Upon achieving their independence in the 1960s, many African countries were full of euphoria and great expectations. Political independence, it was thought, would lead to economic development, and political stability. Since then many African countries have suffered from political violence and economic deprivation. As such, this course explores the economic, social, and political challenges facing Africa placing them in historical and global contexts. Hence, it introduces major concepts and themes including colonialism, genocide, democratization, economic development and dependency and incorporates some case studies to further elaborate on the above themes and concepts. It is expected that students will leave this class with strong general knowledge of the continent’s political and economic developments and major debates surrounding the issues. It is also hoped that students will finish the course with a strong understanding of political science concepts that can be applied to other regions of the world.
Course Policies and Requirements

1. The Learning Environment. Your instructor is committed to the principle of active learning. This principle requires students’ active involvement in, commitment to, and responsibility for their own education. Hence, it is important that students conduct themselves in ways that indicate respect for the learning community and the learning process. Respect for the learning community should preclude such behavior as persistent tardiness, leaving the room during class time (unless prior advice was given to the instructor or in case of emergency), falling asleep, reading the newspaper, studying for another class, texting, and chatting with others.


Lectures will parallel and compliment the readings. As such, students cannot just rely solely on lectures or readings.

3. Class attendance and Participation. Attendance at all class sessions is expected, and the instructor will check the attendance regularly. Students are allowed to miss one class without any penalty during the semester. An additional absence without the instructor’s permission will result in the loss of 5 points for attendance. Informed participation in class discussion is expected for it constitutes a significant portion of the total grade.

4. Exams, and Term Paper. This course will have two exams—one midterm and a final. The midterm exam will be on March 01 and the final exam will be on May 07 2-3:50 pm (during the regular class hours). No make-up exam will be offered, except in cases of emergency, as defined by the instructor, and with advance notification. A term paper of 8 to 10 pages, double-spaced will be required and will be due on May 01. The term paper should be properly referenced, and typed following a standard format. See for example: http://libguides.niu.edu/content.php?pid=164220&sid=2027148

5. Film Review. A good review should include: 1) a brief description of the movie/documentary film; 2) analysis and interpretation of the movie/documentary film (how accurate is the movie/documentary film in depicting the subject according to the readings or your prior knowledge? Is the story told complete? Is the story convincing?); 3) evaluation of the movie/documentary film (what messages did the movie/documentary film convey? How was the message conveyed? How well are major parts connected to each other? and; 4) relating the movie/documentary film to the course. Each review should be between 700-1,000 words in length.

6. Group Presentations and Papers: There will be two group presentations. Each group member needs to submit two individual papers based on the presentations. The papers should be properly referenced with complete list of bibliography and with a length of between 1,000-1,200 words.
7. Course Grade. Course Grades will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Scores</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First exam</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion papers</td>
<td>50x2 =100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group presentations</td>
<td>50x2 =100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film review</td>
<td>4x20=80 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Raw Score</strong></td>
<td>580 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Average</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98-100%</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94-97%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-89 %</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-83%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>F</td>
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8. Academic Integrity. Students are expected to know and comply with NIU polices on academic integrity (see p. 47 of 2001 Undergraduate Catalog). Any student found guilty of cheating or plagiarizing will receive an “F” for the examination and the course. He or she may also be subject to additional sanctions imposed by the university.

Avoiding Plagiarism: Put simply, plagiarism happens when you take someone else’s ideas or words and use them as though they were your own ideas. Commonly, students commit plagiarism out of ignorance or carelessness; though there are some people who outright steal other writers’ work. Thus to avoid this problem, you should follow these guidelines:

- Always put quotation marks around any direct statement from someone else’s work and offer appropriate citation (endnote, footnote etc.)
- Cite any paraphrase of another writer’s ideas or statements.
- Cite any material, ideas, thoughts, etc., you got from your reading that can’t be described as general knowledge.

9. Undergraduate Writing Awards. The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department’s spring graduation ceremony where they will receive a certificate and $50.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by February 28. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student’s name and one without the student’s
name. Only papers written in the previous calendar year can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year’s competition even if the student has graduated.

10. Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities. Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center. Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let his or her faculty member know as soon as possible. Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability will be encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center if they have not done so already. The Disability Resource Center is located in the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 [v], 815-753-3000 [TTY] or email at drc@niu.edu.

11. Department of Political Science Web Site. Undergraduates are strongly encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science’s web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements and syllabi, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to http://polisci.niu.edu

12. Useful Websites on African Politics
   http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm
   http://allafrica.com
   http://www.africannews.org
   http://columbia.edu/cu/lweb/africa/cuvl

13. Link to Citation
   http://libguides.niu.edu/content.php?pid=164220&sid=2027148

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction to the course Overview of Africa
   January 16
   • Read the course syllabus carefully
   • Moss, African Development, pp. 1-14.

II. Colonialism, Nationalism, Expectations of Independence
   January 18-23
   • Movie: The Congo: White King, Red Rubber and the Black Death
     http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/congo-white-king-red-rubber-black-death/
   • Moss, African Development, pp. 21-37.
   • A. Thomson, An Introduction to the African Politics, pp. 7-30.
• Nunn, Nathan. 2009. “Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa’s Slave Trade,” in *Natural Experiments in History*.  
*Film review January 25*

January 25-30

### III. Challenges of Economic Development

February 01
• Moss, *African Development*, pp. 91-104.  

February 06/08

February 13/15
• Movie [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGMB9Z4t5Xc&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGMB9Z4t5Xc&feature=related)  
• Movie [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zalqYjciA2Y&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zalqYjciA2Y&feature=related)  
*Students are encouraged to watch these two documents on their own*  

February 20/22

February 27: Catch-up and review

March 01
• Midterm Exam
IV. International Intervention and Conflicts in Africa

March 06/08

*Review of the film due March 20*

March 13/15
• Spring Break!

March 20
• Discussion of reading assigned for March 06/08

March 22
• Movie: Stealing Africa http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/stealing-africa/
• A. Thomson, An Introduction to the African Politics, chapter 8.

*Review of the documentary film due March 29th*

March 27

March 29/April 03
• Group Presentation
• Discussion question: Explain factors contributing to your assigned country’s economic growth or lack thereof. How do your findings support or call into question these ideas: Is underdevelopment the result of poor decisions and economic management of your assigned country? Or is underdevelopment of your country is a byproduct of international economic institutions and their policies like economic liberalization and structural adjustment program, and/or exploitation by multi-national corporations.
• Countries for group discussions and discussion papers are: Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

April 05/10

Suggested Readings:

V. Role of the Military and Country Focus—Uganda
April 12/17

*April 12 Paper Abstract Due*

VI. Personal Rule, Patronage and the State
April 19

VII. Future Prospects for Africa
April 24

April 26

*Term Paper Due*

May 01
• Group Discussion
• In light of your group’s future assessment of Africa, are you optimistic or pessimistic about your assigned country’s future development politically and/or economically.

*May 03*
• Class evaluation, catch-up, and review,

*May 07*
• FINAL EXAM, 2-3:50 p.m