AFRI 1002 (Section A): Introduction to African Studies II

Instructor: Franklin Oduro
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Lecture Time: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:35am – 2:25pm
Class Location: Tory Building (TB) 240
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00am - 11:15am or by Appointment
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Description:
This course explores post-colonial Africa. It is a complement to AFRI 1001 which approached African studies from the perspective of colonialism, culture, literature, arts and media. In this course, we shall examine the political, social and economic dimensions of Africa. Note that AFRI 1001 is not a prerequisite for this course. The discussions in this class, together with assigned readings, intend to provide students with familiarity and understanding of contemporary Africa. Both AFRI 1001 and 1002 comprise an introduction to African studies at Carleton University and provide the foundation for all other courses in the African Studies program.

Course Requirements:
There is no assigned textbook for this course. The required readings for each week are available at the reserve section of the MacOdrum Library. Assigned journal articles can be accessed on-line through the Carleton University library system. Lecture notes will occasionally be posted on the Course webpage on WebCT. Students will be notified if such postings are made. Video presentations might be used to enhance learning. Where possible, guest speakers will be invited to share personal experiences and reflections.

This class takes the form of lectures and discussions. Each class will begin with roughly two hours of lecture on the topic. Students are expected to read and reflect on the assigned readings for each topic ahead of the class. There will be discussion which follows each lecture. The arrangements and format for the discussions will be formalized in the first class. The discussions are to stimulate further scrutiny of the course reading materials, facilitate interaction among students, and encourage oral presentation skills.

Course Assessment & Evaluation:
Students will be assessed and evaluated on the following:

- Reflection Paper-5% (Due on July 12 in Class)
- Mid-Term Exam- 20% (In Class Exam to be held on July 28. The exam will be in the form of an essay. It will focus on the topics and readings covered between July 7 and 26. Further information on the exam will be given in class).
- Research Essay-35% (5% for research proposal due August 9 and 30% for essay due on August 16)
• Final Exam- 40% (This will be two and half hours long to be written during the scheduled exam period (August 19-24). Details on the format of the exam will be made available in class closer to the date)

Grades: Your grades will be made available on the WebCT. If you have concerns with your grade, please come and speak with me during my office hours or by appointment. Final Grades and Standing in the course are determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean

Communication:
Students are encouraged to use any of the following forms of communication if they have questions related to the course: 1. scheduled office hours; 2. phone call during office hours (no voice message); 3. email to the instructor-please allow a window of between 24 and 48 hours for a reply.

Assignments:
1. Reflection Paper-5% (Due on July 12 in Class). Students will hand in one-page (double space) of any news item on Africa appearing in any Canadian media source during the week of July 5 and 11). Your paper must cite the source of the news story, state the issue/concept or theme of the story, the specific African country or region that the story is about, provide a summary of the story and your personal view on it.

2. Research Essay-35% (Due on August 16). Students must write an essay critically analyzing one of the political, social and economic themes (e.g. colonialism, state, ethnicity, SAP) discussed in this course in relation to one African country. The theme to be selected must fall within topics discussed between July 7 and August 16. An outline/proposal of your choice of topic and country must be submitted to the Instructor in Class or during the scheduled office hours by August 9. The outline must be one-page long, showing the following: topic and country; thesis/argument for the essay; bibliography or references (not less than three (3) and not including the required readings listed in this course outline). Your proposal will attract 5% of the total mark for the essay. Your essay must be properly referenced. You are at liberty to choose any citation style of your preference so long as you are consistent in the essay. The essay must have 12-point font size, double-space and must be between 8-12 pages (though quality, and not length, will be the basis for evaluation). You must adhere to the page limit.

Note: The course places a lot of emphasis on good writing and independent critical reasoning. All written assignments must be handed in class. No electronic submissions. Only hard copy will be accepted. Any paper received after class on the due date will be considered late and will attract a penalty. A late penalty of one-third of one grade point (e.g. A+ to A) will be assigned for each 24 hour period that the essay is late. Except in cases where necessary permission is granted or a student presents evidence of illness or any form of incapacitation, this policy will be in full force. At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers/essays.
Attendance and Participation:
This course requires students’ active participation, especially during the discussion period. Regular attendance is essential. A friendly class atmosphere will be fostered to encourage the active participation of students where opinions are freely expressed. Disruptive conduct will, however, not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to prepare in advance for discussion.

Class Schedules:

Lecture 1 (July 5): Introduction & Overview of the Course

This lecture will provide an introduction to the course and a discussion of protocols for the course. There are no assigned readings.

Part 1: The Political Dimensions of Post-colonial Africa

We begin the first part of the course by examining some aspects of political ramifications following the demise of colonial rule. The following key questions will occupy the themes that will be discussed in this section. What led to political independence, and how did it come about? What kind of statehood emerged in Africa, and how should we understand the African state? What is the nature of democratic discourse in Africa, and what are the prospects for democratic development? Why is conflict so widespread in Africa and what can be done to promote conflict resolution?

Lecture 2 (July 7): Decolonizing Africa

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:

Birmingham, David, The Decolonization of Africa, 1995

Lecture 3 (July 12): The African State

Required Readings:

Optional Readings:

Lecture 4 (July 14): Democracy in Africa

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


Lecture 5 (July 19): Understanding Africa’s Conflict

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:

Part 2: The Social Dimensions of Post-colonial Africa.

The concept of ethnicity has been noted as the dominant factor in understanding African social structure. In part two of the course, we examine the African social structure by reflecting on ethnicity. Is it historically given or socially constructed? We shall also explore what we mean by ‘race’, ‘nation’, ‘ethnicity’ and ‘tribe’. Using the Rwanda Genocide and South Africa’s apartheid rule as references, we shall elucidate on the impact of these themes. We shall also examine the gender relations in Africa as well as Africa’s health status, focusing on the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
Lecture 6 (July 21): Ethnicity and the Politics of Nation-Building

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:

Lecture 7 (July 26): Genocide in Rwanda. (Possible Guest Speaker)

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:

Lecture 8 (July 28): Apartheid in South Africa / (In Class mid-term exams)

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:


August 2: University Closed (Civic Holiday)
Lecture 9 (August 4): Gender Relations in Africa and the Changing Dynamics

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:

Lecture 10 (August 9): Africa Health Issues: HIV/AIDS

Required Readings:


Optional Readings:

Part 3: The Economic Dimensions of Post-colonial Africa

In this third and final part of the course, we take a look at Africa’s economic issues. We examine the failure of post-independence economic and development policies of African governments. This is followed by the introduction of the Structural Adjustments Policies (SAP). What was the nature of these policies and what were they intended to achieve? Did they work? We shall also examine the question of ‘resource curse’ in Africa. Why are resource-rich countries in Africa often the poorest?


Required Readings:

Optional Readings:
331-358.


Prempeh, O. K. Edward, “The Politics of One-Sided Adjustment in Africa: A Response to Professor 


Required Readings:
and Paul Collier (eds.), Natural Resources and Violent Conflict: Options and Actions, 2003, 
Chapter 2, pp. 17-42.

O, Olsson, “Diamonds are a Rebel’s Best Friend”, The World Economy, Vol. 29 (8), August 2006, 
pp. 1133-1150.

Optional Readings:
Sayndee, T.D., “Thugs’ Paradise, Agencies’ Guinea Pig and the Natural Resource Intrigue: The Civil 
War in Liberia” in K. Omeje, Extractive Economies and Conflicts in the Global South, 2008, Chapter. 9, 
pp. 149-159.

Lecture 13 (August 18): Wrap up & Revision.

August 19-24: University Examinations

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS

Persons with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this 
course must register with the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities for a formal 
evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre 
(613-520-6608) at the beginning of the course term to ensure that the instructor (myself) receive 
your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with 
me in order to discuss your needs as early as possible (at least two weeks) before the first 
assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm exam.

For Religious Observance: Students requiring accommodation for religious observances should 
makoe a formal written request to the instructor for an alternate date and/or means of satisfying 
academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as 
soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but not later than two weeks 
before the compulsory academic event. The accommodation so required is to be worked out on 
individual basis with the instructor. Instructors will make accommodation in a way that avoids
academic disadvantage to the student. Please consult Equity Services Website (www.carleton.ca/equity) or an Equity Advisor for Policy and assistance.

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations should contact Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Academic Offences
Academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to University policies. See the statement on instructional offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is a serious offence in the University and its resolution goes beyond the instructor. The department/institute Chair and the Dean of the Faculty are all involved in this process of resolving and assigning appropriate punishment for the offence. The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another”. This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Course Grade: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student’s performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.