



## PSCI 4809 B

### Selected Topics in Political Science

#### *“Botswana: Explaining Success in Africa.”*

What country has sustained the highest rate of growth of income per capita in the world over the last 40 years? What is the only African country to have retained its liberal democratic system of government since Independence in the 1960s? The answer to both questions is Botswana. In an era when “Afro-pessimism” is ascendant and our images of the continent are dominated by pictures of conflict, disease, corruption and decay, this course focuses upon one case of relative economic and political success in Africa. It seeks to explain the extent of, and the undoubted limitations to, the “Botswana miracle”. Through close examination of one country case, the course will therefore address many of the perennial questions in African politics: How can democracy be defined and promoted in an African context? What are the social, economic and cultural conditions for democratic consolidation? What economic policy framework is most conducive to sustainable development? What is the relationship between democracy and development? Core readings for the course will be draft chapters or chapter outlines from Prof. Brown’s forthcoming book on Botswana. Additional readings will be chosen from the extensive critical literature on Botswana, and on comparative politics in Africa more generally.

Instructor:	Professor Chris Brown
Schedule:	January to April 2009
Time & Location:	Please consult Carleton Central
Prerequisites:	Fourth Year Honours Standing