#### **POLI 4078**

# African Government and Politics Spring 2014 12:30-1:30 MWF 218 Coates

 Instructor:
 Dr. Harry Mokeba
 Office Hours:
 8:30-9:00
 MWF

 Office:
 209 Stubbs Hall
 11:30-12:30 MWF

 Phone:
 578-2143
 3:00-4:00 MW

**Objective:** The course is designed to bring students closer to understanding the complex problems faced by the many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. It combines aspects of comparative politics and international relations as well as historical and contemporary factors that account for the current condition of the African polity today. It is expected that by the end of the semester, students should have acquired the necessary knowledge for instructive explanations of politics in Africa.

**Texts:** The following books are required for purchase:

Vincent Khapoya: <u>The African Experience</u> Boston: Pearson, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013

**Tests, Papers & Exams:** There will be a small early take-home test, a midterm exam, and a research paper and presentation on (the politics, problems and prospects of) and African country of your choice, and a final exam. Details of these assignments will be make known as need arises.

**Student Responsibilities:** Attendance in all class sessions is required. Familiarity with reading material is highly encouraged. Also, students should find on-going information on Africa on a regular basis. Given the distance separating Africa from the United States and the paucity of information on Africa in the U.S., students should take an extra initiative in learning for this course.

**Grades:** The grades for the course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation 10 pts (Daily)

Early Take-Home Test 20 pts (Due Wed. Feb. 12) Midterm Exam (in class) 20 pts (Fri. March 14)

Research Paper & Presentation 20+5 pts (Pres. Starts Apr. 17; Paper Due Apr. 28)

Final 25 pts (Thurs. May 08; 10:00-12:00 noon)

100 pts

A: 100-88 B: 87.9-78 C: 77.9-68 D: 67.9-60 F: Below 60

#### **LECTURE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENT**

# Jan. 15-24 Course Intro: Why Study Africa?

- Relevance and Condition
- Challenge and Opportunities

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 1

## Jan. 27-Feb. 07 African Heterogeneity

- Regional & Country Diversity, Physical Environment
- Civilizations of Africa

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 2,3

# Feb. 12 Return Take-Home Exam

# Feb. 10-21` Historical Background

- Pre-Colonial Politics: Decline vs. Persistence

Slave Trade: Open Discussion Colonialism: Rationale and Impact

- Decolonization: Peaceful vs. Violent Patterns

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 4

## Feb. 24-Mar. 10 Post-Colonial Africa

- The Illusions of Independence
- The Political Crisis: Leadership, Nation Building, One Party System, Military Rule, Civil War
- The Economic Crisis: Dualism and Underdevelopment

Readings: Khapoya Chap. 5, 6

## Mar. 14 Midterm Exam (In Class)

#### Mar. 17-24 <u>Diverse Subjects</u>

- Apartheid: then and now
- Aids Crisis
- Gender Issues
- Writers, Film, Music

## Mar. 26-Apr. 07 Redefining Africa

- Transformation vs. Tenacity
- Africa's New Age: The Civil SocietyRecent Traits: Democratic Disarray
- The Economic Outcome Readings: Khapoya

Apr. 09-11	<ul> <li>Africa's International Relations</li> <li>The Old Trend: Ties with the Outside world</li> <li>The New Trend: Intra-African Intervention</li> <li>Africa on the World Stage: Current Struggles</li> <li>Readings: Khapoya Chap. 8</li> </ul>
Apr. 21	<u>Conclusion: The Future</u> - Conflicting Scenarios
Apr. 21-30	<b>Country Research Presentation</b>
Apr. 28	Country Research Paper Due
May 02	Return Papers/Pre-Final Grades/Review Session
May 08	Final Exam (10:00-12:00 Noon)