

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
School of Arts & Sciences  
**Department of History & Government**

**GOVT 251-001: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF AFRICA (3 Credits)**

**Instructor:** Dr. William B. Lewis

**Contact Phone:** (301) 860-3602

**Office:** MLK Bldg., Room 0202

**E-Mail Address:** [wlewis@bowiestate.edu](mailto:wlewis@bowiestate.edu)

**Off. Hrs:** M 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00-4:00 pm

W 1:00-3:00 p.m.

F By Appointment

I. **THE PREREQUISITES:** GOVT 130 or permission of the instructor.

II. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is a study of the government and politics of selected nations in Africa. Though the emphasis will be on sub-Saharan Africa, the dominant themes will include the pre-and post-colonial era, political organizations, political participation, ideologies and nationalism.

III. **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Tordoff, William. *Government and Politics in Africa* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2002.

Edge, Wayne. *Global Studies: Africa* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw-Hill Press. 2008.

**Other Readings:**

Students will be required to stay abreast of current events on Africa. The following news sources are useful:

- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) website via [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk), and click on "Africa"
- Newspapers-*The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*
- All-African News Group via <http://allAfrica.com>

IV. **KNOWLEDGE-BASES:**

- Understand the history, issues, conditions and problems associated with Africa's pre and post-colonial experience.
- Study the development and impact of nationalism
- Examine Africa's post-independence successes and challenges.

V. **STUDENT OUTCOMES:** The course is designed to enable students to

1. Understand the development of Africa prior to colonialism;
2. Study the impact of colonialism in Africa;
3. Examine Africa's post independent challenges and crises;
4. Develop a critical understanding of the continent's regional groupings;
5. Study selected issues in contemporary African politics: economic development, governance, and conflicts;
6. Make use of technology through class assignments; and
7. Write a term paper on a topic related to Africa.

VI. **CURRICULUM THEMES:**

- Academic Scholar: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Effective Practitioner: Objectives 6, 7
- Technological Applications: Objective 6
- Multiple Forms of Assessment: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Special Population Perspectives: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Multicultural & Global Perspectives: Objectives 2, 3, 4, 5
- Reflective Practitioner: Objectives 2, 5, 7
- Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

VII. **INSTRUCTIONAL MODES:** Methods of instruction and activities for the course would include:

- Lectures that aim to illuminate the major terms, concepts and themes in the readings;
- Documentaries and videos to explain and discuss certain selected issues, topics and/or problems;
- Written assignments and presentations that require critical analysis; and
- Active learning through students rigorous participation and class discussions.

VIII. **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:**

A) Attendance:

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually.
2. Students are required to sign the attendance roll at each class session. A record of the attendance will be maintained throughout the semester.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to make-up all work missed during any period of absence.
4. The University's rule states that "a student may be advised by the

instructor to withdraw from a course for excessive absences. Five (5) or more hours of unexcused absences before the final date for withdrawal may result in the student's receiving a grade of 'F' for the course."

B) Examinations and Term Paper(s):

1. Examinations will be given based on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up examinations, except in extenuating circumstances such as death of a relative, child birth, auto accident, etc.
2. The submission of a term paper at a specified date.
2. Class Participation: Students will be required to participate in class discussions. Each student will be assigned specific readings and requested to lead in the discussion(s).

**IX. STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES:**

A) Methods of Evaluation:

Examinations, term papers, and class participation will be used in evaluating the performance of students in this course.

1. Students will be given three unit examinations. The lowest unit score will be dropped in the computation of the final grade.
2. Students will be required to take the final examination as scheduled.
3. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled.

B) Term Papers:

1. Each student will be required to write a term paper on a topic related to Africa. No two students can write on the same topic.
2. The paper will be no more than six pages in length, typed, double-spaced with excellent organization, and proofread.
3. A minimum of six references is required, excluding the text and internet sources.
4. The use of footnotes or endnotes to document sources is required.
5. The paper must include a bibliography page consistent with the manual of style for writing within the discipline.
6. An outline of the paper is required.

7. Students will be required to give an oral presentation of their paper. Oral presentations will be evaluated as follows:

- Clarity of thesis statement = 5%
  - Organization and coherence of presentation = 15%
- Total = 20%

8. Students who participate in the annual Model African Union (AU) Conference, at Howard University, in February 2011, may submit a written summary of their experiences in lieu of the term paper. It should be noted that citations are required in the AU paper.

9. Term paper procedures and deadlines as follows:

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
A) Selection of a topic	February 11, 2011
B) Submission of Outline	February 18, 2011
C) Submission of the First Draft	March 14, 2011
D) Submission of the Final Paper	April 14, 2011

**Note:** Rules for deadlines will strictly be enforced!

10. Plagiarism: Any plagiarism will result in an “F” grade for the course. This includes copying materials from the internet or other sources without proper citations.

11. Grading the Papers: The term papers will be graded as follows:

A.	Thesis Statement (with clarity, concept and definitions)	10%
B.	Organization and Coherence (mechanics such as paragraphing, sentence structure, proper grammar, correct use of words/language)	20%
C)	Critical Thinking and Analysis (ability to synthesize and make certain inferences based on contextual relationships)	30%
D)	Depth of Research (literature review, citations)	30%
E)	Citations’ Format (endnotes, footnotes, bibliography)	10%
		100%

11. Grading Scale & Distribution of Percentages

i)	First Unit Examination	20%
ii)	Second Unit Examination	20%
iii)	Final Examination	20%
iv)	Term Paper	20%
v)	Oral Presentation	10%
vi)	Class Participation	10%

-----  
Total: 100%

12. The numerical equivalence or letter grades are as follows:
- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 90-100:         | A |
| 80-89:          | B |
| 70-79:          | C |
| 60-69:          | D |
| Score below 60: | F |

- Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.
- Instructor reserves the right to modify the organization of the course content.
- Instructor may adjust the grading scale in the computation of the final grade.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND UNITS OF INSTRUCTION

Weeks & Dates	Topics & Required Reading Assignments
Weeks 1-2	<p>A) <b><u>African: An Overview</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 1- “Introduction: African Politics Since Independence”</li> <li>• Global Studies, “Africa: Looking for a Renaissance”</li> <li>• Central Africa: Map</li> </ul> <p>B) <b><u>Pre-Colonial Africa</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “How Africa Developed before the Coming of the Europeans-Up to the Fifteenth Century” in Walter Rodney’s <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i>. Washington, D.C.: Howard University, 1972.</li> <li>• “The Medieval Empires of the Western Sudan” in T. A. Osae &amp; S. N. Nwabara, <i>A Short History of Africa: AD 1000-18000</i>. London: Hodder &amp; Stoughton, 1968.</li> <li>• Adu Boahen, <i>Topics in West African History</i>. London: Longman Group Ltd., 1966. (<b>Recommended</b>)</li> <li>• East Africa: Map</li> <li>• Video- “The Africans: A Triple Heritage” by Ali Mazrui</li> </ul>
Weeks 3-4	<p><b>First Unit Exam:</b> February 16, 2011</p> <p>C) Colonialism in Africa</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) European Impact: Indirect Rule</li> <li>2) The Conflict of Cultures</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 2, “Colonialism and the African Impact”</li> <li>• Peter Ekeh, “Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: Theoretical Statement,” <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1975), pp. 91-112</li> <li>• Kwame Nkrumah, <i>Africa Must Unite</i></li> <li>• Kwame Nkrumah, <i>Neo-Colonialism: The Last State of Imperialism</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V. I. Lenin, <i>Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism</i></li> <li>• Walter Rodney, <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i></li> <li>• North Africa: Map</li> </ul>
Weeks 5-7	<p>D) Nationalism and Independence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The impact of nationalist movements on colonial rule</li> <li>2. The attainment of independence</li> <li>3. Post-independence challenges and crises</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 3, “Nationalism and the Transfer of Power”</li> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 4, “State and Society”</li> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 5, “Political Parties”</li> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 6, “Administration”</li> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 7, “The Military” and</li> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 8, “Political Liberalisation and Economic Reform”</li> <li>• Basil Davidson, <i>Modern Africa</i>, Chapters 9-16</li> <li>• Southern Africa: Map</li> </ul>
Weeks 8-9	<p><b>Second Unit Exam:</b> March 16, 2011</p> <p>E) Regional Groupings and African Unity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Initial Sub-groupings</li> <li>2. Pan-Africanism and the Organization of African Unity (OAU)</li> <li>3. Formation of African Union (AU)</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tordoff, Chapter 9, “Regional Groupings and the Organization of African Unity”</li> <li>• West Africa: Map</li> </ul>
Weeks 10-15	<p>F) Selected Issues in Contemporary African Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Democracy and Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William G. Moseley, “Is Multi-Party Democracy Taking Hold in Africa?” <i>Taking Sides: Clashing Views on African Issues</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.. Iowa: McGraw-Hill, 2007.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. AIDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 13: ABC’s of AIDS Prevention, <i>Global Studies</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>3. African Economies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Lewis, “Growth without Prosperity in Africa,” <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 19 (2009): 95-109</li> </ul> <p><b>Third Unit Exam:</b> April 13, 2011</p> <p>4. Wars and Border Disputes: The Case of Darfur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 6, “The Politics of Death,” <i>Global Studies</i></li> </ul> <p>5. Political Crisis in Cote d’Ivoire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeanne Toungara, “Ethnicity and Political Crisis in Cote d’Ivoire,” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> (July 2001): 63-72</li> </ul> <p>6. Recent Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections in Sudan</li> <li>• Tunisia’s Revolution</li> </ul>
	<p><b>FINAL EXAMINATION: Friday, May 13, 2011, @ 1:00-2:50 p.m.</b></p>

<b>Suggested Topics</b>	
1.	<b>The Impact of Colonialism on the Development of Africa</b>
2.	<b>The Role of the Military in African Politics</b>
3.	<b>The Causes of Economic Stagnation in Africa</b>
4.	<b>China's Foreign Policy in Africa</b>
5.	<b>Ethnic Conflicts and the Threat to the Sovereignty of African States</b>
6.	<b>African Women in Politics</b>
7.	<b>The Successes and Failures of the One Party System in Africa</b>
8.	<b>The Politics of Unity in Africa</b>
9.	<b>The Politics of Democratization in Africa</b>
10.	<b>Sudan and the Comprehensive Peace Accord</b>

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ake, Claude. (1996). *Democracy and Development in Africa*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.
- Chazan, Naomi et al. (1999). *Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.
- Cooper, Frederick. (2002). *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Dowder, Richard. (2009). *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Herbst, Jeffrey. I. (2000). *States and Power in Africa: Contemporary Lessons in Authority and Control*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
- Hyden, Goran. (2006). *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Meredith, Martin. (2006). *The Fate of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*. New York: Public Affairs.
- Moseley, William. (2007). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on African Issues* (2n ed.). Iowa: McGraw-Hill.
- Nkrumah, Kwame. (1965). *Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1963). *Africa Must Unite*. New York: Frederick A. Praeger.
- Schraeder, Peter J. (2000). *African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.
- Thomas, Alex. (2010). *An Introduction to African Politics* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Routledge.
- Widner, Jennifer A. (ed.). (1994). *Economic Change and Political Liberalization in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press.
- Young, Tom (ed.). (2003). *Readings in African Politics*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press.