Carleton University
Winter 2012
Department of Political Science

PSCI 4801- B
Shifting Powers: Africa in the 21st Century
Tuesdays 14:35 – 17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Elizabeth Cobbett
Office: Room Loeb A601
Office Hours: Tuesdays 13:00-14:00 and 17:30-18:30
E-mail: Via WebCT

Course Objectives:
Welcome! This seminar focuses on contemporary Africa.
Africa is too large and diverse for generalizations. It has fifty-four nations, five time zones, at least seven climates, more than 800 million people and, according to the latest diligent research, maybe fourteen million proverbs. South Africa and Burkina Faso have as much in common as Spain and Uzbekistan (Granta 92: The View from Africa).

Acknowledging that Africa’s realities are very complex, that there are multiple histories and multiple trajectories, the aim in this course is to introduce students to relationships of power as they are expressed and enacted in a variety of sites and under varying circumstances. The course is organised along themes (as opposed to the logic of covering countries) which expose a range of political, social and economic spheres of power. The purpose is to convey a sense of the transformations being wrought as global forces, states, populations and individuals endeavour to shape their interests in a changing and competitive environment.

The goal is to introduce students to current debates and enable them to map and assess key political, social and economic issues as they unfold on the African continent.

Course Materials:
All readings are available electronically through WebCT. On-line components of this course will be managed through WebCT. Please visit the WebCT site at least once a week to receive the most current information pertaining to the scheduling of the course and required readings.

Class Format:
The seminar shall be delivered in such a way that continuous students’ involvement shall be necessary at every stage. As this seminar strongly requires students’ active participation, regular attendance is imperative. Attendance will be taken.

This class is structured as a weekly three-hour seminar. Each student is expected to come to all classes and must be prepared to actively participate. Read and reflect on each text well ahead of the date we begin to discuss it in class. I will begin each three-hour session with a short lecture (10 minutes) to introduce key themes and ideas associated with each topic. Students will contribute by making short presentations based on required readings and actively engaging in discussions.
Evaluation:

**Attendance & Participation:** 15%
Students will be evaluated on the basis of their active, informed and thoughtful oral participation in class discussions. See details attached. Attendance will be taken.

**Short Annotations:** 25%
Each student will submit five annotated entries (each entry worth 5%) based on course readings. Each annotation must be no longer than three-quarters of a page, single spaced and is due on the same day as the relevant reading. There will be no exception for late or missing annotations. Details attached.

**In-Class Presentation of Required Reading:** 15%
Students will present a short presentation on one required reading in the term. A two-page, double-spaced summary of the presentation must be submitted at the same time as the presentation. Details attached.

**Essay Proposal** 10%
Students will be required to write an essay proposal based on a research topic of their choosing. The topic must be relevant to the broad themes and questions covered by this course. Each proposal should be seven - nine pages long, including an annotated bibliography. Details attached. **Due Date: February 7, 2012.**

**Research Essay** 35%
Students will submit a research paper based on their essay proposal. The paper must be 12-15 pages (3,000-3,750 words). Details attached. **Due Date: April 3, 2012.**

**STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FINAL GRADE**

*Policies on Assignments:
All assignments in this course (with the exception of the single-space annotation) must be 12 pt font, double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins. As much as possible they should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and bibliography. Assignments that do not have any citations will be returned to the student ungraded. Students will be permitted to re-submit the paper, within a specified deadline, but an automatic 10% penalty will be levied.

The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences, which are outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar. Also, it is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified. They should be submitted directly to me in class. If this is not possible use the Political Science Drop Box located on the sixth floor of the Loeb Building. The Drop Box is emptied daily at 4:00 p.m. Papers received after this time will be date stamped the following working day.
Please do not submit papers to the staff in the Political Science Office or anyone else in the office. Late papers without a date stamp will be assessed a penalty based on the date the Professor actually receives the paper.

**Do not slip assignments** under my office door or post them on my office door. Do not submit assignments by e-mail or fax. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the Professor receives papers and it is the student’s responsibility to collect the graded paper in a timely fashion. Students should make a copy of all of their assignments before submitting them and are advised to keep all notes and drafts of work until after the final grade has been assigned and awarded.

**Late Penalties**
Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day, including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

If you anticipate a problem with one of the above deadlines please approach me as soon as you can in advance of the assignment.

The Senate deadline for completion of term work is April 5, 2011.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is 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.

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**Schedule of Classes**

**Week 1 - January 10:** Introduction to Course

- Introductions
- Overview of course themes
- Review of course outline and requirements
- Sign up for presentations

**Week 2 - January 17:** Thinking Africa

- In-Class Presentations begin
- First Annotation Due Group A-H


Week 3 - January 24: African States
✓ First Annotation Due Group L-Z


Week 4 - January 31: ‘Other’ Sites of Governance
✓ Second Annotation Due Group A-H


Week 5 - February 7: The Public Sphere
✓ Second Annotation Due Group L-Z
✓ Proposal Due


Salime, Zakia. 2008. "Mobilizing Muslim Women: Multiple Voices, the Sharia, and the State", Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, 28:1, 200—211.

Week 6 - February 14: Media: Representation and Interpretation
✓ Third Annotation Due Group A-H


READING WEEK FEBURARY 20-24 No Class

Week 7 - February 28: Security
✓ Third Annotation Due Group L-Z


Week 8 - March 6: Organisation and Resistance from ‘Below’
✓ Fourth Annotation Due Group A-H


Week 9 - March 13: North African Revolutions
✓ Fourth Annotation Due Group L-Z


Sassen, Saskia. 2010. "The Global Street: Making the Political", Globalizations, 8:5, 573-579

Week 10 - March 20: Migration
✓ Fifth Annotation Due Group A-H


Week 11 - March 27: Rethinking Transnational Political Economic Connections
✓ Fifth Annotation Due Group L-Z


Week 12 - April 3:  Politico-economic Ties between Africa and Asia

☑️ Last day of class
☑️ Research Essay Due


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**Evaluation**

**Seminar Participation**

**Worth:** 15%

This class runs as a seminar based discussion. Students should come to class having completed the required reading in advance. Your active and thoughtful participation is important to the learning process. Attendance counts in the assessment of participation and attendance will be taken in each class.

**Short Annotations**

**Worth:** 25% [Five annotations @ 5% each]

**Length:** Between one half and three quarters of a page, single-spaced.

**Due Date:** Due on the same date as relevant reading in class.

**Note:** Missing or late annotations will not be accepted. In other words if you are absent from class you are not permitted to submit the annotation. Exceptions will be made only in case of illness or other documentable circumstances.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the short written annotations is:

- To engage with the required reading in a focused and critical manner
- To enhance your contributions to seminar discussions.

**Task:**

Throughout the term each student in the class will submit five written annotations based on the required readings. Be prepared, if called upon, to share the points in your annotation with the class. Each annotation should begin with relevant bibliographic details (author, title, source, publisher, year of publication). It should include the following information:

- Topic of the reading
- Key question or central argument
- Key supporting claims of the author
- Your identification of a strength and/or weakness of the reading
- One question for class discussion
Do not use point form.
Choice of Annotations: Students are not permitted to write an annotation on the same reading as their in-class presentation.

Those students with the surname beginning with A-H may choose one reading/per week from the following weeks. You must complete one annotation based on one reading for each topic.

Jan. 17 – Thinking Africa
Jan. 31 – ‘Other’ Sites of Governance
Feb. 14 – Media: Representation and Interpretation
Mar. 6 – Organisation and Resistance from ‘Below’
Mar. 20 – Migration

Those students with the surname beginning I-Z may choose one reading/per week from the following weeks. You must complete one annotation based on one reading for each of the topics below.

Jan. 24 – African States
Feb. 7 – The Public Sphere
Feb. 28 – Security
Mar. 13 – North African Revolutions
Mar. 27 – Rethinking transnational political economic connections

**In-Class Presentation**

*Worth:* 15%
All students will make a short presentation (ten minutes) based on one assigned reading. Dates of Presentations will be arranged in class January 10. Presentations begin on January 17.

**Guidelines:**
*You cannot do an in-class presentation that is based on one of your required five short annotations. Do not provide a detailed summary of the reading.
- Highlight key debates or issues raised by the author
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the reading
- How does the reading relate to the other weekly assigned course readings
- Raise two questions for classroom discussion.

**Written Summary**
You are required to submit a two-page summary (double-spaced) of your oral presentation. It must include your discussion questions. This summary is due in the same class as your presentation. Late submissions will be penalized.

**Essay Proposal**

*Due Date:* February 7, 2012
*Length:* 12 pt font, five to seven pages
*Worth:* 15%

**Purpose:**
The purpose of this assignment is to allow students an opportunity to do some preliminary research on an aspect of the themes explored in class. The proposal is intended to assist
students to develop and frame their own research topic. Additionally, this assignment ensures that students are provided with some early feedback on their proposed topic and preliminary thesis.

Your subsequent essay must reflect the topic outlined in the essay proposal. Please choose carefully.

**Task:**
Your essay proposal must include:

- A statement of topic. Why is this of interest to you and how does it relate to course themes.
- A preliminary thesis suggesting the directions you will pursue in this paper
- A brief statement of why your thesis and topic is significant. Why is it important?
- A brief summary of what you have learned regarding key issues and debates in the relevant scholarly literature.
- A brief statement of how you plan to carry out the rest of your research
- A proposed bibliography

Note: The readings listed in your course outline provide a good starting point for identification of a topic and suggestions for other research sources. Where appropriate, course material should be integrated into your final essay. However, your bibliography in the proposal should also include scholarly sources that do not appear on your course syllabus.

**Research Essay**
**Due Date:** April 3, 2012.
**Length:** 12 – 15 pages (3,000 – 3,750 words)
**Worth:** 35%

**Purpose:**
The purpose of the essay is to provide you with an opportunity to develop the topic identified in your initial research proposal into a comprehensive, scholarly research paper.

**Marking:**
The paper will be marked on three criteria:

- Argument, organization and logic. Is the thesis presented in a logical and convincing manner?
- Research and use of evidence: Does the paper contain extensive and effective use of available research sources? Does it contain proper footnotes/endnotes and bibliographic style?
- Communication: Is the paper organized and written as clearly and concisely as possible?
Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates 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 no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” 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 works 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.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.
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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is 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.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.