

**POLI 4078**  
**African Government and Politics**  
**Spring 2015**  
**12:30-1:30 MWF 116 Stubbs**

**Instructor:** Dr. Harry Mokeba

**Office:** 209 Stubbs Hall

**Phone:** 578-2143

**Office Hours:** 8:30-9:00 MWF

11:30-12:30 MWF

3:00-4:00 W

**Objective:** The course is designed to bring students closer to understanding the complex problems faced by the many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It combines aspects of comparative politics and international relations as well as historical and contemporary factors that account for the current condition of the African polity today. It is expected that by the end of the semester, students should have acquired the necessary knowledge for instructive explanations of politics in Africa.

**Texts:** The following books are required for purchase:

Vincent Khapoya: The African Experience  
Boston: Pearson, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013

Krabacher: Africa  
McGraw Hill, 2013 edition

**Tests, Papers & Exams:** There will be a small early take-home test, a midterm exam, and a research paper and presentation on (the politics, problems and prospects of) and African country of your choice, and a final exam. Details of these assignments will be made known as need arises.

**Student Responsibilities:** Attendance in all class sessions is required. Familiarity with reading material is highly encouraged. Also, students should find on-going information on Africa on a regular basis. Given the distance separating Africa from the United States and the paucity of information on Africa in the U.S., students should take an extra initiative in learning for this course.

**Grades:** The grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	10 pts (Daily)
Early Take-Home Test	20 pts (Due Wed. Feb. 18)
Midterm Exam (in class)	20 pts (Fri. March 06)
Research Paper & Presentation	20+5 pts (Pres. Starts Apr. 20; Paper Due Apr. 24)
Final	<u>25 pts</u> (Tues. May 05; 12:30-2:30pm)
	100 pts

A: 100-88

B: 87.9-78

C: 77.9-68

D: 67.9-60

F: Below 60

## LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT

- Jan. 14-26      **Course Intro: Why Study Africa?**
- Relevance and Condition
  - Challenge and Opportunities
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1  
                                    Krabacher pp 2-14
- Jan. 28-Feb. 13      **African Heterogeneity**
- Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment
  - Civilizations of Africa
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2, 3  
                                    Krabacher Unit 3, 4, 5, 6
- Feb. 18      **Return Take-Home Exam**
- Feb. 16-21`      **Historical Background**
- Pre-Colonial Politics: Decline vs. Persistence  
                    Slave Trade: Open Discussion
  - Colonialism: Rationale and Impact
  - Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 3, 4
- Feb. 23-Mar. 04      **Post-Colonial Africa**
- The Illusions of Independence
  - The Political Crisis: Leadership, Nation Building, One Party System, Military Rule, Civil War
  - The Economic Crisis: Dualism and Underdevelopment
- Readings: Khapoya Chap. 5, 6  
                                    Krabacher Unit 7, pp377-393
- Mar. 06      **Midterm Exam (In Class)**
- Mar. 09-18      **Diverse Subjects**
- Apartheid: then and now
  - Aids Crisis/Ebola
  - Gender Issues
  - Writers, Film, Music

Mar. 20-Apr.10

**Redefining Africa**

- Transformation vs. Tenacity
- Africa's New Age: The Civil Society
- Recent Traits: Democratic Disarray
- The Economic Outcome

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 7

Apr. 13-20

**Africa's International Relations**

- The Old Trend: Ties with the Outside world
- The New Trend: Intra-African Intervention
- Africa on the World Stage: Current Struggles

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 8

Krabacher Unit 7, pp 394-407

**Conclusion: The Future**

- Conflicting Scenarios

Apr. 22

**Country Research Presentation**

Apr. 27

**Country Research Paper Due**

April 29

**Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session**

Tuesday, May 05

**Final Exam (12:30-2:30 pm)**