

**Contemporary African Politics
Political Science 246, Fall 2009
Tuesdays: 4.15-7.05pm**

**Professor Claire L. Adida
Encina Hall Central, Room 415
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-noon
cadida@stanford.edu**

I. Overview

This class is an undergraduate seminar geared for upper-level (juniors and seniors) undergraduates interested in African politics, including the politics of development, ethnic politics, violence, and foreign aid. The goal of this class is to introduce students to the major problems African countries have faced over the past five decades and continue to face today. As students in this class, you will not only be consumers of information and scholarship on Africa, you will also produce your own through class assignments. The questions motivating this course are the following: (1) What explains Africa's "growth tragedy"? (2) Why are states in Africa weaker than in any other developing region? (3) What are the types and sources of civil violence in Africa? (4) Can the West "save Africa"?

Africa is a very diverse region, not only culturally, but also politically and economically. An objective for this course is to highlight and analyze this variation. The structure of the course is developed around the main dependent variables we encounter in political science scholarship on Africa. In the first two weeks of the quarter, we will cover the pre-colonial and colonial history of the region. We will then move onto a survey of the main dependent variables scholars of Africa try to explain: regime type, state weakness, identity, growth, violence. For each of these dependent variables, we will examine their variation, their measurement and the independent variables put forth in the literature (geography and disease, ethnic diversity, external actors) to explain their varying outcomes. Each topic also provides an opportunity to address questions of methodology: what instruments do we have to assess Africa's condition? What methods do we use to explain it?

II. Prerequisites

This is an upper-level undergraduate seminar. Students must have taken PS4 and fulfilled their methods requirement (one of the following: 150A, 150B, 150C, 151A, 151B, STATS60, ECON102A) before enrolling.

III. Requirements

(1) Class participation: 20%

Students are expected to come to class having done all the readings for the week. Since this is a small seminar, class discussion is a critical element of learning. In order to make sure you keep up with the readings and contribute to the discussions, students are responsible for writing three response papers throughout the course of the quarter. A response paper should address one of the theories from the week's readings, evaluate the empirical evidence that supports and/or weakens it, and propose a new way to test it. Response papers should be approximately 1.5-2pp in length, and emailed to me by 9p.m. the night before class meets. Each student is free to choose the weeks in which s/he will be submitting a response paper, but each student is expected to submit a total of 3 response papers.

(2) Map and Facts Test: 10%

There will be an in-class map and facts test during the first half-hour of class on October 27th (the sixth week of the quarter). Students are expected to know the name, location, capital and official language of all sub-Saharan African countries, as well as the name of their head-of-state.

(3) Final paper: 70%

In the final assignment, students are expected to produce a rigorous analytical paper, in which they choose and motivate their research question, present their thesis, develop the argument and test it empirically. The research question you choose should analyze in greater depth one of the themes from the class. The argument you develop should situate itself in the existing literature on the topic. The empirical strategy you use may be qualitative or quantitative.

Short assignments every other week will help you make consistent progress on this paper throughout the quarter. Students must hand in these assignments by email by 9pm the night before class meets.

The final paper must be approximately 25 pages, double-spaced, not including the title page, bibliography, or any graphs or tables you wish to present. Your title page must include your name, contact information, date, and an abstract of 150 words or less. The text should include footnotes and relevant citations. Students should provide a full bibliography of all sources used. The final paper must be emailed to me as a pdf document by noon on Tuesday, December 8. I will also be in my office between 11am and noon on December 8 for those of you who prefer to turn in a hard copy.

IV. Material

The following books and a course-reader are available for purchase at the Stanford bookstore. A copy of these books and course-pack are also available on reserve at Green Library. Any remaining reading material is available online (these are marked by an asterisk * in the next section).

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Crawford Young. 1994. *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*. Yale University Press

Robert H. Bates. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

V. Students with Documented Disabilities

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

Section I: PRE-COLONIAL HISTORY, COLONIALISM AND INDEPENDENCE

Week 1 (September 22): Introduction; Pre-colonial and colonial history and institutions

Goran Hyden. 2006. *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 1.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press: Chapter 2.

Crawford Young. 1994. *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*: Chapters 3 and 4.

Recommended: Stephen Van Evera. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: pp. 1-48.

Recommended: Mahmood Mamdani. 1996. *Citizen and Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: Chapter 1.

Recommended: Bates, Robert H. 1983. *Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa*. UCLA Press: Chapters 1 and 2.

Recommended: * Boston Review debate: "Is it Africa's turn?"
<http://bostonreview.net/BR33.3/miguel.php>

Week 2 (September 29): Independence

Goran Hyden. 2006. *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 2.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press: Chapters 3 and 4.

Chazan, Naomi. 1999. "The Diversity of African Politics: Trends and Approaches." In Naomi Chazan (Ed.), Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Robert Bates. 1983. "The Commercialization of Agriculture and the Rise of Rural Political Protest." In Essays on the Political Economy of Rural Africa. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 4.

* James Coleman. 1954. "Nationalism in Colonial Africa." *American Political Science Review* 1945(3).

Final Paper Assignment #1: write a one-page summary of your research topic, laying out the puzzle, the question you wish to address, the motivation for addressing such a question, and the kind of evidence you plan to research to provide some answers.

Section II: DEPENDENT VARIABLES

Week 3 (October 6): State Weakness

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press: Chapter 1.

Widner, Jennifer A. 1995. "States and Statelessness in Late Twentieth Century Africa." *Daedalus* 124(3).

Pierre Englebert. 2000. *State Legitimacy and Development in Africa*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner: Chapters 2 and 3.

Catherine Boone. 2003. *Political Topographies of the African State: territorial authority and institutional choice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: pp. 43-100.

Jared Diamond. 1997. *Guns, Germs and Steel*: Prologue and Chapter 2.

* Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg. 1982. "Why Africa's Weak States Persist." *World Politics* 35(1).

Week 4 (October 13): Identity I (Nationality and Ethnicity)

* Ted Miguel. 2004. "Tribe or Nation? Nation-Building and Public Goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World Politics* 56(3).

* William Miles and David Rochefort. 1991. "Nationalism versus Ethnic Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa." *American Political Science Review* 85(2).

* Dan Posner. 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).

* Dan Posner. 2004. "Measuring Ethnic Fractionalization in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science* 48(4).

* Laitin, David and Daniel Posner. 2001. "The Implications of Constructivism for Constructing Ethnic Fractionalization Indices." APSA-CP 12(Winter)

Week 5 (October 20): Identity II (Race and Religion)

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

* Karen Ferree. 2006. "Explaining South Africa's Racial Census." *Journal of Politics* 68(4).

* Jared Diamond. 1994. "How Africa Became Black." *Discover*, February 1, 1994.

Brenner, Louis. 1993. "Constructing Muslim Identities in Mali." In *Muslim Identity and Social Change in Sub-Saharan Africa* edited by L. Brenner. Indiana, IN: Indiana University Press.

Laitin, David. 1986. *Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press: pp. 1–11 & 171–85.

Final Paper Assignment #2: write a 2-3pp annotated bibliography enumerating the sources you will use in your final research paper. These sources can be academic articles, books, interviews, policy papers, or datasets.

Week 6 (October 27): Regime Type I (Patronage)

MAP AND FACTS QUIZ

Will Reno. 1999. *Warlord Politics and African States*. Lynne Rienner Publishers: Chapter 1

Michael Bratton and Nicholas van de Walle, 1997. *Democratic Experiments in Africa*. Cambridge UP. Chapter 2.

Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg. 1998. "Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa" in Lewis (Ed.), *Africa: Dilemmas of Development and Change*. Westview.

* Leo Arriola. 2008. "Patronage and Political Stability in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies*

* Kimuli Kasara. 2007. "Tax me if you can: Ethnic Geography, Democracy, and the Taxation of Agriculture in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 101(1).

Week 7 (November 3): Regime Type II (Democratization)

* Pearl Robinson, 1994. "The National Conference Phenomenon in Francophone Africa." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 36(3).

* Sandbrook, Richard. 1996. "Transitions without Consolidation: Democratization in Six African Cases." *Third World Quarterly* 17(1).

Larry Diamond. 1991. *Democratization in Africa*. Johns Hopkins University Press: Chapter 5.

* Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Benin." *World Politics* 55.

* Alex de Waal. 2003. "How will HIV/AIDS transform African Governance?" *Africa Affairs* 102.

Final paper assignment #3: prepare a 3-5pp description of the evidence you have gathered for your research paper. This summary should specify your dependent variable (the outcome you are trying to explain) and the patterns that seem to come out of the data you have researched so far.

Week 8 (November 10): Growth I

* Jeffrey Sachs. 1997. "Nature, Nurture and Growth." *The Economist* (London).

Special Survey on Sub-Saharan Africa, *The Economist*, January 15 2004
[Available on coursework class site under the Materials folder]

Van de Walle, Nicolas. 2001. *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: Chapter 1.

Robert H. Bates. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press: Entire book.

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

Week 9 (November 17): Growth II

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

* Habyarimana et al. 2007. "Why does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" *American Political Science Review* 101(4).

Jeffrey Sachs. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for our Time*. Penguin Press: Chapters 3 and 10.

* Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." *American Economic Review*: 91(5).

Robert H. Bates. 2001. *Prosperity and Violence: The Political Economy of Development*. W.W. Norton & Company: Chapter 4.

* Collier, Paul. 1999. "Aid 'Dependency': A Critique." *Journal of African Economies* 8(4).

Recommended: * Foreign Aid Face-Off:
<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-op-sachseasterly8may8,1,3796907.htmlstory?coll=la-util-op-ed>

Recommended: Girod, Desha M. "From Peace to Development: The Role of Aid in Post-Conflict Reconstruction." Unpublished Manuscript. Stanford University.

Recommended: * Erik Meyersson, Gerard Padró I Miquel, Nancy Quián. "The Rise of China and the Natural Resource Curse in Africa." Working Paper.

Recommended: * "Malaria in Africa: Why the Stakes could not be higher"
<http://209.85.173.104/search?q=cache:Ux-Py9e-faUJ:www.nyas.org/ebriefreps/main.asp%3FintSubsectionID%3D1454+Africa+geography+disease+Sachs&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=4&gl=us&client=firefox-a>

Week 10 (December 1): Violence

* James Fearon and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, insurgency and Civil Wars." *American Political Science Review*.

* Will Reno. 2000. "Clandestine Economies, Violence and States in Africa." *Journal of International Affairs* 53(2).

Jeremy Weinstein. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. New York: Cambridge University Press: Introduction and Chapter 1.

* Ted Miguel and Chris Blattman. "Civil War." *Journal of Economic Literature*.

* Ted Miguel. 2005. "Poverty and Witch Killing." *Review of Economic Studies* 72.

Recommended: * Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil Wars." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56.

Final paper assignment #4: submit a draft of your research paper. This draft can be as complete or incomplete as you wish. Remember that the more complete the draft, the more helpful the feedback I can provide.

Week 11 (December 8): FINAL PAPERS DUE BY NOON