

# **African Politics**

Political Science 146A  
Stanford University, Fall Quarter 2015  
TTh 9:30-11:20am  
Course Outline  
David Laitin – Instructor  
Mashail Aman Malik – Teaching Assistant  
Darin Christensen – Data “fundi”

Africa has lagged the rest of the developing world in terms of economic development, the establishment of social order and effective governance, and the consolidation of democracy. This course seeks to identify the historical and political sources accounting for this lag, and to provide extensive case study and statistical material to understand what sustains it, and how it might be overcome.

Grading and Assignments: For three topics on the syllabus (one from weeks 1-3; one from weeks 4-6; and one from weeks 7-9), students are required to submit a paper (about 1,200 words) advancing a point of view based on the lecture, the required readings, and at least one reference that refers to the reading, acquired through library resources or google scholar. The paper can advance a thesis in regard to one of the readings, or seek to synthesize two or three readings geared towards understanding how the readings on a given topic tie together. One of the papers can be collaborative among two or three students who worked together for a section assignment. Each of these papers will constitute 25% of the grade. Contributions to discussions in the section will constitute 15% of the grade. A final exam that will test only the acquaintance with the lectures and required readings, will constitute 10% of the grade; but passing the final exam is necessary to pass the course.

## **Books and Materials**

See Coursework for access to required readings for this course.

Recommended for purchase:

Chinua Achebe *Things fall apart* (Anchor)

ISBN-10: 0385474547

ISBN-13: 978-0385474542

## **I. Introduction**

1. Who is teaching this course? Laitin’s research in Somalia, Nigeria and Ghana

2. Africa: the last frontier for development theorists: slow economic growth; state failure; weak democratization

Crawford Young *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, pp. 1-8

## II. From Great Expectations to Unfulfilled Dreams

3. The Charismatic Founders and Their Dreams

Jomo Kenyatta *Facing Mount Kenya*, Preface pp. xv-xxi

Kenneth Kaunda *Zambia Shall be Free*, pp. 1-35; 151-60

Obafemi Awolowo *Awo*, chapters 1 (pp. 1-11); 10 (pp. 113-132); and 14 (pp. 213-248).

Julius Nyerere "Education for Self-Reliance". In *Freedom and Socialism*, pp. 267-290

4. The Cultural Project: Négritude, the African Personality and Cultural Autonomy

Abiola Irele, "Négritude-Literature and Ideology" *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 1965: 3(4): 499-526

D. Laitin "Linguistic Dissociation: A Strategy for Africa". In J. Ruggie, ed., *Antinomies of Interdependence* (1983).

E. Albaugh *State-Building and Multilingual Education in Africa*, chap. 2, pp. 22-52

5. The First Signs of Troubles: Military Coups and the Replacement of the Charismatic Founders

David E. Apter "Nkrumah, Charisma, and the Coup" *Daedalus* 1968: 97(3): 557-92

Samuel Decalo *Coups and Military Rule in Africa* (1990, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), pp. 133-98

6. The Shadow, Prebendal, or Turbulent State

William Reno *Corruption and State Politics in Sierra Leone* pp. 1-27; 104-30; 177-88

Richard Joseph *Democracy and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria: The Rise and Fall of the Second Republic* pp. 1-12; 55-68.

Alex de Waal *The Real Politics of the Horn of Africa: Money, guns and the business of power*, pages TBA

7-8. The breakdown of Order

Stephen Ellis *The Mask of Anarchy*, Introduction (pp. 1-31)

William Reno *Warfare in Independent Africa*, chaps. 3-6

Philip Roessler "The Enemy Within: Personal Rule, Coups and Civil War in Africa," *World Politics* 63(2) (April 2011), 300–346

D. Christensen "Concession Stands: The Consequences of Foreign Investment in Mining for Protest in Africa"

#### 9. Failures in Public Health

Evan Lieberman *Boundaries of Contagion: How Ethnic Politics Have Shaped Government Responses to AIDS*, chap. 4

M. Lee and M. Platas "Aid Externalities: Evidence from PEPFAR in Africa" *World Development*, available at:  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X14002952>

### **III. Why has Africa been the "final frontier"?**

#### 10. Geography and Demography

Jeffrey Herbst *States and Power in Africa* chs. 1, 5

Nathan Nunn and D. Puga "Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa" *Review of Economics and Statistics* 2012: 94(1)20-36

#### 11. The Slave Trade

Basil Davidson *The African Slave Trade* pp. 53-87

Nathan Nunn "The Long Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trade" *QJE* 2008: 123(1): 139-76

Nathan Nunn "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa" *AER* 2011:101(7): 3221-3252

#### 12. Christian and Muslim Missionaries confront Traditional Religions

C. Achebe *Things Fall Apart*

RD Woodberry "The Missionary Roots of liberal democracy" *APSR* 2012: 106(2): 244-74

Stelios Michalopoulos, Alireza Naghavi, and Giovanni Prarolo "Trade and Geography in the Origins and Spread of Islam" NBER Working Paper #18438,  
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w18438>

#### 13. Berlin in 1884-85 and the partition of Africa

A.I. Asiwaju *Partitioned Africans*, Chapter 1 (Asiwaju, “The Conceptual Framework”, pp. 1-18); Chapter 9 (Said S. Samatar “The Somali Dilemma” pp. 154-93); and Chapter 10 (David Collins “Partitioned Culture Areas and Smuggling” pp. 195-221).

Stelios Michalopoulos and Elias Papaioannou “Divide and Rule or the Rule of the Divided? Evidence from Africa” NBER Working Paper No. 17184, [www.nber.org/papers/w17184](http://www.nber.org/papers/w17184)

#### 14. The Colonial State

Crawford Young *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, pp. 77-140, 278-92

Richard Reid *Warfare in African History*, pp. 107-48

D. Laitin “Hegemony and Religious Conflict: British Imperial Control and Political Change in Yorubaland. In *Bringing the State Back In*, pp. 285-316

#### 15. Ethnic Linguistic Fractionalization

William Easterly and Ross Levine “Africa’s Growth Tragedy” *QJE* 1997: 112(4): 1203-50

James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, Jeremy M. Weinstein, “Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision” *APSR* 2007, 101(4): 709-726

Edward Miguel “Tribe or nation? Nation building and public goods in Kenya versus Tanzania” *World Politics* 2004: 56(3): 328-362

#### 16. State Building in the Post-Colonial Era

RH Jackson and C.G. Rosberg “Why Africa’s Weak States persist: the empirical and the juridical in statehood” *World Politics* 1982: 35(1): 1-24

R. Bates *Prosperity and Violence*, Chapters 2-4 (pp. 14-66)

#### 17. Economic Doctrines and Incentives in Post-Colonial World

Julius Nyerere “The Arusha Declaration” 1967. In *Freedom and Socialism*, pp. 231-50; or <http://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/nyerere/1967/arusha-declaration.htm>

James C. Scott *Seeing Like a State*, Introduction, pp. 1-8 and Chapter 7, pp. 223-61

Elliott Berg “Socialism and economic development in tropical Africa” *QJE* 1964: 78(4): 549-573

Robert Bates *Markets and States in Africa*, chapters 1-2 (pp. 11-44)

#### **IV. Towards a New Era**

##### 18. Democratization and the Fourth Wave

Michael Bratton “Where do Elections Lead in Africa?” ch. 2 in M. Bratton, ed. *Voting and Democratic Citizenship in Africa*”

Leonardo Arriola *Multiethnic Coalitions in Africa* chs. 1, 8

##### 19. Explaining Success Stories in Africa

D. Acemoglu, S. Johnson, and J. Robinson “An African Success Story: Botswana” [Available at: <http://www.colby.edu/economics/faculty/jmlong/ec479/AJR.pdf>]

Masayuki Kudamatsu, (2010) “Has Democratization Reduced Infant Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa?” *Journal of the European Economic Association* 10(6): 1294–1317 [Available at: <http://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/92566/1/537563822.pdf>]

##### 20. Rebuilding Conflict Ridden States

Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein “Demobilization and Reintegration” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (August 2007)

United Nations Department of Peace Keeping Operations (UNDPKO). Read one of the mission reports of past operations in Africa

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/past.shtml>

Séverine Autesserre, *Peaceland*, pp. 1-15, 59-67, and 132-149

#### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oea>).