Most of sub-Saharan Africa only became independent in the late 1950s/early 1960s. The United States devoted little diplomatic attention to the continent until the mid-1950s. Only with African independence did the major diplomatic powers begin to focus on the region and it was at this time that political scientists first seriously began to study the continent.

By the end of the course, students will be expected to know about:

- 1) Africa's emergence on the international political scene during and immediately after World War II;
- 2) the ideas and policies of John F. Kennedy, the first American President to be interested in African affairs, from his 1957 speech in favor of Algerian independence, through the Congo crisis of 1960, to the development of America's Cold War agenda in the early 1960s;
- 3) the growing disillusionment with Africa on the part of both the United States and the Soviet Union, and the emergence of the People's Republic of China as a foreign policy player in Africa.
- 4) the continent's political and economic decline;
- 5) its role in the Cold War during the 1970s with particular reference to Angola, Zaire and Ethiopia;
- 5) the policies of the World Bank and IMF in sponsoring structural adjustment and economic liberalization in the late 1980s and 1990s;
- 6) and the collapse of the apartheid regime in South Africa, and the role of internal protests, external sanctions, and social change in bringing down the regime.
- 7) During the final section – to which we will devote most of the second half of the course – students will explore some of topics and crises that political scientists and foreign policy analysts of Africa are discussing today. They will be expected to know about the failed state in Somalia, ethnic genocide in Rwanda, democracy and ethnic conflict in Burundi, the Congo crisis, the prospects for peace in Angola and Sudan, the work of African regional organizations, peace-keeping endeavors in Liberia and Sierra Leone, progress in promoting democracy and human rights, and about the crises in Cote d’Ivoire and Darfur.

The following titles can be purchased through abebooks.com. Titles * are essential reading. The others are optional.


*Carol Lancaster, *Aid to Africa: So Much to Do, So Little Done*, University of Chicago Press, 1999.


**Grades for the course will be based on the following:**

1) **Participation in group discussions and class presentations – 20 percent.** Each student will be assigned one country and in the course of the class will make a brief presentation, focusing on a particular issue – e.g. nationalist movements, ideologies of development, democracy and elections, ethnicity and social conflict, religion and politics, etc. Students will be required to speak for 10-15 minutes and then answer questions from the class. **The country presentations will count for 10 percent of the final grade.** An additional 10 percent of the final grade
will be awarded for active class participation and discussion of the assigned readings.

2) Compilation of sources on breaking news – 20 percent
You will be required to compile a dossier of news material, drawn from the Internet, newspapers and magazines, relating to your assigned countries.

3) Course Paper – 40 percent
Students will select one of six paper topics as the basis for a six-to-eight page typed essay (2,000-2,500 words), and a bibliography. You will be expected to draw examples from a number of countries but may choose to incorporate elements from your in-class presentations, applying your specific country knowledge to more general issues. A first draft will be due in week eight. The second draft, incorporating the professor’s comments, will be due in week ten. Both drafts will count equally towards the final grade, i.e. 20 percent for each draft, making a total of 40 percent. The second draft will be graded with the expectation of improvement. There will be a significant penalty for late papers. Outside research and reading will be required.

4) Final Examination – 20 percent
The final examination will have two parts, which will be equally weighted. The first component will be a take-home essay. The second part will be an in-class identification examination and brief one or two paragraph essays, based on the readings and class presentations.

Please note that while attendance is not strictly mandatory, the course paper and both parts of the final examination will test knowledge that is most readily gained through attendance.

Students are expected to be up-to-date on events in sub-Saharan Africa, and should seek out relevant current materials in The New York Times, The Washington Post and on the Internet.

You may care to consult the following web sites:


African Political Resources: http://www.politicalresources.net/africa.htm

Crisis in the Great Lakes Region: http://www.synapse.net/-aedi20/country/greatla1.htm

Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/reports
WEEK ONE
August 30
Introduction to the Course
Select countries for special concentration as a Desk Officer.
Reading:
Acquire basic information on your country from newspapers, specialist magazines
and the inter-net.

September 1
Africa in international affairs, 1941-63.
Reading:
Piero Gleijeses, Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976,
University of North Carolina Press, pp. 5-76.

WEEK TWO
September 6
Africa and the Cold War, 1963-73.
Reading:
Piero Gleijeses, Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976,
University of North Carolina Press, pp. 77-184.

September 8
Reading:

WEEK THREE
September 13
Reading:
Piero Gleijeses, Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976,
University of North Carolina Press, pp. 185-213.

September 15
Reading:

**WEEK FOUR**

**September 20**

**The United States, the Soviet Union and Cuba in Africa, 1973-1981.**

Reading:


**September 22**

**From Rhodesia to Zimbabwe: The Unilateral Declaration of Independence and Lancaster House, 1965-1980.**

Reading:

http://rhodesian.server101.com/Republic%20f%Rhodesia.htm

http://icbh.ac.uk/icbh/witness/rhodesia

**WEEK FIVE**

**September 27**

**Structural adjustment and economic liberalization: The agenda of the IMF and World Bank in Africa, 1981-91.**

Reading:

Carol Lancaster, *Aid to Africa: So Much to Do, So Little Done*, University of Chicago Press, pp. pp. 1-82 and 184-238.


**September 29**

**The collapse of the Apartheid regime in South Africa.**

Reading:


**WEEK SIX**

**October 4**

**Democratization, Political Pluralism, and Human Rights, 1990-2003.**

Reading:


Reports on the web-sites of NDI, IRI, and IFES.

**October 6**

**The failed state in Somalia.**

Reading:


Reports on the International Crisis Group’s web-site:
http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/reports.cfm?keyid=37

**WEEK SEVEN**

**October 11**

**Ethnic genocide in Rwanda.**

Reading:

**October 13**

**Democracy and ethnic conflict in Burundi.**

Reports on the International Crisis Group’s web-site:
http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/reports.cfm?keyid=29
See also the entries on the web-site, Crisis in the Great Lakes Region:
http://www.synapsee.net/~acdi20/country/greatla1.htm

**WEEK EIGHT**

**October 18**

**The return of the Congo crisis: How much (if anything) has changed since 1960-65?**

Readings:
Reports on the International Crisis Group’s web-site:
http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/reports.cfm

**October 20**
The civil war in Angola, 1975-2002.
Readings:
Mark Huband, The Skull Beneath the Skin: Africa After the Cold War, Westview Press, pp. 31-56.

WEEK NINE
October 25
Work on and finish first draft of paper.
The civil war in Sudan, 1958-2009.
Readings:

October 27
Hand in first draft of paper.
Readings:
Mark Huband, The Skull Beneath the Skin: Africa After the Cold War, Westview Press, pp. 57-78 and 137-158.
International Crisis Group web-site:
http://crisisweb.org/projects/reports.cfm?keyid=21

WEEK TEN
November 1
State Collapse and Civil War in Sierra Leone.
Readings:
International Crisis Group web-site:
http://crisisweb.org/projects/reports.cfm?keyid=21

November 3
Readings:
Reports on the International Crisis Group’s web-site:
http://www.crisisweb.org/projects/reports.cfm?keyid=16

WEEK TWELVE
November 8
Hand in essay paper.
Country presentations to begin.

November 10
More Country Presentations.

WEEK THIRTEEN
November 15
Islam and Politics in Africa.
Readings:
See the articles by John Paden and Peter Lewis on Islam in Nigeria on the CSIS
Africa web-site:
http://www.csis.org/africa/

November 17
Nigeria’s Foreign Policy.
Reading:
Stephen Wright and Julius Emeka Okolo, “Nigeria: Aspirations of Regional Power”,
Mark Huband, The Skull Beneath the Skin: Africa After the Cold War, Westview

WEEK FOURTEEN
November 22
Film and Quiz for those still in town.

November 24
Thanksgiving Holiday.

WEEK FIFTEEN
November 29
Britain’s Africa Policy.
Reading:
Tom Porteous, Britain in Africa, passim.

December 1
The United States in Africa
Reading:

**WEEK SIXTEEN**
December 6
Make-up Class

**WEEK SEVENTEEN**
FINAL EXAM.