PSCI 4802A
International Politics of Africa
Lectures: Wednesday 14:35 - 17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Victor Lord Owusu
Office: B645 Loeb
Office Hours: Wednesday 13:00-14:30
Phone: 613-520-2600 x 1657 (no voice mail)
Email: vowusu@connect.carleton.ca

Course Description and Objectives

This course will explore the current position of Africa in a globalized policy environment. The course will examine the decolonization process on the continent and the effects of colonization on Africa’s international relations. Attention will be given to regional groupings, the drive towards Pan-Africanism and the diverse nature of foreign policies and the process of foreign policy making on the continent. The difficult issues of wars, refugees and the ongoing march towards stability, peace and democracy on the continent will be covered. Africa’s relations and interactions with the west and the involvement of emerging powers, particularly China on the continent will be scrutinized. The course will also examine the complex involvement of major international institutions on the continent.

Course Format

Each class will consist of lectures and seminars. The percentage of lectures to seminars will vary from meeting to meeting. Questions will be allowed during lectures; however, the final hour of most lectures will be devoted to discussing issues under examination. An exception to the above is week 10. See below for the details of week 10. Readings have been selected to stimulate critical analysis. Students are expected to prepare well beforehand and to participate actively in class discussions.

Course Evaluation

Reading Critiques: Students are required to submit three reading critiques during the term. The best two will count toward your final grade. Reading critiques should be not more than 2 pages long, double spaced and properly referenced. Critiques should provide your critical response to the readings for the week. Your reading critiques may consider all the readings for the week or it may focus on selected readings; it may consider the broad topic for the week or it may focus on a particular theme contained in the readings. Critiques should not just be a summary of the readings. Some questions to ask whilst preparing your critiques are: Are there tensions between the readings? What contribution do they make to my understanding of the week’s discussion? Do
I agree with the stated position? How do the arguments of the authors relate to the broader themes of the course? Reading critiques must be submitted at the start of a class.

**Research Paper:** Students are expected to write a major research essay on a topic related to any of the themes of the course. Students should select their own topics. Students have the option of clearing their topics with Dr. Owusu. The essay should be approximately 15-20 pages in length, one sided and double spaced. **Essays should be submitted on any class day between March 14 and 25. Essays must be submitted in class.** Any essay received after March 25 will be considered late. A late penalty of one third of one grade (e.g. from A+ to A) will be assigned for each 24 hour period or a part thereof that the essay is late. The maximum late penalty is two whole grades (e.g. from A+ to C+).

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to prepare the readings beforehand and to participate actively in class discussions. Class participation will be graded. Participation grades will be based on the quality, not quantity of oral contributions. A good contribution is one that advances the classroom discussion. Possible ways of advancing the discussion include: providing (where appropriate) a brief précis of a reading, advancing a cogent critique of all or part of a reading, making a connection between the readings, advancing an argument pertaining to the week’s readings, critiquing arguments advanced by other seminar participants, bringing forward relevant data, asking a pertinent question. Students who submit reading critiques in a given week will be especially encouraged to contribute to class discussions. In addition, students are expected to remain informed on African current events.

**Final Examination:** There will be a final 3-hour examination to be held in the regularly scheduled examination period. Students will be examined on the materials covered in the course.

**Grading**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Critiques</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Course Readings:** There is NO set textbook for this course. All the required readings are available in MacOdrum Library. Some of the readings are available electronically through the University Library system. When looking for material on reserve, you may want to check under the author and title, and not just the course number, as readings may be on hold for more than one course.

**Course Outline**

**Week 1 (5/1).** Introduction and First Lecture. The Power Debate. Arguments from Gramsci, Lukes, Foucault and Others.


**Week 2 (12/1).** The Partition of Africa. Colonization and Decolonization.


**Week 3 (19/1) The Nature and Structure of African States and Politics**


**Week 4 (26/1) Pan Africanism-OAU/AU**


**Week 5 (2/2).** Regional Groupings in Africa-SADC, ECOWAS and Others.


**Week 6 (9/2). Foreign Policy Making in Africa**


**Week 7 (16/2). International Relations with Africa - China and Europe**


**Week 8 (23/2):** Reading Week. No lecture

**Week 9 (2/3) - International Relations with Africa - Canada and the US.**


**Week 10 (9/3) – International Relations with Africa. Africa beyond China. Africa and the south. South-South cooperation with an emphasis on Africa. An examination of Africa’s relations with other ‘advanced developing’ countries (Brazil, India, South Korea, Malaysia, South Africa, etc.). Political, economic and development models should be examined. An insight into the current position of the Non-Aligned Movement will be appreciated. No reference or formal lecture for this meeting.** This is a complete seminar meeting that is to be dominated by students’ research and contributions. Everyone is encouraged to research into the benefits or otherwise of south-south cooperation with reference to Africa. Papers can be presented. Open debate on issues will be encouraged.

**Week 11 (16/3). Conflicts and the Issue of Refugees in Africa**


**Week 12 (23/3).** Peace Making and Peacekeeping in Africa


**Week 13 (30/3).** Economic and Political Liberalization in Africa: The IMF, the World Bank.


**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 November 15 2010 for December examinations and March 11 2011 for April 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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<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>57-59</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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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.

Course Requirements: 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 the course 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.

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.