Alexander, Jocelyn (1997). "The Local State in Post-War Mozambique: Political Practice and Ideas about Authority," Africa, Vol. 67(1).

**Chabal, Parick and Daloz, Jean-Pascal (1999). "The Illusion of Civil Society," Chapter2 in *Africa Works*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press

Further reading

Migdal, Joel (1988). *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter1

Docking, Timothy (2005). International Influence on Civil Society in Mali: The Case of the Cotton Farmer's Union, SYCOV. In *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Africa NGOs, Donors and the State* edited by J. Igoe and T. Kelsall. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Azarya, Victor (1988). Reordering State-Society Relations: Incorporation and Disengagement, in *The Precarious Balance*. Boulder: Westview Press, pp3-21.

Thompson, Alex (2004). Introduction: State, Civil Society and External Interests, Chapter1 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2nd edition)*. London and New York: Routledge.

Widner, Jennifer (1999). "The Rise of Civic Associations Among Farmers in Côte d'Ivoire." In *Civil Society and the State in Africa*, edited by Harbeson, John and Rothchild, Donald. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Jackson, Stephen (2005). "The State Didn't Even Exist: Non-Governmentality in Kivu, Eastern DR Congo," in *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: African NGOs, Donors and the State* edited by J. Igoe and T. Kelsall. Durham: Carolina Academic Press.

Bingen, James (1998). Cotton, Democracy and Development in Mali. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 36 (2):265-285.

Fatton, Robert Jr (1995). "Africa in the age of democratization: The civic limitations of civil society," *African Studies Review* 38(2):67-100

Scott, James (1985). *Weapons of the Weak*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 28-37.

Week 7   03/09   Political Forces Part III: The Cases

NOTE: THIS WEEK'S SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS.

03/16   SPRING RECESS

Week 8   03/23 Economic Development Part I: Patterns and Explanations of Economic Growth

**Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). "African Economies," Chapter5 in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

**Collier, Psaul and Gunning, Jan (1999). "Why has Africa grown slowly?" Journal of Economic Perspectives, 13(3):3-22.

**Ndulu, B. and O'Connell, S.A (1999). "Governance and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13(3): 41-66.

Krueger, Anne (1990). Government Failures in Development. *Journal of Economic Perspectives, 4*(3), 9-23.

**Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (2003). An African Success Story: Botswana. In *In Search of Prosperity: Analytic Narratives in Economic Growth*, edited by D. Rodrik. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Easterly, William, and Ross Levine (1997). Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112 (4):1203-1250.

Further reading

Van de Walle, Nicolas (2001). African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 3.

United Nations Development Programme. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

http://www.undp.org/mdg/

Collier, Paul (2008). The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It? New York: Oxford University Press, Parts I and II.

Sachs, Jeffrey (2006). The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time. Penguin, Pages 1-73

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson (2001). "The Colonial Origins

of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review* 91 (5):1369-401.

Week 9   03/30 Economic Development Part II: Foreign Aid, Structural Adjustment Programs and Beyond

**Van de Walle, Nicolas (2001). The Crisis and Foreign Aid, Chapter5 in African *Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
**Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). Religion in Africa, Chapter11 in *Understanding Contemporary Africa.* Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. PP325-349
Pitcher, Anne (2004). Conditions, Commitments, and the Politics of Restructuring in Africa. *Comparative Politics* 36 (4):379-98.
Mosley, Paul (1996). The Failure of Aid and Adjustment Policies in Sub-Saharan Africa: Counter-examples and Policy Proposals. *Journal of African Economies* 5 (3):406-443.
**Easterly, William (2007). The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good? Penguin Press. Chapter1
Sen, Amartya (2006). The Man Without a Plan. Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2006*
Thompson, Alex (2004). Sovereignty again: neo-colonialism, structural adjustment, and Africa's political economy (Ghana's structural adjustment), Chapter9 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2nd edition).* London and New York: Routledge.

Further reading

Makandwire, Thandika, and Charles C. Soludo (1999). The Adjustment Experience, Chapter 3 in *Our Continent, Our Future : African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment* Dakar: CODESRIA.
Easterly, William (2001). The Loans that Were, the Growth That Wasn't. Chapter6 in *The Elusive Quest for Growth: Economists' Adventures and Misadventures in the Tropics.* Cambridge: MIT Press.
Scott, Gerald (1998). Who Has Failed Africa? IMF Measures or the African Leadership? *Journal of Asian and African Studies*

Week 10   04/06   The African State Part II (1990 – Present): Causes and Consequences of State Decay & Collapse

Robert D. Kaplan (1994). "The Coming Anarchy," in: *The Atlantic Monthly.* http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/foreign/anarchy.htm
Blaine Harden, "The Last Safari," *New York Times Magazine*, 4 June 2000.
**Bates, Robert (2008). When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa. New York, Cambridge University Press. Pp1-15 and 97-128.
**Chabal, Parick and Daloz, Jean-Pascal (1999) *Africa Works.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Chapters1 and 10 ["Whiter the State" and "the Political Instrumentalization of Disorder"]
Reno, William (1997). War, Markets, and the Reconfiguration of West Africa's Weak States. *Comparative Politics* 29 (4):493-510.
**Bierschenk, Thomas, and Jean-Pierre Olivier de Sardan (1997). Local Powers and a Distant State in Rural Central African Republic. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 35 (3):441–468.

**Laely, Thomas (1997). Peasants, Local Communities and Central Power in Burundi. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 35 (4):695-716.

Thompson, Alex (2004). Authority: the crises of accumulation, governance and state collapse (Zaire - Mobutu's vampire state), Chapter10 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2ⁿᵈ edition)*. London and New York: Routledge.

Further reading

Jennifer Widner (1995). "States and Statelessness in Late Twentieth Century Africa," *Daedalus* (Summer 1995), pp. 129-153.

Herbst, Jeffrey (2000). The Past and the Future of State Power in Africa, Chapter 9 in *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: PUP

Little, Peter (2003). Introduction and Life Goes On, Chapters 1 and 6 in *Somalia: Economy without State*. Oxford: James Currey.

Helander, Bernhard (2005). Who Needs a State? Civilians, Security & Social Services in North-East Somalia. In *No Peace, No War: An Anthropology of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*, edited by P. Richards. Oxford: James Currey.

Rotberg, Robert, ed. (2004). *When States Fail: Causes and Consequences*. Princeton, Princeton University Press. PartI

Boone, Catherine (1998). "Empirical Statehood" and "Reconfigurations of Political Order," In *The African State at a Critical Juncture: Between Disintegration and Reconfiguration* edited by L. Villalón and P. A. Huxtable. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Week 11   04/13   Political Transitions and Democratic Consolidation in Africa: Key Patterns, Explanations and Popular Responses

**"Political Transitions and Patterns of Change," Chapter8 in Naomi Chazan et al., *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*, 3rd ed. (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999), pp221-239.

**Crawford Young, Crawford (1996). "Africa: an Interim Balance Sheet," *Journal of Democracy* 7 (3): 53-68.

**Bratton, Michael and van de Walle, Nicholas (1997). Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transition in Comparative Perspective. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Introduction and Chapters1 and 6.

Widner, Jennifer (1994). "Political Reform in Anglophone and Francophone Africa," in *Economic Change and Political Liberalization in Sub-Saharan Africa*, edited by Widner, Jennifer. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

**Bratton, Michael and Robert Mattes (2001). Africans' Surprising Universalism. *Journal of Democracy* 12(1): 107-121.

Chazan, Naomi et.al (1999). "Deep Politics: Political Response, Protest, and Conflict," Chapter7 in *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Thompson, Alex (2004). Democracy: re-legitimizing the African state? (search for democracy in Algeria), Chapter11 in *An Introduction to African Politics (2ⁿᵈ edition)*. London and New York: Routledge.

Further reading

Barkan, Joel (2002). The Many Faces of Africa: Democracy Across a Varied Continent. *Harvard International Review*

Mehler, Andreas (2005). The Shaky Foundations, Adverse Circumstances, and Limited Achievements of Democratic Transitions in the Central African Republic. In *The Fate of Africa's Democratic Experiments: Elites and Institutions*, edited by L. A. Villalón and P. VonDoepp. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Snyder, Jack (2000). Transitions to Democracy and the Rise of Nationalist Conflict, Chapter1 in *From voting to violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Laakso, Liisa (2001). "When Elections are Just a Formality: Rural-Urban Dynamics in the Dominant-Party System of Zimbabwe." In *Multi-party elections in Africa*, ed. M. Cowen and L. Laakso. New York: Palgrave.

Bratton, Michael and Robert Mattes (2002). Support for Democracy in Africa: Intrinsic or Instrumental? *British Journal of Political Science*

Bratton, Michael and Eric Chang (2006). "State-Building and Democratization in Africa: Forwards, Backwards, or Together?" *Comparative Political Studies* 39(9):1059-1083.

Lindberg, Staffan (2006). The Surprising Significance of African Elections. *Journal of Democracy* 17 (1):139-51

Week 12   04/20   Understanding Civil War Part I: Causes and Consequences

Collier, Paul and Sambanis, Nicholas (2005). *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, Vol. 1—Africa.* Washington, DC: The World Bank. Chapter1 and two empirical chapters of your choice!

Collier, Paul and Hoeffler, Anke (2004). "Greed and Grievance in Civil Wars," *Oxford Economic Papers* 56: 563-595.

**Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin (2003). Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97 (1):75-90.

**Posen, Barry (1993). "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival,* 35: 27–47

**Collier, Paul et.al (2003). *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy.* Washington, DC: World Bank Policy Research Reports, pp 11-32

Stewart, Frances et.al (2000). "Internal Wars: An Empirical Overview of the Economic and Social Consequences," Chapter4 in *War and Underdevelopment: Economic and Social Consequences of Conflict* vol.1, edited by Stewart, Frances and Valpy Fitzgeral.Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Film: The Lost Children of Chechnya or Lumo

Further reading

Deininger, Klaus (2003). Causes and Consequences of Civil Strife: Micro-level Evidence from Uganda. *Oxford Economic Papers* 55:579-606.

Langer, Arnim (2005). Horizontal Inequalities and Violent Conflict: The Case of Côte d'Ivoire. *Center For Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (Oxford) Working Paper* 13.

Habyarimana, James et al (2008). "Is Ethnic Conflict Inevitable? Parting Ways Over Nationalism and Separatism," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2008

**Week 13   04/27   Understanding Civil War Part II: Termination and
                                 Peace- building**

**Doyle, Michael and Sambanis, Nicholas (2006). *Making War and Building Peace: United
          Nations Peace Operations.* Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters1
**Paris, Roland (2004). *At War's End: Building Peace after Civil Conflict.* Cambridge: Cambridge
          University Press. Chapters1
**Branch, Adam, and Zachariah Mampilly (2005). Winning the War, but Losing the
          Peace? The Dilemma of SPLM/A Civil Administration and the Tasks Ahead.
          Journal of Modern African Studies 43 (1):1-20.
Bellows, John, and Edward Miguel (2006). War and Institutions: New Evidence from Sierra
          Leone. *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings* 96 (2):394-99.
Krasner, Stephen (2004). "Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing
          States," International Security 29(2): 85-120
**Pouligny Beatrice, Chesterman S, Schnabel eds. (2007). *After Mass Crime: Rebuilding States
          and Communities.* Tokyo/New York: United Nations Univ. Press. Chapters TBD

Film: Buying Time for Peace (MDRP)

Further reading

Fortna, Page (2008). Does Peacekeeping Work?: Shaping Belligerents' Choices After Civil
          War. Princeton: Princeton University Press
Fearon, James and Laitin, David (2004). "Neotrusteeship and the Problem of Weak States,"
          International Security, 28(4):5-43
Rotberg, Robert (ed.) (2004). *When States Fail: Causes and Consequences.* Princeton, Princeton
          University Press. PartII
Bigombe, Betty, David Collier, and Nicholas Sambanis (2000). "Policies for Building Post-
          Conflict Peace." *Journal of African Economies* 9(3): 323-48.
Manning, Carrie (1998). Constructing Opposition in Mozambique: Renamo as Political
          Party. *Journal of Southern African Studies* 24 (1):161-89.
Pouligny Beatrice (2006). *Peace Operations Seen From Below: UN Missions and Local People*
          Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian Press.
Humphreys, Macartan, and Jeremy Weinstein (2007). Demobilization and Reintegration.
          Journal of Conflict Resolution, 51(4):531-567

**Week 14   05/04   Other Threats to Africans: Diseases and Environmental
                                 Challenges**

**Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (1992). Understanding Contemporary Africa.
          Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter7 [Population, Urbanization, and AIDS]
**Parkhurst, Justin, and Louisiana Lush (2004). The Political Environment of HIV: Lessons
          from a Comparison of Uganda and South Africa. *Social Science and Medicine* 59
          (9):1913–1924.
**Sachs, Jeffrey and Pia Malaney (2002). The Economic and Social Burden of Malaria.
          Nature 415: 680-685.
**Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (1992). Understanding Contemporary Africa.
          Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter8 [Africa's Environmental Problems]

Further reading

de Waal, Alex (2003). How will HIV / AIDS Transform African Governance? *African Affairs* 102: 1-23.
Epstein, Helen (2004). Why is AIDS Worse in Africa? *Discover* 25 (2):68.
UN Environment Programme (2007). "Conflict and the Environment," *Sudan: Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment*
Polgreen, Lydia (2007). A Godsend for Darfur, or a Curse? *New York Times* (July 22, 2007)

Week 15   05/11   Africa and the World: Patterns of Relations and the Future of the African Continent

**Chazan, Naomi et al. (1999). *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Pp405-421
Zafar, Ali (2007). The Growing Relationship Between China and Sub-Saharan Africa: Macroeconomic, Trade, Investment and Aid Links. *World Bank Research Observer* (Spring 2007) *119*
**de Waal, Alex (2002). What's New about the "New Partnership for Africa's Development"? *International Affairs* 78 (3):463-76.
**Ottaway, Marina (1999). *Africa's New Leaders: Democracy or State Reconstruction?* Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Chapter1
**Robert I. Rotberg (2003). The Roots of Africa's Leadership Deficit. *Compass* .

Further reading

Herbst, Jeffrey and Greg Mills (2004). The Future of Africa: A New Order in Sight? Adelphi Papers.
Gordon, April and Gordon, Donald (2006). Understanding Contemporary Africa. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Chapter6 [African International Relations].
Carmody, Padraig and Francis Y. Owusu (2007). Competing Hegemons? Chinese versus American Geo-Economic Strategies in Africa. *Political Geography*

RESOURCES

Most books and articles can be found in NYU libraries (http://library.nyu.edu) and/or through databases which can also be accessed directly from NYU Libraries website. Most articles (not book chapters) assigned in this course can also be accessed directly through JSTOR—the online system for archiving academic journals (www.jstor.org). Do not hesitate to ask librarians for help if you experience trouble finding a book or locating an article. They are always glad to provide assistance.

In developing this syllabus, I benefited greatly from syllabi of Columbia University professors Macartan Humphreys and Kimuli Kasara, which I encourage you to use as resources! http://www.columbia.edu/~mh2245/Syllabus.pdf . I also encourage you to check out NYU's Politics Professor William Easterly's page, which contains many book reviews and op-Ed pieces he has written for popular magazines and policy journals. http://www.nyu.edu/fas/institute/dri/Easterly/Media.html

The following resource page is from prof. Humprey's syllabus (Spring 2004).

To keep up with the day-to-day politics there is a host of new on-line resources that we can Use. We have no excuse not to be able to keep up with the news: Regular news sources available online include:

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm
- http://allafrica.com/
- Africa news (LexisNexis)

In addition you can sign up for the United Nations IRIN (http://www.irinnews.org/) news bulletins for Africa here: http://www.irinnews.org/subscriptions/subslogin.asp. These will give you regular feeds of news on the continent as soon as it comes in.

There is even a host of radio stations you can listen to:

- http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/radio.html
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm
- http://allafrica.com/partners/rfi/en_rfi.html (RFI)

Other rich **portals** for information on Africa include:

- http://www.africa.upenn.edu/AS.html
- http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html
- http://www.worldbank.org/afr/
- http://www.afrika.no/
- http://www.africaonline.com
- http://worldviews.igc.org/awpguide/

Country Pages: http://www.africa.upenn.edu//Home_Page/Country.html
Many of the **academic journals** writing on Africa are available on-line to New York University Libraries.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the SCPS statement on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism on http://www.scps.nyu.edu/students affairs/undergraduate/academicpolicies/#scps-statement –on-academic-integrity-and-plagiarism. The SCPS defines plagiarism as follows: *"Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically, plagiarism is to present as one's sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer; a paraphrased passage from another's writer's work; creative images, artwork, or design; or facts or ideas gathered, organized, and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing and not providing proper attribution. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgement of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgement constitutes plagiarism. Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper or course to dismissal from the University."*

Please familiarize yourself with this policy because it will be strictly enforced.