

**Course Syllabus**  
**GOVT 4396**  
***African Government and Politics***

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**Course Information**

<i>Course number/section</i>	<i>GOVT 4396-501</i>
<i>Course title</i>	<i>African Government &amp; Politics</i>
<i>Term</i>	<i>Fall 2007</i>
<i>Day &amp; Time</i>	<i>Wednesday 7:00-9:45 pm</i>
<i>Room</i>	<i>CN1.304</i>

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**Professor Contact Information**

<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Narcisse Tiky</i>
<i>Office phone</i>	<i>972.883.6415</i>
<i>Email Address</i>	<i>nlt041000@utdallas.edu</i>
<i>Office location</i>	<i>GR 3.220</i>
<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Wednesday 3:30-5:30 pm</i>

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**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

It is assumed that students taking this course have had a government or comparative politics course.

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**Course Description**

The course offers an overview of key social, political, and economic issues in the evolution of African politics since colonial era. The focus is on explanations for what many perceive to be a crisis of the African states. We will put a special emphasis on domestic struggles for the control and/or distribution of scarce resources and the influence of international politics on political and economic developments in Sub-Saharan Africa.

While Northern African countries will enter into some of the concerns of this class, the bulk of the course material will consider the particular historical development and contemporary issues of the politics of the vast region to the south of the Sahara.

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Understand the key political and economic issues facing Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Critically discuss media reports and explain the difference between causes and effects in African politics

- Very specific in analyzing individual African country issues and avoid gross generalizations about Africa
  - Discuss, analyze, and explain the various political and economic developments of African states
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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Thomson, A. (2004). *An Introduction to African Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Routledge.

Ayitteh, George B.N. (1998). *Africa in Chaos*. New York, St. Martin's Press.

Kane, C. Hamidou. (1962). *Ambiguous Adventure*. Heinemann (any other English edition is ok).

### **Suggested Course Materials**

Agbango, A. George. (1998). *Issues and Trends in Contemporary African Politics*. New York, Peter Lang.

### **Journals on Africa**

- *The African Studies Review*
- *Journal of Modern African Studies*
- *African Development Review*
- *African Issues*
- *African Affairs*
- *Foreign Policy*

### **Web sites for primary sources on Africa**

- [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org) (African Union. Documents on African conflicts and inter-African affairs)
- [www.africaaction.org](http://www.africaaction.org) (policy papers and documents)
- [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org) (statistical data on demographic, health, education, social, economic indicators)

### **Current events**

- [www.mg.co.za](http://www.mg.co.za)
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/>
- [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
- [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)
- [www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)
- [www.jeuneafrique.com](http://www.jeuneafrique.com)

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)

### Readings

Students are responsible for reading assignments each class. Assignments are to be read before the date beside which they are listed.

Dates	Readings	Topic	
22 August		Introduction	
29 August	<a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/</a> <a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/</a> Go to: <a href="http://unimaps.com/">http://unimaps.com/</a> and check out the following maps: <i>Africa, today &amp; Africa, 1886-1914</i> ; <i>UN's SG Report on Africa</i> ; <i>Economic Report on Africa 2003</i>	Foundations: basic elements of history and geography	
05 September	Thompson, Ch 2; Ayitteh Ch 8	History: Pre-colonial & colonial politics	
12 September	Thomson, Ch 3	Ideology	
19 September	Thomson, Ch 4; Snyder, Ch (link will be provided)	Ethnicity & religion	
26 September			Midterm exam
03 October	Thomson, Ch 5	Class politics	
10 October	Thomson, Ch 6; Ayitteh Ch 3 Guest speaker: Rahma on women issues	Legitimacy: sources of political power	
17 October	Thomson, Ch 7; Ayitteh, Ch 5	State security: Military politics	
24 October	Thomson, Ch 8; video Lumumba	Sovereignty I	
31 October	Thomson, Ch 9; Guest Speaker: Twine on economic issues	Sovereignty II	Last day to drop a class without a "W" Case study paper due
07 November	Thomson, Ch 10; Video: Mobutu: King of Zaire	Crisis of authority	
14 November	Thomson, Ch 11; Lipset, S. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy" <i>American Political Science Review</i> , Vol. 53, No. 1 (Mar., 1959), pp. 69-105	Democratization	
21 November	New world order, China, NGOs, immigration, international security, etc. Readings will later be assigned	Africa & Globalization	
28 November			Final exam

## Exams

- 1) There will be one midterm exam that covers material from the readings, lectures, and current events. The midterm exam will constitute 25% of your **final grade**.
- 2) There will be one final exam that covers material from the readings, lectures, and current events. The final exam will constitute 30% of your **final grade**.

**\*Bring picture identification to each exam.**

## Case study

Pick an African state, a regional or continental organization and identify its major political issue(s) for the period running from 1960 to January 2006. Discuss the sources, trajectory and outcome of the issue(s). The time limit does not apply to the historical context you might find necessary for situating the topic. (**Samples of case studies can be found in Thompson's book**). The case study will constitute 30% of your final grade. About 10 pages.

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## Grading Policy/Scale

Participation / attendance	10% (Familiarity with class readings and regular participation in class discussion is expected)
A map and current events quiz	5% In-class,
A midterm exam	25% In-class,
A final exam	30% Monday,
A case study of about 10 pages	30% Due in class on

100=A+	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	
93-99=A	83-86=B	73-76=C	63-66=D	Below 60=F
90-92=A-	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D	

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## Course & Instructor Policies

### *Extra Credit*

There is no extra credit available in this course.

### *Late Work*

Assignments turned in late will not be accepted.

### *Class Attendance*

Regular attendance is necessary if students expect to do well in the course. Under no circumstances will I provide notes for students missing class.

### *Classroom Citizenship*

Because participation is important, I want the classroom to be a place where students are comfortable expressing opinions and discussing material. I insist that students are polite in all fora.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

### **Technical Support**

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

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### **Field Trip Policies**

#### **Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities**

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

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### **Student Conduct & Discipline**

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the

standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any

class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

## **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

[disabilityservice@utdallas.edu](mailto:disabilityservice@utdallas.edu)

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations

are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.