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and by appointment

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“The greatest challenge we face which will say that we are serious about the remaking of our world is the obligation to ensure that the objective of the rebirth of the continent of Africa should and must succeed. Without this, all declarations of the emergence of a new world will be without meaning.”

—Nelson Mandela (1998) 12th Nonalignment Movement Summit

Course Description:

Far too frequently Africa is perceived by both policy makers and the general public in the West as a continent of conflict and disease—the “Heart of Darkness”—chaotic and mysterious. In this course, we will explore a different, more complex reality, where peoples and countries—like in the rest of the world—are struggling with war and peace, authoritarianism and democracy, colonial legacies and current dilemmas, and a reality that calls into question some of the most fundamental beliefs and theories about social and international relations. Along the way, we will encounter a great diversity of peoples, ideas, cultures, and political practices. We will address the major issues currently debated by analysts and experts in African politics and attempt to develop a broader sense of the ways in which politics affects the millions of people who live on the continent.

Required Book and Readings:

The following books are required and are available at the HSU Bookstore:

- Goran Hyden. *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006).
- Charlayne Hunter-Gault. *New News Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa’s Renaissance*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Additional required readings are available through the course Moodle site.

Course Requirements:

Critical Responses (25%): Each week, you may submit a one page (2 paragraph) critical response to the readings for that week. Critical responses are due by 9:00 pm on Sunday of the

week that the readings are due (e.g., a critical response for the second week, August 20, would be due by 9pm Sunday, August 19). Late critical responses will not be accepted. All critical responses must be submitted via e-mail to me at noah.zerbe@humboldt.edu. All responses must be in either MS Word or plain text format. The response should be no more than two single-spaced paragraphs (one page). The first paragraph will briefly recount the main argument of the reading or readings for that week. The second paragraph will critically evaluate and assess the reading(s). Critical responses will be graded on a $\sqrt{\quad} / 0$ (credit/no credit) scale, and critical responses that do not meet the basic expectations laid out here will not receive credit. There are a total of 11 weeks in which you may elect to submit a critical review (excluding week 1 and presentation weeks). Your grade for the critical responses is equal to the number of responses submitted $\times 10$, to a maximum of 100% (e.g., 10 critical responses = 100%, 9=90%, 8=80%, etc.).

Map Quiz (5%): Having an understanding of how the region fits together (i.e., its geography) is essential to developing an understanding of the region itself. The map quiz takes place in class on Monday, September 10. The blank map, a labeled map, and a list of the countries you will be expected to identify are available on the course Moodle site.

Essay (30%): You will be responsible for writing an essay of 2,500-3,000 words (approximately 10-12 typed, double-spaced pages) on a topic of your choice related to the topics considered in class. An outline and preliminary bibliography is due October 1. A first-draft of your essay is due for peer review no later than the beginning of class on November 7. Failure to submit an outline, preliminary bibliography, or paper draft will result in a per-item 10% penalty your final paper mark. The final draft of your essay is due in class on November 28. Late papers will be penalized at one-half letter grade per day. Please remember that this is an academic essay. I expect that the essay include citations from academic sources (e.g., peer reviewed journals), and that it be generally free from grammatical and typographical errors. I also expect that the essays advance some kind of thesis or argument.

Peer Essay Review. You will be responsible for commenting on one of your colleague's papers through the peer review process. In order to facilitate the peer review process, you will need to find a colleague with whom you will exchange papers as soon as possible. Peer review comments must be returned to the author of the essay and to me on November 14. Failure to submit a paper for review, or failure to complete a meaningful review will result in a one-letter-grade penalty on your final paper mark.

Paper Presentation (15%). During the final week of class, students will present their research paper to the class. Details on the presentation and discussion will be provided in class.

Seminar Facilitation (10%): Working in groups of 2-3 students, you will be responsible for facilitating class discussion. I will introduce the basic ideas, concepts and debates on Monday of each week. Student-facilitated discussion will take place on Wednesday of each week (except weeks 1, and the final two weeks of the semester). The exact nature of your facilitation is up to you, and I am happy to discuss ideas with you before the seminar you lead.

Participation (15%): This course is organized as a seminar. In order to be successful, you must come to class prepared to discuss the material. Regular attendance and participation in class is expected. I expect that you have completed the required readings for a given week before class, that you attend regularly, and that you contribute to seminar discussions.

A Note on Written Work: All written assignments submitted for this course should be properly formatted and cited. I expect that you will proofread your work before submitting it to me, and ideally you will have someone else proof it as well. Consequently, a maximum of two errors (grammatical, improper citation, etc.) per page will be accepted. One point will be deducted from

your grade on the assignment for each error beyond the second on each page. All citations must be in APSA format. A style guide is available at

<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocAPSA.html>

Moodle Site: Course information will regularly be posed to the course Moodle Site. If you are not familiar with Moodle, please let me know and I will provide a brief overview on accessing and using it. You can access the course site at **<http://learn.humboldt.edu>**.

Contacting Me: The most effective way to contact me is through e-mail (noah.zerbe@humboldt.edu). Barring unusual circumstances (being out of town, ill, in a blackout, etc.) I will respond within 24 hours. If not, send me a follow-up. Please be sure your subject line includes “PSCI 330” and a general description of the topic so that the e-mail is not filtered out as spam. Also, be sure to sign your e-mail so that I know who sent it. I encourage you to submit your assignments electronically.

Late Assignments will be penalized at a rate of one-half letter grade per day. All assignments are due in class on the due date listed in the syllabus. Make up exams will not be scheduled without a valid medical excuse. If you have scheduling problems with any due dates, please contact me well before the assignment or exam is due.

Appeals: I am happy to speak with you about marks earned on a particular assignment. Before coming to discuss a grade, however, I request that you: (1) take 24 hours to read my comments before approaching me to discuss the mark; (2) write a detailed explanation of your question, including the specific reason(s) why you think your mark should be changed; and (3) submit your written response to me, and make an appointment with me (either during my office hours or at some other time) to discuss the grade. Under no circumstances will I discuss grades over e-mail or telephone.

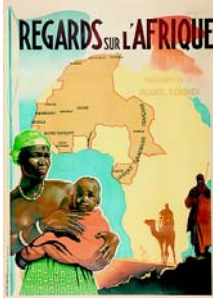
Academic Honesty & Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the representation of someone else’s work as your own, and includes but not limited to having someone else do your work or failing to properly attribute work to their sources. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and will result in an automatic zero for the assignment, failure of the course, and potentially more serious sanctions from the University according to the Academic Honesty policy. Please contact me *before turning in your assignment* if you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism.

In consideration of your fellow students, please turn off mobile phones before entering the classroom. If you absolutely must arrive late or leave early, please enter or leave quietly and sit near the door to minimize the disruption to your colleagues.

Support: HSU offers excellent resources to help you succeed in your academic endeavors. These include the Library, Computer Labs, Computer Help Desk, Academic Support Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them!

Disability Resources: If you have a documented disability and would like to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Our campus Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) can assist you with the accommodation process and can be reached at (707) 826-4678 or (707) 826-5392 (TTD). The SDRC is located in House 71 (Little Apartments) off Library Circle.

Week 1 (August 20 & 22): Imagining Africa



“Visions of Africa”

The image presented of Africa is typically that of poverty, hunger, and disease. While this represents a part of life in Africa, there is much more. This week we will discuss how Africa is represented in the West—what image do we typically see of Africa? How do popular images and news coverage affect our understanding of the continent? What impact do such images have?

Required Reading:

Goran Hyden, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-24)

Stuart Hall. “The West and the Rest.” Ch. 6 (pp. 275-320) in *Formations of Modernity*. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992).

Robert Kaplan. “The Coming Anarchy.” *Atlantic Monthly*. (February, 1992).

Binyavanga Wainaina. “How to Write About Africa.” *Granta*. (92) (2006): 3 pgs.

Week 2 (August 27 & 29): Pre-Colonial and Colonial Africa

JF Ade Ajayi. “Colonialism: An Episode in African History.” Ch. 11 (pp. 165-74) in Toyin Falola, ed. *Tradition and Change in Africa: The Essays of JF Ade Ajayi*. (Trenton, Africa World Press, 2000).

A. Adu Boahen. “Colonialism in Africa: Its Impact and Significance.” Ch. 30 (pp. 782-809) in Boahen, ed. *General History of Africa, Vol VII: Africa Under Colonial Domination, 1800-1935*. (Paris: UNESCO, 1985).

Elizabeth Schmidt. Introduction and Chapter 2 (pp. 1-13 and 43-70) from *Peasants, Traders, and Wives: Shona Women and the History of Zimbabwe, 1870-1939*. (Harare: Baobab Books, 1996).

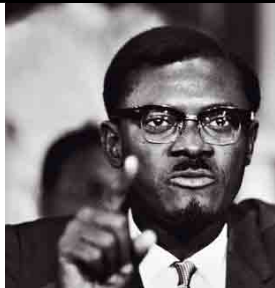


Cecil Rhodes stands astride the whole of Africa.

Cecil Rhodes
Astride Africa

Week 3 (Sept. 3 & 5): African Independence

Note: No class Monday, September 3: Happy Labor Day!



Patrice Lumumba

Goran Hyden, Ch. 2 (pp. 1-24)

Adebayo Oyebade. “Radical Nationalism and Wars of Liberation.” Ch. 4 (pp. 63-87) in Toyin Falola, ed. *Africa, Vol. 4: The End of Colonial Rule*. (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2000).

Patrick Chabal. “The African Crisis: Context and Interpretation.” Ch. 1 (pp. 29-54) in Richard Werber and Terence Ranger, eds. *Postcolonial Identities in Africa*. (London: Zed, 1996).

Ibbo Mandaza. “The Political Economy of Transition.” Introduction (pp. 1-20) in Ibbo Mandaza, ed. *Zimbabwe The Political Economy of Transition, 1980-86*. (Harare: CODESRIA Books, 1987).

Week 4 (Sept. 10 & 12): The African Environment

Reginald Cline-Cole and Phil O'Keefe. "Mainstreaming the African Environment in Development." *Review of African Political Economy*. (109): 377-90.

Fantu Cheru. "The Silent Revolution and Weapons of the Weak: Transformation and Innovation from Below." Ch. 10 (pp. 153-69) in Stephen Gill and James Mittelman, eds. *Innovation and Transformation in International Studies*. (NY: Cambridge UP, 1997)

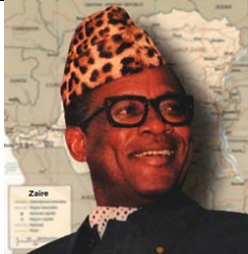


Sudan, 2007

Robert Nelson. "Environmental Colonialism: 'Saving' Africa from Africans." *Independent Review*. Summer 2003. (17 pgs.)

Frieda Khan. "The Roots of Environmental Racism and the Rise of Environmental Justice in the 1990s." Ch. 1 (pp. 15-48) in David McDonald, ed. *Environmental Justice in South Africa*. (Cape Town: University of Cape Town Press, 2002).

Week 5 (Sept. 17 & 19): The African State



Mobutu Sese Seiko

Goran Hyden, Ch. 3, 5 and 6 (pp. 50-71 and 94-137)

Pablo L.E. Idahosa and Bob Shenton. "The Africanist's 'New' Clothes." *Historical Materialism*. 12(4) (2004): 67-113.

Week 6 (Sept. 24 & 26): Limits to Development: Aid, Debt and Adjustment

Goran Hyden, Ch. 4 & 10 (pp. 72-93 and 206-21)

Carol Thompson. 2004. "US Trade with Africa: African Growth & Opportunity Act?" *Review of African Political Economy*. 13(101): 457-74.

Hevina Dashwood. "External Capitulation or Domestic Reform?" Ch. 3 (pp. 57-84) in *Zimbabwe: The Political Economy of Transformation*. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000).



World Map: Country Size Weighted by GDP
www.pamlynsmithdesign.com/mapnine.html

Week 7 (Oct 1 & 3): African Cinema I

Note: Topic and Preliminary Bibliography due October 1



Jean-Marie Teno. "Imagining Alternatives: African Cinema in the New Century." Available online at www.newsreel.org/articles/teno.htm.

Film: *Afrique, je te Plumerai* (Africa, I Will Fleece You). A discussion guide will be distributed via Moodle before the film is shown in class.

Week 8 (October 8 & 10): Gender and Identity in Africa

Goran Hyden, Ch. 8 & 9 (pp. 162-81 and 183-205)

Ellen Meiksins Wood. "The Politics of Capitalism." *Monthly Review*. 51(4) (1999): 11 pgs.

Faranak Miraftab. "Feminist Praxis, Citizenship and Informal Politics: Reflections on South Africa's Anti-Eviction Campaign." *International Journal of Feminist Politics*. 8(2) (2006): 194-218.



Women Working
(Malawi)

Week 9 (October 15 & 17): Food and Agriculture in Africa



Small Farmer
(Zimbabwe)

Goran Hyden, Ch. 7 (pp. 138-61)

Henry Bernstein. "Considering Africa's Agrarian Questions." *Historical Materialism*. 12(4) (2004): 115-44.

Andrew Mushita and Carol Thompson. "Neither Public Nor Private: Community Alternatives." Ch. 7 (pp. 153-80) in *Biopiracy of Biodiversity: Global Exchange as Enclosure*. (Trenton: Africa World Press, 2007).

World Food Day Reading Packet.

Week 10 (October 22 & 24): Case Study I: Zimbabwe



Robert Mugabe

Brian Raftopoulos. "The Zimbabwean Crisis and the Challenges for the Left." *Journal of Southern African Studies*. 32(2) (2006): 203-19.

Brian Raftopoulos and Ian Phimister. "Zimbabwe Now: The Political Economy of Crisis and Coercion." *Historical Materialism*. 12(4) (2004): 355-82.

Michael Bratton and Eldred Masunungure. "Popular Reactions to State Repression: Operation Murambatsvina in Zimbabwe." *African Affairs*. 2007. (422): 21-45.

Week 11 (October 29 & 31): Case Study II: South Africa

Patrick Bond. 2004. "From Racial to Class Apartheid: South Africa's Frustrating Decade of Freedom." *Monthly Review*. 55(10): 12 pgs.

John Saul. 2001. "Cry for the Beloved Country: The Post-Apartheid Denouement." *Monthly Review*. 52(8): np.

Allison Goebel. "Is Zimbabwe the Future of South Africa? The Implication of Land Reform in Southern Africa." *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*. 23(3) (2005): 345-70.



Mandela Votes

Week 12 (November 5 & 7): Contemporary Southern Africa

Note: Papers due for Peer Review November 7



Africa at Night
(NASA)

Goran Hyden, Ch. 11-12 (pp. 228-76).

John Saul. "The Struggle, Intellectual and Political, Continues." *Review of African Political Economy*. (109) (2006): 561-76.

Colin Leys. "Confronting the African Tragedy." *New Left Review*. (204) (1999): 33-47.

Week 13 (November 12 & 14): The Future of Africa: Towards an African Renaissance?

Note: No Class Monday, November 12: Happy Veteran's Day!

Note: Peer Reviews due November 14

Charlayne Hunter-Gault. *New News Out of Africa: Uncovering Africa's Renaissance*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006). All.



Emblem of the
Africa Union

Week 14 (November 19 & 21): No Class: Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15 (November 26 & 28): African Cinema II

Note: Final Papers due Thursday, November 28



N. Frank Ukadike. "The Hyena's Last Laugh: A conversation with Djibril Diop Mambety." *Transition*. (78): 8 pgs.

Film: Hyenas

**Week 16 (December 3 & 5):
Research Presentations**