

African International Relations

(Spring 2022)

COURSE NUMBER: PSC 333

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anthony Neal
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COURSE INTRODUCTION:

This course serves as basic introduction to African politics with an emphasis on international relations with the global community. Consequently, the course will touch on the basic points of African international relations including early expressions, development, and contemporary expression or practice.

BBC Cable News: Focus on Africa; Business Africa, Africa Eye

CC TV China Central Television: Africa Live

CNN: Inside Africa; AfricanVoices

Classic Video Series on Africa:

1. Africa: The Story of a Continent, 1984 Basil Davidson (8 Parts)
2. The Africans: A Triple Heritage, 1986 Ali Mazrui (9 Parts)
3. The Wonders of the African World, 1999 Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (6 Parts)
4. Africa's Great Civilizations, 2017 Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (3 Parts)
5. History of Africa (5 Parts)

COURSE GRADE:

Your course grade will be based on the following grading opportunities. (1) A take home mid-term; (2) a take home final exam; (3) At least 10 weekly online discussions; (4) a 10 page research paper, and (5) attendance. Each grading opportunity is worth at least 100 points.

Grading Criteria:

Online Discussions: Students are expected to provide a thoughtful response to the assignment question and respectful feedback to other posts by students in the class. Use appropriate language and punctuation. Moreover, online discussions will be an important component of this course. Research shows that students who are active in online discussions are more successful and achieve higher grades. These discussions will provide you with an opportunity to make connections from course content to the “real world” and appreciate the opinions and perspectives of others.

Expectations for Online Discussion:

- Be open-minded while reading classmates’ posts carefully. Various students may and will interpret course content differently.
- If you have questions about a post, respectfully ask for clarification and avoid making assumptions.
- Use appropriate online language which includes proper English.
- Avoid slang and the use of all capital letters.
- Avoid the use of emotional punctuation except for compliments.
- Responses to classmates should be respectful.

Research Paper: The purpose of this assignment is to encourage students to be more acutely aware of significant events in the international African narrative that have had a significant impact on the social, economic, and political development of the continent of Africa the continent’s relationship to external realities.

Attendance: The classroom is the center of instruction. Experiential interaction is beneficial beyond the give and take of lecture and classroom response.

Late Work Policy: Late work will be accepted; however, the grade for the assignment will be reduced.

TEXT: Required

Alex Thomson. An Introduction to African Politics. 4th ed. Routledge 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXT: Optional

Fargion & Gazibo eds. Revisiting EU-Africa Relations in a Changing World, 2021

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE

SECTION ONE:[IDYLLIC AFRICA & COLONIALISM

AFRICA INTRODUCTION: PRE-COLONIAL AFRICA

A. Pre-Colonial, Colonial, Independence, Democratization, Arab Spring, Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone, Cold War, Terrorism, Africom, EU-Africa, AU,

Thomson, Ch 1: Introduction: state, civil society and external interests

PRIMARY FOCUS WEST AFRICA: Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia Thomson, Ch 4: Ethnicity and Religion: 'tribes,' gods, and political identity/ case Study/ Nigeria

Ch 6: Legitimacy: neo-patrimonialism, personal rule and the centralization of the African State/ case study/ Cote d'Ivoire

Ch 9: Sovereignty II: neo-colonialism, structural adjustment and Africa's political economy: Ghana

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

MODULE TWO: AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE & DEMOCRACY

PRIMARY FOCUS SOUTHERN AFRICA: Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, SADCC, SADC

Ch 5: Social Class: the search for class politics in Africa: Botswana

Ch 10: Authority: The Crises of Accumulation, Governance, and State Collapse/ case study/ Zaire

Ch 11: Democracy: Re-legitimising the African State? Case study/ Zimbabwe

MODULE THREE: AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PRIMARY FOCUS NORTHERN-EASTERN AFRICA: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea

Thomson, Ch 8: Sovereignty I: External Influences on African Politics /case study: Somalia's international relations

Thomson, Ch 3: Ideology: Nationalism, Socialism, Populism, and State Capitalism/ case study Tanzania

Ch 7: Coercion: Military Intervention in African Politics/ case study: Uganda

Ch 2 case study: Kenya (also see Mazrui, A Triple Heritage)

Ch 12: Conclusions: the changing relationship between state, civil society and external interests in the post-colonial era; EU, AU, UN...

FINAL EXAMINATION

SCORING AND GRADING SCALE

100-92 = A

91-89 = A-

88-87 = B+

86-82 = B

81-79 = B-

78-77 = C+

76-72 = C

71-69 = C-

68-67 = D+

66-57 = D

56/less = E