

Global Studies
University of California, Berkeley

GS 110K
“AFRICA IN GLOBAL CONTEXT”

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30AM-12:30PM

Learning objectives and overview of the course

Global Studies 110K provides students majoring in Global Studies with an introduction to Africa and its significance in the globe. We will address issues related to Africa that span all three concentrations of the major (Society and Culture, Development, Peace and Conflict). In particular, we will focus on the following four themes;

1. identity and culture;
2. conflict;
3. development;
4. technology.

Before delving into these four themes, we will devote the first weeks to introduce the history and the institutional framework of the region.

By taking this course, you will be able to

- identify the socio-political characteristics of the African continent;
- analyze the region's past, present, and future and explain the relationship between them;
- understand and explain the relationship between the three approaches to global studies upon which the major is built (Development, Peace and Conflict, Society and Culture);
- engage, critically and constructively, with contemporary debates regarding the region;
- understand the role of Africa in the global(ized) world and the impact that Africa (as a continent and as individual countries) has on global affairs in the four themes we cover;
- evaluate continuity and change in Africa.

While the course is focused on the whole region, it is important to understand that there is considerable variation across the countries that make Africa. Therefore, at the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned one country on which you will focus for the entire duration of the course. This will allow you to know a case in depth as well as to understand how the various issues we cover interact with a specific context. Readings reflect, in their variety of theoretical and empirical approaches, the richness of the three concentrations of the Global

Studies major. For your own research assignments, you are, too, encouraged to maintain this interdisciplinary and inter-methodological breadth.

Requirements

The requirements described below aim at developing analytical and critical thinking. You will combine theory and case studies, and in so doing you will learn how to apply theoretical concepts to the real world, as well as to evaluate possibly competing theoretical explanations through empirical evidence found in case studies.

The final grade will be computed according to the following components:

Pop-quiz (20 points): The quiz will include a geography component (you will have to locate countries on a blank map, list their capital cities, their official language, their year of independence, and name their current president), as well as a substantive component (multiple choice or essay questions on any of the readings covered until the class preceding the quiz). The quiz can take place at any time during the course.

Two country memos (15 points each, 30 points in total). You will do background readings on your assigned country, and write a memo that reviews your assigned country's experience in two of the four themes (first memo on theme chosen between identity and conflict due by mid-semester, second memo on theme chosen between development and technology due by end of the semester). The memo should be 5 pages, double spaced, plus bibliography (at least 6 sources). A detailed prompt will be provided on bCourses.

Participation (25 points). Class meetings will be a combination of lectures, class discussions, and student presentations. You are expected to complete the readings on time and participate actively in the class discussions. Participation of all is key for the success of this course and for your learning, as it will complement readings and lectures. The participation grade is broken down as follows:

- Online participation (10 points): The day before we begin a new theme (by 5PM), you will have to write a post on the bCourse board with the following information
 - o List a problem concerning Africa in the specific theme
 - o Identify a research question regarding such problem
 - o Create an hypothesis on such research question
 - o Propose a way to empirically investigate and test this hypothesis

At the end of the session on that theme (the day after we conclude that theme, by 5PM), you will have to go back to your initial post, and comment on how you would change your proposal. These posts will be public and accessible to all your peers. As such, they can be commented by anyone.

- Weekly presentations (15 points): I will often provide you with a question for research on the lecture's theme. You are responsible to address this question and be prepared to present your findings in class. In addition to it, you should bring an example of how the themes and issues discussed in the lecture and readings apply to your assigned

country, and one question on the readings that can generate class discussion. You can be selected any day to present, we will pick at random. This presentation is short, less than 10 minutes. Expect to present multiple times throughout the semester and to engage in class discussions at most class meetings.

Final exam (25 points). The final in-class exam will consist of short essays.

Policies

Attendance is mandatory. Assignments should be submitted on time. Beside extraordinary circumstances, no extensions will be granted.

You are not allowed to use laptops and electronic devices in class, unless explicitly required for specific activities.

As members of the campus community at UC Berkeley, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work. In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution--that is by fully identifying the original source and extent of your use, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis. As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you require accommodation please have DSP send me a "letter of accommodation." Also, please contact me at least two weeks before the assignment for which you require accommodation is due.

Session 1. Introduction: Setting the stage

Week 1, presentation of the course, geography and history

Grosz-Ngaté, Maria, John H. Hanson, and Patrick O'Meara, eds. *Africa*. Fourth Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014 – Chapter 1 “Geography”

Gordon, April A., and Donald L. Gordon. “Understanding Contemporary Africa”. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013. Chapter 3 “The historical context” (25-60)

Week 2: Pre-colonial and colonial powers

Herbst, Jeffrey, “States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control.” Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. (Chapter 2 Power and Space in Precolonial Africa.)

Grant, Richard. “Africa: Geographies of change”. Oxford University Press, 2015. Chapter 4 “The scramble for Africa” (81-107)

Week 3: Post-colonial transitions and move toward democracy

Collier, Ruth Berins. "Parties, coups, and authoritarian rule: patterns of political change in tropical Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 11 (1978).

Bratton, Michael, and Nicolas Van de Walle. "Neopatrimonial regimes and political transitions in Africa." *World politics* 46.04 (1994): 453-489.

Cheeseman, Nic. *Democracy in Africa: Successes, failures, and the struggle for political reform*. Vol. 9. Cambridge University Press, 2015. Chapter 1, “Democratization against the odds” (1-31)

Session 2. Culture and Identity

Week 4 and 5: Arts and culture – visual, writing, entertainment, fashion

Grosz-Ngaté, Maria, John H. Hanson, and Patrick O'Meara, eds. “Africa.” Fourth Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014 – Chapter 8. “Visual arts” (161-186)

Murrell, Denise. “African Influences in Modern Art.” In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, (April 2008)

Bukola Oyeniyi, *Dress in the Making of African Identity: A Social and Cultural History of the Yoruba People*, Cambria press, 2015. Chapter 1 “Introduction” (1-22)

Week 6: Constructing and deconstructing ethnicity

Miguel, Edward. "Tribe or nation? Nation building and public goods in Kenya versus Tanzania." *World Politics* 56.03 (2004): 328-362.

Habyarimana, Humphreys, Posner, Weinstein (2007) "Why Does Ethnic Diversity Undermine Public Goods Provision?" 2007. *American Political Science Review* 101(4): 709-725

Elaine K Denny, Barbara Walter (2014) "Ethnicity and civil war," *Journal of Peace Research* March 2014 vol. 51 no. 2 199-212

Week 7: Religion and other salient identities

Gordon, April A., and Donald L. Gordon, eds. "Understanding Contemporary Africa". 5th edition. Boulder, Colo: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013 Chapter 11 "Religion in Africa" (335-367)

Matthias Basedau, Birte Pfeifer, and Johannes Vllers, "Bad Religion? Religion, Collective Action, and the Onset of Armed Conflict in Developing Countries," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* March 2016 60: 226-255,

Grossman, Guy. "Renewalist Christianity, political competition and the political saliency of LGBTs in Sub-Saharan Africa". April 12 (2013): 2013.

Session 3. Conflict

Week 8: Civil wars

Elbadawi, Ibrahim, and Nicholas Sambanis. (2000) "Why Are There So Many Civil Wars in Africa? Understanding and Preventing Violent Conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9 (3): 244-269.

Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein (2008) "Who fights? The determinants of participation in civil war." *American Journal of Political science*, Vol. 52 No.2, April 2008, pp.436-455

Ann Laudati (2013) "Beyond minerals: broadening economies of violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo", *Review of African Political Economy*, 40:135, 32-50,

Week 9: Managing conflict

Pierre Englebort and Denis M. Tull, "Postconflict Reconstruction in Africa: Flawed Ideas about Failed States," *International Security* 2008 32:4, 106-139

Fearon, Humphreys, Weinstein (2008) "Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia." *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 99, No. 2,

Luc Huyse (2008) "Introduction: tradition-based approaches in peacemaking, transitional justice and reconciliation policies", International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (1-22)

Week 10: Beyond civil wars – other forms of conflict

Idean Salehyan , Cullen S. Hendrix , Jesse Hamner , Christina Case , Christopher Linebarger , Emily Stull & Jennifer Williams (2012) Social Conflict in Africa: A New Database, International Interactions, 38:4, 503-511

Scott Straus, "Wars do end! Changing patterns of political violence in sub-Saharan Africa," African Affairs (2012) 111 (443): 179-201

Forest, James JF, and Jennifer Giroux. "Terrorism and political violence in Africa: Contemporary trends in a shifting terrain." Perspectives on Terrorism 5.3-4 (2011).

Session 4. Development

Week 11: Development at the micro-level – livelihoods and migrations

Grosz-Ngaté, Maria, John H. Hanson, and Patrick O'Meara, eds. "Africa". Fourth Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014 – Chapter 4. "Making a living. African livelihoods" (83-102)

Grant, Richard. *Africa: "Geographies of change"*. Oxford University Press, 2015. Chapter 6 "Migration" (159-183)

Week 12: Development at the macro-level – aid and democracy

Resnick, Danielle, and Nicolas Van de Walle. "Democratic trajectories in Africa: Unravelling the impact of foreign aid." Oxford University Press, 2013. Chapter 11, "Conclusions"(281-296)

William Easterly (2009) "How the Millennium Development Goals are Unfair to Africa", World Development, 37, no. 1, (January 2009): 26-35.

Week 13: Good or bad aid?

Uvin, Peter "Aiding Violence. The development enterprise in Rwanda", Lynne Rienner, 1998 Chapter 7 "Aid and structural violence" (pag 141 – 160).

Polman "War games" (Chapter 5, chapter 6) Penguin books, 2011

Overseas Development Institute "Aid and war: a response to Linda Polman's critique of humanitarianism," May 2010

Session 5. Technology

Week 14: Political impacts of ICT and media

Diamond, Larry. "Liberation technology." *Journal of Democracy* 21.3 (2010): 69-83.

Pierskalla, Jan H., and Florian M. Hollenbach. "Technology and collective action: The effect of cell phone coverage on political violence in Africa." *American Political Science Review* 107.02 (2013): 207-224.

Grant, Richard. "Africa: Geographies of change." Oxford University Press, 2015. Chapter 6 "Africa's mobile phone revolution" (135-158)

Wyche, Susan P., Andrea Forte, and Sarita Yardi Schoenebeck. "Hustling online: understanding consolidated Facebook use in an informal settlement in Nairobi." *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, 2013.