

Antalya Bilim University
Department of Political Science and International Relations
POLS 317
African Politics
Spring 2024

Class time: Friday 14.00-16.50
Classroom: A2-93
Office: A2-40
Office hours: Thursday 09.00-12.00

Burak Toygar Halistoprak
toygar.halistoprak@antalya.edu.tr

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the social, political, theoretical and empirical basics of the sub-Saharan African politics. It aims to acquaint students the general functioning and the problems of the government, state, society and politics in sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, concepts such as “order”, “disorder” and “development” will be focused with specific reference to the African context. The course also aims to present students to the critical approaches to the theoretical explanations attempting to make sense of the African politics. Within the context of the course, some of the topics that will be focused are order, colonialism, post-colonial movements, authoritarianism, civil-military relations, nation-state and sovereignty, civil wars and ethnic conflict, intervention, development and peace nexus.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Develop** an analytical understanding of what is going on in the political arena of sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Comprehend** several concepts that are central (such as colonialism, post-colonialism) to the study of African politics.
- **Develop** an interest in specific regions in Africa which would pave the way for students to pursue further study on that region.
- **Understand** the mainstream theoretical approaches to African politics and use the critical lenses which subject these approaches to interrogation.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course relies on the combination of lectures by the instructor on various topics of African Politics on a weekly basis and group presentations by students on country application.

- 1) **LECTURES**: Lectures are not designed in a classical format. Rather, lecture sessions require an active interaction among students and the instructor. Students are required to read the lecture material before coming to lectures and contribute to the discussions during the lecture hours.
- 2) **GROUP PRESENTATIONS**: Starting from Week 5, there will be group presentations on country examples relevant to that respective week’s lecture topic. Throughout the

semester, there will be six group presentations. Number of the students in groups will be determined based on the class population. Group presentations require group work. Every student in a group is responsible from the all aspects of the presentation topics. Presentations will be followed by a question and answer session, in which students and the instructor will ask questions about the presentation topic and discuss. Presentations will be 20-25 minutes. All students in a group are supposed to assume roles in the oral presentations. A presentation guideline will be provided to students.

COURSE POLICIES

- **ANNOUNCEMENT POLICY:** All information regarding the course will either be announced in class or be sent to your ABU e-mail address. Check your e-mail regularly. It is your responsibility to beware the information announced through e-mail.
- **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** The course will be performed on an online platform. Yet, students are supposed to attend the course regularly. Attendance will be taken and ABU regulations on attendance will be followed.
- **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Any rule of classroom conduct in an in-person class is also present in this online course. You are expected to act according to the rules of class conduct and courtesy. Any form of hate speech, discriminatory discourse and disruptive behavior are not welcome and tolerated.
- **MOBILE PHONE POLICY:** Make sure that your mobile phones are switched off during class time. Recording the class is not allowed.
- **MAKE-UP POLICY:** Requests for midterm exam make-ups will be considered only for students with a medical condition. If an emergency arises, student needs to contact me before or immediately after the midterm exam.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Students are required to write a term paper due to the 14th week of the semester.

TERM PAPER

Students are expected to develop a research question on a specific aspect of sub-Saharan African politics and write an original research paper. The term paper should not exceed 3.000 words and be written with an elegant academic style in a manner that includes necessary references to relevant academic literature. A guide for term paper will be provided within the semester.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

There will be zero-tolerance to any form of academic dishonesty. **Plagiarism, cheating during exams and in assignments and any other attempt of academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action.** Note that all your assignments will be submitted to Turnitin software for plagiarism check. Please see

the Departmental Student Handbook for specific information about academic honesty and plagiarism. Students are responsible for making sure that their assignments do not contain any form of academic dishonesty. Please consult the instructor for situations that you are not certain about your references in your assignments.

Textbooks

Englebert, Pierre and Dunn, Kevin C. 2013. *Inside African Politics*. Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, London.

Thomson, Alex. 2010. *An Introduction to African Politics*. Routledge: London, New York. (3rd Edition)

Recommended readings are also assigned weekly. See the course schedule below for additional reading material.

Assessment

Midterm: 30%

Final: 40%

Presentation: 12%

Blog Entries/Term Paper: 13%

Participation: 5%

PS: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus within the semester, if necessary.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<p>Week 1: Introduction of the Syllabus and the Course (16 February 2024)</p>
<p>Week 2: Introduction to African Politics (23 February 2024)</p> <p>- Thomson 2010. Chapter 1. - Englebert and Dunn, 2013, Chapter 1.</p>
<p>Week 3: The Evolution of the State in Africa (1 March 2024)</p> <p>- Thomson 2010, Chapter 2, 8-23 - Englebert and Dunn, 2013, Chapter 2.</p> <p>Case Study-Kenya's Historical Inheritance</p> <p>Reading: Thomson, 2010, Chapter 2 (Case Study Section).</p>
<p>Week 4: Ideology: Nationalism, Socialism, Populism and State Capitalism in Africa (8 March 2024)</p> <p>-Thomson 2010, Chapter 3.</p> <p>Case Study-Ujamaa of Tanzania</p> <p>Reading: Thomson, 2010, Chapter 3 (Case Study Section).</p>
<p>Week 5: People, Identity and Politics in Africa (15 March 2024)</p> <p>- Englebert and Dunn, 2013, Chapter 3.</p> <p>Presentation 1: Boko Haram Terrorism: Islamic Fundamentalism or Something Else?</p> <p>Recommended Readings: Akinola, Olabanji. 2015. "Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Between Islamic Fundamentalism, Politics and Poverty." <i>African Security</i>. 8 (1): 1-29.</p> <p>Pieri, Zacharias P. and Zenn, Jacob. 2016. "The Boko Haram Paradox: Ethnicity, Religion and Historical Memory in Pursuit of Caliphate." <i>African Security</i>. (9) (1): 66-88.</p>
<p>Week 6: Practice of Power: Authoritarianism and Patrimonial Rule (22 March 2024)</p> <p>- Thomson 2010, Chapter 6. - Englebert and Dunn, 2013, Chapter 4.</p> <p>Presentation 2: Cote d'Ivoire and Neo-Patrimonial Rule</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Cammack, Diana. 2007. "The Logic of African Neopatrimonialism: What Role for Donors?" <i>Development Policy Review</i>. 25 (5): 599-614.</p>

Week 7: Democracy in Africa (29 March 2024)

- Englebert and Dunne, 2013, Chapter 5.
- Thomson, 2010, Chapter 11.

Presentation 3: Zimbabwe and Rise and Fall of the Democratic Regime

Recommended Reading: Lindberg, Staffan. 2008. "Does Democratization Reduce the Risk of Military Interventions in Africa?" *Democratisation*. 15 (1): 86-105.

Week 8: MIDTERM WEEK (5 April 2024)

Week 9: Security, Typologies of Conflict and Intervention (12 April 2024)

- Englebert and Dunne, 2013, Chapter 7.

Week 10: Economy, Structural Adjustment and Neocolonialism Debates (19 April 2024)

- Thomson, 2010, Chapter 9.

Presentation 4: Ghana: Economy and Structural Adjustment Debate

Recommended Reading: Englebert and Dunne, 2013, Chapter 6.

Week 11: State Collapse and Governance in Africa (26 April 2024)

- Thomson, 2010, Chapter 10.

Presentation 5: DRC: State collapse and rebuilding the state

Week 12: International Relations in Africa (3 May 2024)

- Englebert and Dunne, 2013, Chapter 8.

Presentation 6: Regional Powers in African International Relations

Week 13: African International Organizations (10 May 2024)

Week 14: Review of the Semester (17 May 2024)