

Africa in International Affairs (IR 367) – Fall 2011

Instructor: Eva Kaye-Zwiebel

Email: kayezwie@usc.edu

Office: SOS 268

Office Tel: 213-740-2554

Office hours: Mon 3:30-4:30, or by appointment

Class Time: MW 2:00-3:20pm

Class Location: VKC 156

TA: Nicolas de Zamaróczy,

nicolas.dezamaroczy@usc.edu

OVERVIEW

This course examines the international relations of states in sub-Saharan Africa. The course focuses on major themes that have characterized international affairs in Africa since the end of the Cold War, especially the constraints that state weakness places on African states and the related significance of non-state and external actors. Over the semester, students will master analytical tools and knowledge of country-specific events that will allow them to produce their own explanations for, and interpretations of, important phenomena in African international relations, including:

- The relative importance of pre-colonial, colonial, and postcolonial events in explaining current challenges facing a variety of African countries;
- How domestic and international influences interact to affect current events;
- How economic, social, and humanitarian factors interact to affect current events;
- The significance of non-state actors, from NGOs to warlords, in Africa's international arena.

By the end of this course, students will:

- Understand key debates about sovereignty, violence, and poverty and development in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Feel comfortable evaluating the region in economic and institutional terms;
- Be familiar with many of the most significant regional conflicts of the last two decades;
- Be able to evaluate policy recommendations for the U.S. vis-à-vis sub-Saharan Africa.

COURSE DETAILS AND POLICIES

The course is structured around two weekly sessions. Most class sessions will include time for discussion, multi-media presentations, and/or a group presentation in addition to a lecture. Students should complete the assigned readings on time and appear in class ready to ask questions and share comments. Reading assignments average 60 to 100 pages per week and are drawn from scholarly and popular sources. There is also one novel assigned. Graded class requirements include a **map quiz**, a **midterm** and a **final**, as well as a **10- to 12-page research paper** and participation in a **group presentation** to the class. These assignments are described in greater detail below.

Course Blackboard site: A copy of this syllabus, course readings, and class handouts are available on Blackboard. Other supplementary materials may be placed on the site during the semester.

Attendance: The instructor will take attendance in each class and repeated absences will result in a lowered participation and attendance grade.

Classroom conduct and communication: Students, the instructor, and the TA should conduct themselves respectfully in the classroom and in written communication with each other. Respectful behavior includes using appropriate language orally and in writing, arriving in class on time, and turning off cell phones

during class. Computers and other electronic devices should be used only for class-relevant purposes. Students' attendance and participation grade will be reduced for serious violations of any of the above. Please do not make audio or video recordings of class sessions without prior instructor permission.

Academic integrity: All work that students present orally or submit in writing for this class must be their own, or that of their group in case of a group assignment. It is the student's obligation to avoid using others' work as his/her own (proper citation practices will help avoid this problem), to protect his/her own academic work from misuse by others, and to report any cheating of which s/he is aware to the instructor. By taking this course, students indicate that they understand and will abide by these principles. All submitted work for this course may be subject to an originality review as performed by Turnitin technologies (www.turnitin.com) to find textual similarities with other internet content or previously-submitted student work.

Statement for students with disabilities: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. Further information is available at: <http://www.usc.edu/disability>.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Readings: Course readings are available on Blackboard or are located in one of the books indicated below. Students should come to class with a sense of the strengths and weaknesses of each reading on its own terms, and in relation to the other readings for the week. Some questions to consider in each reading are: What is the paper's main claim or argument? Is it convincing? What are the strengths and limitations of the evidence offered? Is there additional evidence that would be helpful in deciding whether to accept the paper's claims?

These books are available for purchase in the University bookstore:

- Illife, John. 1994. *Africans: The History of a Continent*, Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Kane, Cheikh Hamidou. 1963. *Ambiguous Adventure*. Trans. Katherine Woods. New York: Walker.

Map quiz: There will be a map quiz in class on **Sept. 7**. Students will receive a blank political map of the continent and will be asked to label a number of countries.

Midterm: There will be an in-class midterm quiz on **Oct. 3** focusing on Parts 1 and 2 of the course.

Group presentation: Students will form groups of two to three people and select a week in which to present the major themes of the assigned reading to the class. The presentation should last 10-15 minutes, after which the presenters should launch a class discussion of the material. Dates for presentations are indicated by (*) on the course schedule.

Final exam: The final exam is on **Dec. 9** from 2 to 4pm. The exam will focus on essay questions that ask students to integrate course readings to answer a complex question about the themes of the course. More details will be provided in the second half of the semester.

*** Please note that make-ups are not permitted for the map quiz, midterm, presentation, or final, except for emergencies, religious conflicts, or similar unavoidable reasons.**

Term paper: Each student will write a 10- to 12-page paper analyzing a significant or interesting event in international affairs in sub-Saharan Africa. Examples might include “the outbreak of violence in *x*”, “the crisis in *x*”, “the international response to *x*”, or nearly any topic the student wishes to examine. The paper should include a relatively brief summary of the event, followed by a longer analysis of the *factors that led to the event* and *policy advice for next steps* to be taken by relevant parties involved in the event.

In analyzing causes, students should take a position on the *relative importance* of various causal factors (at least two), using logical arguments and/or factual information to support their position. At least one of the causal factors must be one this course covers. In proposing a way forward, students should include references to common practices in the particular issue area, which they may accept, reject, or refine in making their own recommendation. Students may use course material in the paper, but they are also expected to consult articles or books outside the course.

Due dates associated with term paper: Students will be graded on whether they complete the following “paper prep” assignments (100% or 0).

- The topic of the paper is due at the beginning of class on **Sept. 21**. Please submit this on a sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper. The instructor will read, approve, and return these in a week’s time.
- An annotated bibliography for the paper, containing at least six reputable sources, is due at the beginning of class on **Oct. 12**. Instructions for how to create an annotated bibliography are posted on Blackboard.
- An outline of the paper is due **Nov. 7**.
- The final paper is due in **hard copy** at the beginning of class **Nov. 21**. Students must **also submit an electronic copy** to Blackboard.

Additional term paper details:

- The paper should be neat, free of spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, in a standard font and font size, page numbered, with 1-inch margins, and should use appropriate citation practices (both in-text and in bibliography).
- The instructor may use Turnitin software to check for plagiarism.
- The paper will be **docked one full letter grade for each day it is late** (e.g. A- becomes B-). Papers not turned in at the beginning of class on Nov. 21 are already one day late.

Grading break-down

Map quiz	5%
Attendance & Oral Participation	10%
In-class presentation	10%
Midterm	15%
Term Paper	30%
“Paper prep” assignments	5%
Final Examination	25%



Definition of grades

A: Work of excellent quality	(A: 94% and up;	A-: 90% and up)	
B: Work of good quality	(B+: 87% and up;	B: 84% and up;	B-: 80% and up)
C: Work of fair quality	(C+: 77% and up;	C: 74% and up;	C-: 70% and up)
D: Work of minimum passing quality			
F: Failure to meet minimum standards			

COURSE SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT (Weeks 1, 2)

Aug 22	Introduction
Aug 24	Kenya: A Microcosm of course themes
Aug 29	Pre-colonial political organization
Aug 31	Political aspects of colonization

PART 2: OVERVIEW OF EXPLANATIONS FOR STATE WEAKNESS (Weeks 3-5)

Sept 5	<i>no class, Labor Day</i>	
Sept 7	Cause?: Colonization	<u>*In-class map quiz*</u>
Sept 12*	Cause?: Ethnic cleavages	
Sept 14*	Cause?: Poverty and slow growth	
Sept 19*	Cause?: Corruption & the resource curse	
Sept 21*	<i>Interlude: Ambiguous Adventure</i> discussion	<u>*Paper topic due*</u>

PART 3: CONSEQUENCES OF STATE WEAKNESS (Weeks 6-10)

Sept 26*	Violence 1: Does corruption drive wars?	
Sept 28	<i>Focus: Sierra Leone and Liberia</i>	
Oct 3	<i>Midterm quiz</i>	<u>*In-class midterm*</u>
Oct 5	Film: Ghosts of Rwanda	
Oct 10*	Violence 2: Does ethnicity drive wars?	
Oct 12	<i>Focus: Rwanda</i>	<u>*Annotated bibliography due*</u>
Oct 17*	Violence 3: Other explanations for war	
Oct 19	<i>Focus: Congo</i>	
Oct 24*	Health and pandemics	
Oct 26*	Food security	
Oct 31*	<i>Interlude: African successes</i>	

PART 4: RESPONSES TO CHALLENGES TO THE STATE (Weeks 11-13)

Nov 2*	Peacekeeping	
Nov 7*	African Union	<u>*Paper outline due*</u>
Nov 9*	Post-conflict reconstruction	
Nov 14*	International Financial Institutions & NGOs	
Nov 16	<i>Focus: Problems with aid</i>	

PART 5: CONCLUDING TOPICS (Weeks 14, 15)

Nov 21*	China in Africa	<u>* Final papers due *</u>
Nov 23	<i>no class, Thanksgiving</i>	
Nov 28*	Great power interest in Africa	
Nov 30	Wrap-up	
Dec 9	<i>Final exam</i>	<u>* Final exam *</u>

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Introduction to Africa in international affairs

(Week 1, Aug 22)

- The Economist. 2000. "The Heart of the Matter." *Economist*, May 11. **(4pp)**
- Kaplan, Robert D. 1994. "The Coming Anarchy: How Scarcity, Crime, Overpopulation, Tribalism, and Disease Are Rapidly Destroying the Social Fabric of Our Planet." *Atlantic*, Feb. **(23pp)**
- Jackson, Robert H. and Carl G. Rosberg. 1982. "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood." *World Politics* 35(1):1-24. **(24)**

Kenya: A Microcosm of course themes

(Week 1, Aug 24)

- Barnes, Sandra T. 2005. "Terror, Oil, and Strategic Philanthropy." *African Studies Review* 48(1):1-22. **(19)**
- The Economist. 2010. "Can Kenya Make Its New Deal Work?" *Economist*, Oct. 28. **(4)**
- Pfaff, William. 1995. "A New Colonialism? Europe Must Go Back into Africa." *Foreign Affairs* 74(1): 20-26. **(4)**

Pre-colonial political organization: Land, power, identity

(Week 2, Aug 29)

- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. "Chapter 2: Power and Space in Pre-Colonial Africa" (pp. 35-57). In *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton UP. **(23)**
- Kopytoff, Igor. 1987. "The Internal African Frontier: The Making of African Political Culture" (pp. 3-33). In *The African Frontier*, Bloomington: Indiana UP. **(31)**

Optional

- Iliffe, John. 1995. "Chapter 8: Regional Diversity in the Nineteenth Century" (pp.159-186). In *Africans: The History of a Continent*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Political aspects of colonization

(Week 2, Aug 31)

- Iliffe, John. 1995. "Chapter 9: Colonial Invasion" (pp.187-211) and "Chapter 10: Colonial Change, 1918-1950" (pp.212-242). In *Africans*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. **(55)**

PART 2: OVERVIEW OF EXPLANATIONS FOR STATE WEAKNESS

Sept 5: *No class, Labor Day*

Colonization

(Week 3, Sept 7)

- Ekeh, Peter P. 1975. "Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 17(1):91-112. **(21)**
- Englebert, Pierre. 2000. "Pre-colonial Institutions, Post-Colonial States, and Economic Development in Tropical Africa." *Political Research Quarterly* 53(1):7-36. **(24)**
- Sklar, Richard L. 1993. "Chapter 3: The African Frontier for Political Science" (pp.87-98). In *Africa and the Disciplines*, eds. R. H. Bates, V. Y. Mudimbe, and J. O'Barr. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press. **(12)**

Optional

- Nunn, Nathan. 2009. "The Importance of History for Economic Development." *Annual Review of Economics* (1):65-92.

Ethnic cleavages

(Week 4, Sept 12)

- Bates, Robert H. 2000. "Ethnicity and Development in Africa: A Reappraisal." *American Economic Review* 90(2):131-134. **(4)**
- Bates, Robert H. 1974. "Ethnic Competition and Modernization in Contemporary Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 6(4): 457-483. **(18)**
- Young, Crawford. 2002. "Deciphering Disorder in Africa: Is Identity the Key?" *World Politics* 54(4):532-557. **(25)**

Poverty and slow growth

(Week 4, Sept 14)

- Artadi, Elsa V. and Xavier Sala-i-Martin. 2004. "The Economic Tragedy of the Twentieth Century: Growth in Africa." (pp. 1-17) In *Africa Competitiveness Report 2004*, eds. E. Hernandez-Cata, K. Schwab, and A. Lopez-Claros. Geneva: World Economic Forum. **(17)**
- Easterly, William and Ross Levine. 1998. "Troubles with Neighbors." *Journal of African Economies* 7(1):120-142. **(22)**

Corruption and the resource curse

(Week 5, Sept 19)

- Humphreys, Macartan, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Joseph E. Stiglitz. 2007. "Introduction: What is the Problem with Natural Resource Wealth." In *Escaping the Resource Curse*, eds. M. Humphreys, J. D. Sachs and J. E. Stiglitz. New York: Columbia Univ. Press. **(19)**
- Sardan, J. P. Olivier de. 1999. "A Moral Economy of Corruption in Africa?" *Journal of Modern African Studies* 37(1):25-52. **(25)**

Optional

- Jackson, Robert H. and Carl G. Rosberg. 1984. "Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa." *Comparative Politics* 16(4): 421-442.
- Ross, Michael L. 1999. "The Political Economy of the Resource Curse." *World Politics* 51(2): 297-322.

Interlude ~ book discussion

(Week 5, Sept 21)

- Kane, Cheikh Hamidou. 1963. *Ambiguous Adventure*. Trans. Katherine Woods. New York: Walker.

PART 3: CONSEQUENCES OF STATE WEAKNESS

Violence 1a, Does corruption drive wars?

(Week 6, Sept 26)

- Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War". *Oxford Economic Papers*, New Series, 56(4):563-595. **(27)**
- Reno, William. 1997. "War, Markets and the Reconfiguration of West Africa's Weak States." *Comparative Politics* 29(4): 493-510. (Read pp. 493-498.) **(6)**

Violence 1b, Focus: Sierra Leone and Liberia

(Week 6, Sept 28)

- Howe, Herbert M. 1998. "Private Security Forces and African Stability: The Case of Executive Outcomes." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 36(2):307-31. **(24)**
- Reno, William. 1997. "War, Markets and the Reconfiguration of West Africa's Weak States." *Comparative Politics* 29(4): 493-510. (Read pp. 498-510.) **(13)**

Oct 3: *In-class midterm*

PBS Frontline: Ghosts of Rwanda

(Week 7, Oct 5)

Today's film recalls the human stakes of the theoretical question we are considering in this section of the course: "What causal factors explain recent wars in Africa?" As you watch, please think about which causes seem most important in explaining the Rwandan genocide.

Ghosts of Rwanda and supplementary materials to the film are available at:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/>

Violence 2a, Does ethnicity drive wars?

(Week 8, Oct 10)

- **Skim Sept. 12 readings**
- Collier, Paul. 1998. "The Political Economy of Ethnicity." In *Oxford Economics Papers*, Centre for the Study of African Economies Series. Oxford, UK: Oxford Univ. Dept. of Econ. **(13)**
- de Waal, Alex. 1994. "Genocide in Rwanda." *Anthropology Today* 10(3): 1-2. **(2)**
- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil Wars." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90 **(15)**

Violence 2b, Focus: Rwanda

(Week 8, Oct 12)

- Desforges, Alison. 1999. "Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda." New York: Human Rights Watch. (Read pp.6-27). **(21)**

Optional

- Power, Samantha. 2001. "Bystanders to Genocide". *Atlantic*, Sept.
- For case comparison: Prunier, Gerard. 2006. "The Politics of Death in Darfur." *Current History* 105 (691):195-202.

Violence 3a, Other causes of war: poverty, neighboring countries (Week 9, Oct 17)

- **Skim Sept. 14 readings**
- Humphreys, Macartan. 2003. "Economics and Violent Conflict". Harvard Univ. (Read pp. 1-8.) **(8)**
- Goodhand, Jonathan. 2003. "Enduring Disorder and Persistent Poverty: A Review of the Linkages between War and Chronic Poverty." *World Development* 31 (3): 629-646. **(14)**

Violence 3b, Focus: Congo (Week 9, Oct 19)

- Lemarchand, Rene. 1997. "Patterns of State Collapse and Reconstruction in Central Africa: Reflections on the Crisis in the Great Lakes Region." *Africa Spectrum* 32 (2):173-93. **(19)**
- McNulty, Mel. 1999. "The Collapse of Zaire: Implosion, Revolution or External Sabotage?" *Journal of Modern African Studies* 37(1):53-82. **(29)**
- Prunier, Gerard. 1997. "The Great Lakes Crisis." *Current History* 96(610):193-199. **(6)**

Health and pandemics (Week 10, Oct 24)

- The Economist. 2011. "Cholera and the Super-loo." *Economist*, July 30. **(2)**
- Fredland, Richard A. 1998. "AIDS and Development: An Inverse Correlation?" *Journal of Modern African Studies* 36 (4):547-68. **(20)**
- Schoofs. 1999. "AIDS: The Agony of Africa (Parts 1 to 8)." *Village Voice*. **(20)**

Optional

- Whiteside, Alan, Alex de Waal, and Tsadkan Gebre-Tensae. 2006. "AIDS, Security and the Military in Africa: A Sober Appraisal." *African Affairs* 105(419):201-218.

Food security (Week 10, Oct 26)

- de Waal, Alex. 1991. "Famine and Human Rights." *Development in Practice* 1(2): 77-83. **(5)**
- The Economist. 2011. "Chronicle of a Famine Foretold." *Economist*, July 30. **(1)**
- Runge, C. Ford and Benjamin Senauer. 2000. "A Removable Feast." *Foreign Affairs* 79(3): 39-51. **(12)**
- Sen, Amartya. 1982. "The Food Problem: Theory and Policy." *Third World Quarterly* 4(3): 447-459. **(13)**

Optional

- The "hunger" website of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): <http://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>.
- "Reliefweb" Horn of Africa Crisis 2011 website: <http://reliefweb.int/horn-africa-crisis2011>

Interlude: African successes (Week 11, Oct 31)

Guest lecture by Nicolas de Zamaroczy

Reading assignments to be announced.

PART 4: RESPONSES TO CHALLENGES TO THE STATE

Peacekeeping

(Week 11, Nov 2)

- de Waal, Alex. 2009. "Mission without End? Peacekeeping in the African Political Marketplace." *International Affairs* 85: 99-113. **(14)**
- Docking, Tim. 2001. "Peacekeeping in Africa." United States Institute of Peace. **(10)**
- Langford, Tonya. 1999. "Things Fall Apart: State Failure and the Politics of Intervention," *International Studies Review* 1(1): 59-79. **(21)**
- Pan, Esther. 2005. "Backgrounder: African Peacekeeping Operations". *Council on Foreign Relations*, Dec. 2. **(3)**

The African Union

(Week 12, Nov 7)

- Gottschalk, Keith and Siegmund Schmidt. 2004. "The African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Strong Institutions for Weak States?" *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft* 4: 138-158. (Read pp. 138-148 and 155-158). **(15)**
- Hanson, Stephanie. 2009. "Backgrounder: The African Union". *Council on Foreign Relations*, Sept. 1. **(4)**

Post-conflict reconstruction

(Week 12, Nov 9)

- Englebert, Pierre and Denis M. Tull. "Postconflict Reconstruction in Africa: Flawed Ideas about Failed States." *International Security* 32(4): 106-139. **(34)**
- Ottaway, Marina. 2002. "Rebuilding State Institutions in Collapsed States." *Development and Change* 33(5): 1001-1023. **(23)**

International financial institutions & NGOs

(Week 13, Nov 14)

- Callaghy, Thomas M. 1987. "Between Scylla and Charybdis: The Foreign Economic Relations of Sub-Saharan African States." *Annals of the Amer. Academy of Political & Social Science* 489:148-163. **(16)**
- Easterly, William. "Can the West Save Africa?" *Journal of Economic Literature* 47(2):373-391. (Read pp. 420-424). **(4)**
- Radelet, Steven. 2006. "A Primer on Foreign Aid (Working Paper No. 92)." Washington, DC: Center for Global Development. **(21)**

IFIs and NGOs, Focus: Problems with aid

(Week 13, Nov 16)

- Lancaster, Carol. 2009. "Sixty Years of Foreign Aid: What Have We Learned?" *International Journal* 64(3): 799-810. **(12)**
- Easterly, William. 2003. "Can Foreign Aid Buy Growth?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(3):23-48. **(26)**

PART 5: CONCLUDING TOPICS

China in Africa

(Week 14, Nov 21)

- Broadman, Harry. 2007. "China and India Go to Africa." *Foreign Affairs* 87(2): 95-109. **(9)**
- The Economist. 2011. "The Chinese in Africa: Trying to Pull Together." *Economist*. April 20. **(5)**
- Hanson, Stephanie. 2008. "Backgrounder: China, Africa, and Oil." *Council on Foreign Relations*. June 6. **(4)**
- Holslag, Jonathan. 2011. "China and the Coups: Coping with Political Instability in Africa." *African Affairs* 110 (440): 367-386. **(20)**

Optional

- Sautman, Barry and Yan Hairong. 2007. "Friends and Interests: China's Distinctive Links with Africa." *African Studies Review* 50(3):75-114.

Nov 23: no class, Thanksgiving break

Great power interest in Africa: Terror, oil

(Week 15, Nov 28)

- Council on Foreign Relations. 2006. "More than Humanitarianism: A Strategic U.S. Approach toward Africa." Independent Task Force Report No. 56. P.N. Lyman and J.S. Morrison, eds. New York: Council on Foreign Relations. (Read pp. 5-27, 28-39, 55-61). **(40)**

Course wrap-up

(Week 15, Nov 30)

- The Economist. 2011. "When Others Are Grabbing Their Land." *Economist*. 5 May. **(3)**
- Etzo, Sebastiana and Guy Collender. "Briefing: The Mobile Phone 'Revolution' in Africa: Rhetoric or Reality?" *African Affairs* 109(437): 659-568. **(10)**
- Pfaff, William. 1995. "A New Colonialism? Europe Must Go Back into Africa." *Foreign Affairs* 74(1): 20-26. **(4)**
- Zachary, G. Pascal. 2011. "After South Sudan: The Case to Keep Dividing Africa." *Atlantic*, July. **(5)**