Course Summary

According to the Congolese scholar, Valentine Mudimbe, what we understand today, as ‘Africa’ is in fact an, ‘invention’ by the modern European enlightenment project! Mudimbe’s metaphor places the Continent at the center of global relations in intricate and provocative ways. MC324b provides students of international politics and relations with an in depth analysis of the African continent’s agency and ‘play’ in global politics. Despite the apparent recentness of the globalization project, in taking a historical and structural perspective in the presentation of African affairs, the course will begin its examination of Africa’s international relations by tracing the Continent’s initial European contact, setting off global events such as the ‘triangular trade’, colonialism, de-colonization, the establishment of modern independent African statehood during the post World War II era, and the Continent’s post-colonial ‘age of development’. The course will present these historical formations as the bases for the important current transformations in African affairs, including the continent’s economic and health crisis, neo-liberalism, 1990s conflict and resolution, democratization and regional integration. MC324b will also focus on normative international relations theory by examining IR Security theories including realism, liberalism and the new globalisms in the context of Africa’s contemporary ‘place’ in international relations. Moreover, in presenting case studies on the African Union and Nepad, the course content will cover ‘Africa’ as a dynamic region constituting fifty-three diverse and sovereign independent nations with distinctive foreign policies that present challenges to a single continental policy. As well, following the ‘Africa’ public affairs desks of international organizations, the course will address the Continent’s political diversity by examining sub-regional and country case studies as diverse as the small-state post-conflict transitions of Liberia, transformations from conflict to peace in the Great Lakes Region (the DRC and Rwanda), change and hegemony in Africa’s large states: Nigeria and South Africa, foreign policy transformation in Francophone Africa (Cote D’Ivoire, Senegal), and the politics of ethno-religion, Islam and anti-terrorism in the Sudan and Somalia.
BOOK REQUIREMENTS

Required Books (You Must Purchase All Book in this Category)

1. Edozie, Rita Kiki compiler *Africa in International Affairs Course Reader*, printed by Coursepack Plus, Fall 2006 (available in Neds bookstore 135 East Grand River)


Recommend Books (You Must Purchase One Book in this Category: Assigned Review)


Review Books (You Must Purchase One: Volunteer Review)


TEACHING/LEARNING FORMAT

MC324b will be delivered in a non-traditional teaching format. View this course as a semester long workshop in which you are a central facilitator-agent rather than a series of professor lectures. This instructional style combines instructor-led lectures with collaborative learning methods such as student-led seminars. There will also be individualized assignments as well as group assignments; and formal classroom instruction will be conducted utilizing effective learning technologies, including instructional audio-visual props and Angel online resources. In addition to exposing you to and delivering to you complex, deep, broad and interdisciplinary knowledge of African affairs, my course delivery method seeks to develop the skills and talents that require your success in the social science fields. This entails the development of your multiple research skills, including analytical and critical thinking and various types of written as well as oral communication delivery. Also, remember that this course is designated as a Tier 2 cluster writing requirement courses. This means that you and I must work together on ‘developing’ your research papers.

ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Assignment (1) (10 pts) Understanding Africa Roundtable (Two page talking points on assigned chapters) DUE DATE: 9/7
2. Assignment (2) (10 pts) Essay (Two and a half page essay on Houseboy) DUE DATE 9/19
3. Assignment (3) (20 pts) Two Group Book Review Presentations (five page book review) DUE DATE: Scheduled Date of Presentation
4. Assignment (4) (15 pts) Midterm Exam (in class exam) DUE on schedule 10/31
5. Assignment (5) (10 pts) Formal Reading Presentation in TWO Roundtable Seminars on (submit one page presentation on day presented for documentation) DUE DAY OF SCHEDULED PRESENTATION
6. Assignment (6) Final Research Paper on an African Affairs -three page outline due on 12/7 (5 pts); (opportunity to revise option)
7. Assignment (7) (25 pts) Final Research Paper on an African Affairs -ten page research paper DUE DATE final exam scheduled date
8. Assignment (8 (5pts) Class Participation and Attendance (based on rate and quality of participation and pattern of attendance)

GRADING SCALE: EVERYTHING CURVES DOWN (sorry!)

1. at least 95 - 4.0  2. at least 90 - 3.5  3. at least 85 – 3.0
4. at least 80 – 2.5  5. at least 75 – 2.0  6. at least 70 – 1.5
7. at least 65 – 1.0  8. 64 and below- 0

CODE OF CONDUCT

** See me for Honors Credit Assignment for this course
** Refer to Student Handbook for Academic Honesty Policy
** Remember that this is a 4 credit course based on JMC’s distinctive office hours model (this means that office hours and other professor-student sessions are highly encouraged. My office is open and I am happy to assist you in any way that I can)
** Remember that this course is designated as a Tier 2 Writing Cluster course
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PART ONE: GEOGRAPHICAL, DISCOURSE AND HISTORICAL ORIENTATIONS

Topic 1 Getting to Know You! And Course Introduction

Required Reading
Get your books!

Recommended Reading
Get your books!

Schedule
8/29: Lecture Introduction to the Course

8/31: Lecture on Who/What is African Affairs: Geo-Historical Navigation

Movie on Intro to African Affairs:

Assignment
• Prepare for this course

Topic 2 “Africa” Discourse and the Image of African Politics

Required Reading

Recommended Reading

Schedule
9/5  Lecture on Africa and “Representation”

9/7  Roundtable Discussion on Mistaking Africa

9/12 Book Review Panel 1 (Volunteer)  
Imagining the Congo: the International Relations of Identity

Assignment (1) and (3)
- Understanding Africa Roundtable (two page talking points on assigned chapters)
- Book Review Presentation and Paper I
- Read and participate in class

Topic 3  Understanding the Legacy of Colonization and Africa’s Incorporation into the World System:

Required Reading

Recommended Reading
Jomo Kenyatta. 195..’The Kikuyu System of Government’ in Facing Mount Kenya (COURSE READER)


Schedule
9/14  Lecture on Colonialism

9/19  Roundtable Discussion on Houseboy

Assignment (2) (10 pts)
- Presentation and Essay (Two and a half page essay on Houseboy)
**Topic 4**  
*Forging the Modern African State: Achievements and Distortions*

**Required Reading**
Recommended Reading

**Schedule**
9/21 Lecture on De-colonization, State Formation and Post-Colonialism  
9/26 Movie on Lumumba  
9/28 Book Review Panel 2 (Assigned)  
The Decolonization of Africa

**Assignment (3)**
- Read and participate in class  
- Group Book Review Panel 2

**PART TWO**  
DEVELOPMENT AND AFRICA

**Topic 5**  
*Development Theory and Africa*

**Required Reading**
Colin Leys *The Rise and Fall of Development Theory*, Indiana University Press
Recommended Reading


Schedule

**10/3 Lecture** on Development in Africa

**10/5 Book Review Panel 3 (Assigned)**

![The Rise and Fall of Development Theory](image)

Assignment (3)

- Read and participate in class
- Group Book Review Panel 3

Topic 6 *Issues in Development in Africa I: Neo-liberalism/the AIDS Crisis*

Required (Seminar) Reading


Seminar Presenter(s)__________________________________________________________


Seminar Presenter(s)__________________________________________________________


Seminar Presenter(s)__________________________________________________________


Seminar Presenter(s)__________________________________________________________


Seminar Presenter(s)__________________________________________________________

Recommended Reading
Richard E. Mshomba, Africa in the Global Economy, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000

Schedule
10/10 Seminar on Neoliberalism and Movie on T-Shirt Travels
10/12 Seminar on AIDS Crisis
10/17 Book Review Panel 4 (volunteer)

Assignment (3) and (5)
- One page presentation
- Read and Participate
- Group Book Review Panel 4

Topic 7 Issues in Development in Africa II: Globalization and Democratization

Required Reading

Disciplining Democracy ‘Economic Liberalization and Democratic Erosion’ Rita Abrahamsen, Zed Books, 2000 (COURSE READER)

Recommended Reading
James Ferguson, Global Shadows: Africa in the Neo-liberal World Order, Duke University Press
Schedule

10/19 Seminar and Lecture on Democracy

10/24 Movie on Democracy (Hopes on the Horizon)

10/26 Book Review Panel 5 (volunteer)

Global Shadows: Africa in the Neo-liberal World Order

Assignment (3) and (5)

- One page presentation
- Read and Participate
- Group Book Review Panel 5

October 31
Midterm Exam Assignment 4

PART THREE
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES AND AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICIES

Topic 8 Conflict, Peace and Regionalism

Required Reading

Chapter 10 ‘African Foreign Policy Making at the Millennium’

Chapter 2, ‘Foreign Policy Decision-making in Anglophone West Africa’

Chapter 8, ‘South African Foreign Policy Decision-making in the African Context’
Siba Grovogui ‘Sovereignty in Africa: Quasi-Statehood and Other Myths in International Theory’ in Kevin C. Dunn and Timothy Shaw’s Africa’s Challenge to International Relations Theory, Palgrave 2001

**Recommended Reading**

Siba N’Zatioula Grovogui, Sovereigns, Quasi Sovereigns, and Africans: Race and Self-Determination in International Law, University of Minnesota Press (available in reprinted version- coursepack plus in Neds)

**Schedule**

11/2 Lecture on A Survey of Conflict in Africa, 1950-Present

11/7 Book Review Panel 6 (Volunteer)

**Assignment (3)**

- Read and Participate
- Group Book Review Panel 6

**Topic 9** Conflict Profile I: Rwanda and the DRC

**Required (Seminar) Reading**

Khadiagala and Lyons, Chapter 5, ‘Foreign Policy Making in the Great Lakes Region’


Michael Kavanagh, ‘Rwanda’s Latest Ethnic Cleansing’ in Slate.Com
Schedule

11/9 Movie on Rwanda: Sometimes in April
http://www.hbo.com/films/sometimesinapril/synopsis/

11/14 Lecture and Seminar on Rwanda and DRC

Assignment (5)
- Seminar Talking Points
- Read and Participate

Topic 10: Conflict Profile II: The War on Terror (the Horn and the Sudan); and La Francophone (Cote D'Ivoire & Senegal)

Required (Seminar) Reading
Khadiagala and Lyons Chapter 6, ‘The Foreign Polices of the Horn: the Clash Between Old and New’
Princeton N. Lyman and J. Stephen Morrison, ‘The Terrorist Threat in Africa’ Foreign Affairs, Jan-Feb 2004 (COURSE READER)

Seminar Presenter(s)________________________________________________

Seminar Presenter(s)________________________________________________

Seminar Presenter(s)________________________________________________

Recommended Reading
Schedule
11/16 Lecture and Seminar on Africa in the War on Terror and the Sudan

11/21 Lecture and Seminar on Cote D'Ivoire and
Movie: Faat Kiine Senegalese women

Assignment (5)
- Seminar Talking Points
- Read and Participate

November 23
No Class

Topic 11
Regionalism & Peace-building: Nigeria & South Africa

Required Reading
Murithi, Timothy The African Union: Pan Africanism, Peacebuilding and Development, Ashgate 2006


Required (Seminar) Reading

Seminar Presenter(s) __________________________________________________________


Seminar Presenter(s) __________________________________________________________


Seminar Presenter(s) __________________________________________________________
Rita Kiki Edozie, ‘Centralization Trends in African Democratic Politics: Why Institutions like the PDP and the Obasanjo Presidency are Inclined to Dominate Third Wave Democratic Politics in Africa and How (They) can be Reigned In’ (COURSE READER)

Seminar Presenter(s)

Mary H Moran, ‘Time and Place in the Anthropology of Events: A Diaspora Perspective on the Liberian Transition’ in Anthropological Quarterly 78.2 (2005)

Recommended Reading


African Union: So Far; So Good Pusch Commeys New African London, July 2004
http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=37&did=688653621&SrchMode=1&sid=1&Fmt=4&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1131647663&clientId=3552

http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=3&did=855310791&SrchMode=1&sid=1&Fmt=4&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1131647317&clientId=3552

Schedule

11/28 Book Review Panel 7 (Volunteer)

The African Union: Pan Africanism, Peacebuilding and Development

11/30 Lecture and Seminar on Nigeria and South Africa (Liberia Case)

Movie 🎥 on Remembering the Past: Shaping the Future: Saro Wiwa

12/5 Movie 🎥 on In My Country: the South African TRC

Assignment (3) and (5)
- Group Book Review Panel 7
- Seminar Talking Points
- Read and Participate
Topic 12  Wrapping Up

Schedule

12/7 Seminar on Research Outlines

12/12 – 12/14 Final Exam Week

Assignment (6) and (7)

- Final Research Paper Outline
- Final Research Paper