The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the major issues, themes and theories in the politics of Sub-Saharan Africa. The course begins by reviewing the nature and legacies of colonial rule and the politics of independence. From there, we move to the character of the African state, highlighting its personalism, its clientelism, and its simultaneous weakness and strength. Then, the course turns to the roles of gender and ethnicity in politics and society. From there, we explore the challenges of economic reform and issue of foreign aid. We then address the state of democracy in the Africa, the difficulty of development interventions, and the issue of civil war. We conclude with a discussion of what the future may hold for the region.

REQUIREMENTS

The course is taught in two lectures each week, on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 to 12:15am in 118 Haines Hall. Attendance at lectures is mandatory.

Students are required to take a mid-term and a final exam. They are also required to attend and participate in weekly discussion sections. In addition, students will read Chinua Achebe’s novel *Anthills of the Savannah* and write a short (10-12 page) paper relating the novel to the themes of the course. Students will also be required to take a map test during the quarter’s second week. The relative weights accorded to these five requirements are as follows: midterm (25%), paper (20%), final (35%), section participation (15%), and map test (5%). [Note: to aid you in studying for the map test, I highly recommend the Study Map of African States.]

The course involves a heavy reading load, the completion of which is essential to understanding the issues and controversies addressed in the lectures. With the exception of the Achebe novel, which has been ordered at the UCLA Bookstore and is readily available at Amazon.com, all of the readings are posted on the course web page (UCLA login required) and are available to be downloaded for your own use.

Note that the final exam for the course is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 3-6pm. *All students must take the exam at this date/time. If you know that you have a conflict with this date/time, then you should not enroll in the course.*

UCLA is committed to providing help to students with disabilities. If you wish to request an accommodation due to a suspected or documented disability, please inform Professor Posner and/or contact the Center for Accessible Education at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501. Website: [www.caec.ucla.edu](http://www.caec.ucla.edu).
LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
Jan 7: Introduction

Jan 9: The “Scramble for Africa” and the Nature of Colonial Rule

WEEK 2
Jan 14: The Legacy of Colonialism

Jan 16: National Independence Movements

WEEK 3
Jan 21: The Centralization of Authority and the Rise of Personal Rule

Jan 23: The Decay of the State in the 1970s and 1980s
WEEK 4
Jan 28: Agricultural Policy

Jan 30: Gender

WEEK 5
Feb 4-6: Ethnicity

WEEK 6
Feb 11: MIDTERM
Feb 13: The Challenge of Economic Reform

WEEK 7
Feb 18: Foreign Aid
Feb 21: *Film: Our Friends at the Bank*

WEEK 8

Feb 25: *Political Change in the 1990s*


Feb 27: “*Democracy*”


Feb 28: *Anthills* paper due at 5pm

WEEK 9

Mar 3: *Development Interventions*


Mar 5: *Civil Wars*


WEEK 10

Mar 10-12: *An African Renaissance?*


