

PLS 330
Political Systems of Africa
Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Earl Sheridan
Office: Leutze Hall Rm. 269
Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11; Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

Course Description

To examine the overall political situation of Africa from its pre-colonial roots to contemporary political systems. Special attention will be given to selected socio/political issues that affect sub-Saharan Africa.

Texts

African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation by Peter J. Schraeder; *Taking Sides, Clashing Views on Controversial African Issues* by William Moseley; *Global Studies: Africa* by Thomas Krabacher, et. al. Also selected films, handouts and reserved reading.

Course Requirements and Grading

Two exams, short answer, multiple choice and short essay. One oral group report/project on some aspect of an African country which I will assign. Exams will be 100 pts. each. 50 pts. will be assigned on the oral report and 50 points for class participation. Participation includes attendance, participation in class discussion, performance on pop tests or pop essays and good classroom etiquette. This will total 300 points and that will be averaged by 3 to get your final grade. Grading is as follows: 90-100= A, 80-89= B, 70-79= C, 60-69= D, below 60=F.

Make-up Tests

Make-up tests will only be given with an acceptable written excuse from a medical person or some other official source. Tests not made up will count as a zero.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken. You get **two** un-excused absences. For every un-excused absence over two, 5 points will be deducted from your participation grade. Excused absences will be granted only with an acceptable written excuse.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to come to class on time and stay for the whole class period, unless there is some kind of emergency. If you know you will need to leave early please inform me at the beginning of class. Students should not be engaged in extraneous conversations during class unless it pertains to the class discussion, and then we all should be let in on the discussion. The only work done during class should be for PLS 330. Bad classroom etiquette could lower one's participation grade.

Course Outline

Introduction to Africa – Schraeder Chapt. 1, 13 and 14; Krabacher pp. 2-9

Africa in Historical Context:

Precolonial Africa – Schraeder Chapt. 2

Slavery and Colonialism - Schraeder Chapt. 3

Independence - Schraeder Chapt. 4

Discussion – Issue #2 & #4 - Moseley

Scociocultural Environment:

Ethnicity, Class, Religion and Gender – Schraeder Chapt. 5

Discussion – Issue2 #13-16 – Moseley

Ideology and the Politics of Development – Schraeder Chapt 6;

Mid-term Exam (October 21 or 23)

Continuity and Change in Governance:

State and Civil Society – Schraeder Chapt. 8

Discussion – Issue# 19 – Moseley

Military Coups d’etat and Military Governance – Schraeder Chapt 9

Democratic Experiments and Multiparty Politics – Schraeder Chapt. 10

Discussion – Issue # 17 – Moseley; “The Long Journey of a Young Democracy” - Krabacher p. 279

African Regions: Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa; Krabacher and Group Reports (tentatively November 4th and 6th)

Foreign Relations:

Foreign Policy-Making and the Pursuit of Pan-Africanism – Schraeder Chapt. 11

Africa in World Politics – Schraeder Chapt. 12; “Removing The Shackles”, US Foreign Policy Toward Africa After the End of the Cold War” (on reserve)

Discussion – Issue #5, #6, #7, #18, #20

Final

Thursday, December 11th (3:00pm)

Other Important Dates

August 27th – Last Day to Drop/Add

August 28th – No class (APSA Meeting)

October 7th – No Class (Fall Break)

October 9th – No Class (Political Science Days)