

“Take your pick” paper:

- *Literature review*: Each student will write a 2,000-word literature review on one of the four discussion topics listed in the syllabus (or another topic approved by me). In addition to the three assigned readings for the topic, you are expected to use at least four more academic articles from the list of approved journals on Canvas. The literature review should synthesize the main arguments from the chosen articles and highlight the key areas of agreement and disagreement. Further guidelines will be posted on Canvas, and all papers will go through VeriCite.

OR

- *Election analysis*: Each student will write a 2,000-word analysis of a recent election (past 10 years) in an African country of their choice. You are expected to use at least four academic articles from the list of approved journals on Canvas and at least four reliable media sources. The paper should provide the background of the elections, discuss the issues at stake, explain the reasons for the outcome, and analyze the implications for democracy in that country. Further guidelines will be posted on Canvas, and all papers will go through VeriCite.

Exams: The midterm will cover the first half of the course and the final will cover the second half. For each exam, you will answer six short answer questions and one essay question. The exams will be conducted through Canvas and you are allowed to use your notes.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

The books listed below are available at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are posted on the Canvas site for the course (available at <http://canvas.uncc.edu>). The site also includes lecture notes, grades, useful links, and other information. **For discussions days, students will be divided into three groups (1, 2, 3); each group is responsible for discussing one article as noted on the reading schedule below, but students are expected to know the key arguments from all of the articles for the exams.**

Alex Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, 4th edition (Routledge, 2016)
Chinua Achebe, *A Man of the People* (originally published 1966)
Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *Matigari: A Novel* (originally published 1987)

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE (subject to change):

Roots of Contemporary Politics

August 21: Overview of African history

Watch “[The Danger of a Single Story](#),” TED Talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2009)

August 23: Pre-colonial and colonial inheritance (Zimbabwe)

Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 1, Chapter 2 thru p. 21 (skip Kenya case study for now), and Zimbabwe case study (pp. 259-68)

August 28: Nationalism and independence

Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 3

*Ekeh, Peter P. 1975. “Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 17(1): 91-112.

August 30: NO CLASS (American Political Science Association conference)

September 4: MAP QUIZ, Post-colonial states: One-party systems & personal rule (Tanzania, Côte d’Ivoire)

Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 6

September 6: Post-colonial states: Military rule (Uganda, Nigeria)
Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 7 and Nigeria case study (pp. 74-80)
*Roessler, Philip. 2013. "[Why South Sudan has Exploded in Violence](#)." The Monkey Cage political science blog, *The Washington Post* (December 24).

September 11: Discussion: What explains the survival of weak states in Africa?
Group 1: *Herbst, Jeffrey. 1990. "War and the State in Africa." *International Security* 14(4): 117-139.
Group 2: *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.
Group 3: *Englebert, Pierre, and Rebecca Hummel. 2005. "Let's Stick Together: Understanding Africa's Secessionist Deficit." *African Affairs* 104(416): 399-427.

The Politics of Economic Development

September 13: Post-colonial development policies (Zaire/Congo)
Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 10

September 18: Structural adjustment and debt relief (Ghana)
Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 9

September 20: DEBATE #1 on cultivating genetically modified crops in Africa (Teams A & B)
*Dowd-Uribe, Brian, and Matthew A. Schnurr. 2016. "Burkina Faso's Reversal on Genetically Modified Cotton and the Implications for Africa." *African Affairs* 115(458): 161-172.

September 25: The economic and political implications of HIV/AIDS
*Dionne, Kim Yi. 2011. "The Role of Executive Time Horizons in State Responses to AIDS in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 44(1): 55-77.

September 27: BOOK QUIZ, Chinua Achebe's *A Man of the People* (read entire book)

October 2: DEBATE #2 on regulating the informal economy (Teams C & D)
*Brown, Alison, Michal Lyons, and Ibrahima Dankoco. 2010. "Street Traders and the Emerging Spaces for Urban Voice and Citizenship in African Cities." *Urban Studies* 47(3): 666-683.

October 4: Discussion: What explains Africa's relative lack of development?
Group 1: *Collier, Paul, and Jan Willem Gunning. 1999. "Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13(3): 3-22.
Group 2: *Bates, Robert H. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Chapters 2 & 5]
Group 3: *Hyden, Goran. 1986. "The Anomaly of the African Peasantry." *Development and Change* 17(4): 677-705.

October 9: NO CLASS (Fall Break)

October 11: MIDTERM EXAM (available on Canvas at 8:00 a.m. for 24 hours)

State-Society Relations

October 16 & 18: Ethnicity and politics in Africa (Rwanda)

Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 4

*Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.

*Newbury, Catharine Newbury. 1995. "Background to Genocide in Rwanda." *Issue: A Journal of Opinion* 23(2): 12-17.

October 23: Discussion: What explains ethnic competition in Africa?

Group 1: *Bates, Robert H. 1974. "Ethnic Competition and Modernization in Contemporary Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 6(4): 457-483.

Group 2: *Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529-545.

Group 3: *Kasara, Kimuli. 2013. "Separate and Suspicious: Local Social and Political Context and Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya." *The Journal of Politics* 75(4): 921-36.

October 25 & 30: The politics of class and gender (Botswana)

Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 5

*Barnes, Tiffany D. and Stephanie M. Burchard. 2013. "'Engendering' Politics: The Impact of Descriptive Representation on Women's Political Engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 46(7): 767-790.

November 1: DEBATE #3 on gender quotas in African parliaments (Teams E & F)

*Clayton, Amanda, Cecilia Josefsson, and Vibeke Wang. 2014. "Present without Presence? Gender, Quotas, and Debate Recognition in the Ugandan Parliament." *Representation* 50(3): 379-392.

November 6 & 8: Ousmane Sembene's "Moolaadé" (2005 film)

*Parker, Melissa. 1995. "Rethinking Female Circumcision." *Africa* 65(4): 506-523.

November 13: Civil society and democracy

*Tripp, Aili Mari Tripp. 1994. "Gender, Political Participation, and the Transformation of Associational Life in Uganda and Tanzania." *African Studies Review* 37(1): 107-131.

*Makumbe, John M. 1998. "Is there a civil society in Africa?" *International Affairs* 74(2): 205-217.

November 15: BOOK QUIZ, Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Matigari* (read entire book)

The Dynamics of Political Transition

November 20: Political liberalization since the 1990s (Kenya)

Thomson, *An Introduction to African Politics*, Chapter 11 and Kenya case study (pp. 23-28)

*Howard, Marc Morjé, and Philip Roessler. 2006. "Liberalizing Electoral Outcomes in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2): 365-381.

November 27: PAPER DUE, The mixed record of democratization in Africa

*Lindberg, Staffan. 2006. "The Surprising Significance of African Elections." *Journal of Democracy* 17(1): 139-151.

*Fjelde, Hanne, and Kristine Höglund. 2014. "Electoral Institutions and Electoral Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa." *British Journal of Political Science* 46(2): 297-320.

November 29: DEBATE #4 on anti-homosexuality legislation in Africa (Teams G & H)

*Cheney, Kristen. 2012. "Locating Neocolonialism, 'Tradition,' and Human Rights in Uganda's 'Gay Death Penalty.'" *African Studies Review* 55(2): 77-95.

December 4: Discussion: What factors influence electoral outcomes in Africa?

Group 1: *Posner, Daniel. 2007. "Regime Change and Ethnic Cleavages in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 40(11): 1302-1327.

Group 2: *Conroy-Krutz, Jeffrey, Devra C. Moehler, and Rosario Aguilar. 2016. "Partisan Cues and Vote Choice in New Multiparty Systems." *Comparative Political Studies* 49(1): 3-35.

Group 3: *Lindberg, Staffan I. and Minion K.C. Morrison. 2008. "Are African Voters Really Ethnic or Clientelistic? Survey Evidence from Ghana." *Political Science Quarterly* 123(1): 95-122.

December 11: FINAL EXAM (available on Canvas during exam time 2:00-4:30 p.m.)

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:

You are all adults and will be treated as such. In return, you are expected to behave as adults and to conduct yourself in a professional manner. This includes addressing the professor appropriately, using proper grammar and punctuation in your emails, and treating one another with respect. Examples of unprofessional behavior include but are not limited to: leaving your phone on during class, texting during class, leaving class once it has started (unless it is an absolute emergency), arriving late to class, and emailing the professor as if you were sending a text message to a friend. As adults, you can determine legitimate reasons to miss class; I do not get into the business of determining excused versus unexcused absences. Instead, you are given two "personal days" during the term to use as you wish; any additional absences after these two will be penalized.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of the [UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity](#). This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to "F." Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please send me your accommodation letter as early as possible in the semester. You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss the accommodations outlined in your letter. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 (Fretwell 230).

COUNSELING CENTER:

The Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, and consultative services at no charge to students. Students come to counseling to get help for a variety of concerns, including anxiety, symptoms of depression, and relationship issues. To make an initial appointment with a counselor, call 704-687-0311 or stop by CAPS in the building behind the Student Health Center. This first session will help you assess your needs with a counselor and make a plan for how best to address your concerns. CAPS also offers outreach programs including prevention, awareness, and education about mental health treatment.