

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 142: African Politics, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Sabrina L. Pinnell
Office Location:	Clark 404D
Telephone:	Contact online via email ¹
Email:	Sabrina.Pinnell@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M W 9-10 on Zoom; ² other times possible by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M W 4:30-5:45
Classroom:	Online via Zoom session, synchronous
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing or instructor consent; Pols 2 and 4 recommended

Course Description

Basic concepts, theoretical perspectives, and information to understand the evolution of contemporary African states. Begins with a study of colonialism, and proceeds to nationalism, personalistic and military rule, development, democratization, and inter-state and civil war.

Course Format

For Fall 2020, this class is completely online and synchronous, using Canvas and Zoom as primary platforms. Students should have access to a computer capable of accessing Canvas at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You will need to use your student ID information to log on, and you can access the class webpage on your Dashboard. For Zoom, you should have a computer with a camera and a working microphone so you can participate fully in classes. Internet access is needed for both. Please see the Class Introduction module on Canvas for additional

¹. I will not be having office hours in my office and will rarely be on campus due to SJSU' safety regulations. If you need to contact me via telephone, please contact the Political Science Office in Clark 471 at . They can then contact me.

². Zoom link for office hours: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/94631320779?pwd=QWIZTUNIYVBRN3RmZVdnQlVzanBhUT09>

Password: 865253. Telephone:

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 946 3132 0779, Password: 865253

information. For help with using Canvas, see the Canvas Students Resources page at http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources).

In addition, you are required to view films outside of class this semester via the Tubi and Kanopy platforms online.³ You need access to a computer and internet access to view the films.

Office hours will be on Zoom, either the regularly scheduled hours on M W 9-10 a.m., or appointments if necessary at other times. You will find a link for the office hours on Canvas. Additional inquiries or questions can be submitted either via email, or to the FAQ/General Discussion Thread on Canvas. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours, although there may be delays on weekends and holidays.

Department of Political Science Learning Outcomes

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- 2) Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
- 4) Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course-Specific Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand and describe the issues that have affected the ability for African countries to become independent and sovereign states, including the problems created by colonialism, the use of nationalism and community politics, and the evolution of their governments over time;
- 2) Describe the continuing problems African states have faced with regards to personalistic and military rule, the weakness of party politics and democratization, and the demands of class and social factors upon government;
- 3) Outline the progress of African states on economic development, taking into account variations between states in terms of background and history, choice of capitalistic or socialistic development, and the effects of globalization and international aid;
- 4) Understand and describe connections and institutions that affect regional African politics;
- 5) Understand and describe the role of African countries in international politics, from the Cold War to the current era;

³. Tubi (<https://tubitv.com>) is a free online video service that has ads. Kanopy is available to patrons of King Library and can be accessed via the King Library Website under Menu>Online Screening Services. See Canvas under Modules for a video on how to access Kanopy.

- 6) Describe the current problems African countries face politically, in both the domestic and international realms.

These objectives will be fulfilled through a combination of in-class discussion, reviews of films that apply to these objectives, three essay exams, and a final essay exam that is comprehensive for the

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There are two required textbooks for this class: Goran Hyden's African Politics in Comparative Perspective, 2nd edition (New York: Cambridge, 2013, ISBN: 9781107651418) and Alex Thomson's An Introduction to African Politics, 4th Edition (London: Routledge, 2010, ISBN: 9781138782846). The Thomson is available at Spartan Bookstore; the Hyden is available online as an electronic book via the King Library website (link: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=1042537>). There is also an earlier edition of the Thomson in the Library, but the 4th edition has been updated with more recent information on DRC, Zimbabwe and other countries that would be useful – I suggest purchasing the text.

Other Readings

Other readings will either be available via the King Library website (see Schedule for links) or on Canvas under "Files." *All readings for this class are required readings unless indicated as optional in the Schedule.*

The Schedule has all of the readings for each major topic of the course. The specific sections of the reading you should have completed before a particular class will be listed in the Module for that week. Please see Canvas under Modules for both the specific sections you need to read as well as questions to help you focus before we meet in class.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Evaluation in this class will be as follows:

Syllabus and Netiquette Quiz/Upload		10 points
In-Class Participation		40 points
Movie Reviews	8 out of 9 x 20 points =	160 points
Exams 1-3	3 x 60 points =	180 points
Final Exam		<u>120 points</u>
		510 points

Syllabus and Netiquette Quiz/Upload: To verify that you have read the syllabus and Netiquette materials for the course as well as can upload materials to Canvas, I am asking you to complete this activity in the first week. Please see the Module for the first week for more information. This activity is worth 10 points for answering the quiz questions correctly (out of three attempts) and then uploading a file to Canvas under Assignments. You have from August 19th-24th to complete it.

In-Class Participation: Given that this is an online course and students may have internet access issues, Zoom lectures will be recorded and posted to Canvas after each class. However, this does not mean you do not have to attend class; there will be discussion of the readings as well as films during these class sessions. I will be using Zoom to verify attendance for this reason. If you are unable to attend class on a specific day, let the instructor know via email and the reason; illness or emergencies are excused. Given that this is a synchronous

class, you should not plan activities that naturally conflict with the class time. Class participation will affect 40 points of your class grade; if you are absent for more than 20% of the class (six days) due to unexcused circumstances, I will be deducting half of the participation grade (20 points).⁴

Movie Reviews: This is a four-unit class, which means additional independent student work. For 142, you will fulfill this by viewing nine films this semester outside of class, and then writing a review of 1-2 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font and 1” margins) of the movie. This review will verify your viewing the film as well as help you put the film in context with what we are discussing in the class, and prepare you to discuss the movie when we meet on Wednesdays. With that in mind, you should plan on covering the following in your review:

- 1) In a paragraph, summarize the major events/themes of the movie;
- 2) In about a paragraph, explain how the movie is connected to what we’re discussing in class that week;
- 3) Give your impressions/opinion of the film in a separate paragraph.

The films we are watching this semester are the following:

*Roots of African Culture*⁵ -- Tomaselli, K. Chapman, M. (Director). (2003). Documentary Educational Resources.

Luumumba -- Peck, R. (Director). (2002). Zeitgeist Films.

Homecoming -- Maake, N. (Director). (2005). ArtMattan Films.

My Neighbor My Killer -- Aghion, A. (Director). (2009). Anne Aghion Films.

An African Election: Democracy in Ghana -- Merz, J. (Director). (2011). Hybrid Entertainment.

Nakom -- Norris, K. Pittman, T. (Director). (2016). Film Movement.

Africa: Open for Business -- Pineau, C. (Director). (2005). Carol Pineau.

Owino -- Razzaque, J. (Director). (2017). Feelsales.

Ezra -- Aduaka, N. (Director). (2007). California Newsreel.

Guangzhou Dream Factory -- Badgley, C. (Director). (2016). Raymar Educational Films.

The reason for using film in this class is to give context to the issues we’re discussing in class, and most importantly – to bring perspectives that are uniquely African to the class. You might have noticed that both textbooks are not written by authors from this part of the world. The same could be said for many of the other readings. This is not uncommon in a sub-field of comparative politics, but it also highlights one of the major issues with African politics, that it is a field often dominated by people outside of the region. While some of the documentaries are produced by Non-African filmmakers, I’ve done my best to choose films that have events-as-they-are-happening, without too much narration. There are also several dramas included here to present issues such as civil war and development from a more regional perspective. It is my hope that this will help your understanding of the issues in the class in a way that written materials cannot.

While I require you to view all films this semester, I am only asking for eight reviews; this is to give you a cushion in case you cannot do a review in a particular week. The eight reviews are worth 20 points each for a total of 160 points of your course grade.

Exams 1-3: These will be essay exams, with a question given to you on the day of the test at 4:30 p.m. on the test day (see Schedule) with a 24-hour period to complete it; it should be uploaded to the prompt under Canvas>Assignments by no later than 4:29 p.m. the following day. Each exam should be 3-4 pages (750-1000 words), double-spaced, 12 point font with 1” margins and page numbers. There will be a rubric at the Assignment prompt, but you may also want to see the handout appended to the Syllabus on format and

⁴. Obviously illness, caring for family or other prolonged emergencies will be excused. But if you are unable to attend large sections of the class, this will affect your ability to complete the other class requirements.

⁵. This one will not be reviewed – it is for information purposes only.

requirements. Each essay will be worth 60 points for content and writing, for a total of 180 points of your course grade.

Final Exam: This will be on December 9th, starting at 2:45 p.m. and finishing within 24 hours at 2:44 p.m. on December 10th. Like Exams 1-3, it will be essay – but you will have a choice of 2 out of 3 essay questions to answer, each 3-4 pages and following the essay exam format. This exam will also be comprehensive for the course, and I will be giving out a list of possible questions in advance for you to study.

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), “[s]uccess in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” Our course load is based on four units, so this means that students will be expected to spend approximately nine hours a week on course material, exclusive of class time.

Final Examination or Evaluation

“Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.” Our final exam is on December 9th and will be an online essay exam with two essays. You are expected to complete this as scheduled; there will be no extensions or alternate dates offered unless you are excused due to emergency. **Note:** If you have more than two exams scheduled on the test day, you may be able to take a makeup, but must set this up with the instructor by November 16th. All makeups will be on the formal exam makeup day of December 16th.

Grading Information

This course is based upon a point system, with percentage of points earned on assignments and exams corresponding to the following grades: 97-100% is an A plus, 93-96% is an A, 90-92% is an A minus, 87-89% is a B plus, 83-86% is a B, 80-82% is a B minus, etc. Keep track of your points over the course of the semester as noted above, and you should have an idea how you stand in the class.

Canvas will be used to record grades for the class, but you will note that the total grade feature on Canvas has been suspended; this is to minimize confusion, given that percentages are not accurate until the class is completed.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Extra Credit Policy

Per Academic Senate policy (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S09-7.pdf>), any extra credit opportunities must be extended to all students in the class; this means that individual appeals for extra credit may not be considered apart from the entire class. Students may not request individual extra assignments for additional credit.

There are currently no extra credit assignments scheduled for the class.

Internet Failure Policy

Because class is online and away from campus this semester, your instructor is relying largely on home internet resources, as are most of you, to complete class tasks. SJSU does not have a formal policy on what to do if there is an internet failure on the instructor's end or on yours, so I am creating one here:

- 1) If internet access fails on the instructor's end, she must notify students that she is unavailable for immediate contact regarding class resources or materials, and that email replies will be delayed until the internet resumes. Notification will be through email, either from the instructor herself or the Political Science Office.
- 2) Power failures or shut-offs due to emergencies may also affect internet coverage. The instructor will do her best to notify students if there is such an emergency, and whether or not the class tasks will be adjusted accordingly.
- 3) If a lecture is scheduled during the date and time the internet interruption occurs, the instructor will post the lecture information for students online when possible. This could be a Zoom recording of the lecture, slides, or whatever materials are needed to make up for the lost session.
- 4) Students may also lose internet coverage at times in the class, due to failure, power shut-off or other emergency. In such situations, if the lack of internet service will affect completing class tasks, the student needs to notify the instructor as soon as possible in case adjustments are needed. This is particularly important in cases of quizzes, exams or assignments. Note that any adjustments are at the instructor's discretion and will depend on the specific circumstances of the emergency.
- 5) While 4) addresses unforeseen emergency situations, students may not use *anticipated* internet interruptions as a reason for extensions on completing class tasks. Students should make arrangements at quiz, exam and other times to complete those tasks if they know ahead of time that their internet coverage will be interrupted. This could involve using internet coverage in another location, for example. If you as a student feel that you may not be able to fulfill class requirements ahead of time due to internet issues, you should contact the instructor to discuss options.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to come prepared to class and communicate online in a civil and respectful manner, particularly to their fellow students. With that in mind, students should avoid any colloquial language, characterizations, remarks or outright slurs that pertain to groups in the abstract or to their fellow students in particular. Any remarks made in ways that attack a student's personality or physical characteristics that have nothing to do with his or her actual points in a discussion will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave if this occurs. Please review the Netiquette information on Canvas for additional information.

Students should treat Zoom as a public forum during this semester and act accordingly. You do not have to have the sound on during Zoom class sessions unless there is a discussion. You should have your camera on if it is available. Disruptive behavior during the class sessions may result in your being ejected from the session.

I will be recording class sessions but will not be posting these on Zoom; recordings are to verify attendance and may be used to aid students who cannot attend a specific class. If you miss a class for an excused reason, I am willing to share a recording.

Collaboration and Source Use Policy

The University has a clear policy on Academic Integrity, but I feel that some issues need to be made more explicit within the body of this syllabus.

The following actions on papers could be considered plagiarism:

- 1) Copying words or passages of text from an in-class (lecture, discussion, slides, text or assigned reading) source without proper quotation and citation;
- 2) Using ideas, definitions or arguments from in-class sources, even if paraphrased or summarized, without proper citation;
- 3) Copying words or passages of text from sources outside of class (including electronic sources) without proper quotation and citation;
- 4) Using ideas, definitions or arguments sources outside of class, even if paraphrased or summarized, without proper citation.

Per the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy, you may not submit work done in another course, in whole or in part, for evaluation in this course without prior instructor approval. This includes your own writing for another course – that is actually a form of plagiarism as well as cheating.

Unless the instructor explicitly approves collaboration with other students on work, such as a group assignment in class, you are not permitted to collaborate with other students to complete assignments or exams.

If there are issues with source use or possible cheating, it is the policy of SJSU for the instructor to have a face-to-face meeting with a student⁶ to clarify the issue and particulars before any decisions are made about possible sanctions. Serious infractions must be reported to the University per the Academic Integrity Policy for recording purposes, and possible administrative action.

To sum up – the University is serious about cheating and plagiarism, and so is your instructor. If you are concerned about how to cite and use sources, come to office hours, consult the Library sources on how to deal with these issues (<http://library.sjsu.edu/research-support/research>), or one of the writing centers for assistance.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. Please peruse these policies at the link, which cover academic integrity, religious holidays and recording information in class. The guidelines for accommodations for disabilities are also included under the AEC link.

Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus, including due dates for evaluation instruments such as exams or papers may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.

⁶. Obviously, online this semester. But this will be outside of class time.

Pols 142 / African Politics. Fall 2020, Course Schedule

Note: Please see the modules on Canvas for activities tied to a specific week or course session.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/19	<p><u>Course Introduction</u> Hyden, Ch. 1 (pp. 5-22)</p> <p>Thomson, Ch. 2 (pp. 7-10)</p> <p>Syllabus/Netiquette Quiz and Upload Verification (Online, due 8/24)</p>
1	8/24-9/2	<p><u>Part I: Colonial Africa, Liberation, and Initial Consolidation</u></p> <p>Hochschild, Adam (1998). "From Florida to Berlin" and "The First Heretic," in <u>King Leopold's Ghost</u>. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1998, 101-114 (on Canvas)</p> <p>Hyden, Chs. 2-3</p> <p>Thomson, Ch. 2 (remaining)</p> <p>Films: <i>Roots of African Culture</i> (Kanopy) and <i>Luumumba</i> (Tubi) – Review of <i>Luumumba</i> due on Canvas September 1st by 11:59 p.m.</p>
	9/7	Labor Day – NO CLASS
2	9/9	Exam 1 on September 9th – 10th, completed and uploaded to Canvas by 4 p.m. on the 10th
2	9/14-9/30	<p><u>Part II: Domestic Politics</u> Hyden, Chs. 4-5; 9</p> <p>Thomson, Chs. 3-7</p> <p>Nzongola-Ntalaja, Georges. (2017). "Major Challenges of Governance in Africa Today," in E.N. Sahle, ed., <u>Democracy, Constitutionalism and Politics in Africa</u>. Contemporary African Political Economy Series, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 101-129, SpringerLink. (On Canvas)</p> <p>Sahle, Eunice N. (2017). "Promoting Gender Equality in the Era of Democracy and Constitutionalism in Southern Africa," in E.N. Sahle, ed., <u>Democracy, Constitutionalism and Politics in Africa</u>. Contemporary Political Economy Series, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 241-263. SpringerLink. (On Canvas)</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Films: <i>Homecoming</i> (Kanopy, review due 9/15), <i>My Neighbor My Killer</i> (Kanopy, review due 9/22), <i>An African Election: Democracy in Ghana</i> (Kanopy, review due 9/29)
3	10/5	Exam 2 on October 5th-6th, completed and uploaded to Canvas by 4 p.m. on the 6th
3	10/7-10/28	<p><u>Part III: Development and Political Economy</u> Hyden, Chs. 6-7, 10</p> <p>Thomson, Chs. 9, 10</p> <p>Ake, Claude. (1996). "A Confusion of Agendas," in <u>Democracy and Development in Africa</u>. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 18-41 (on Canvas)</p> <p>Harrison, Graham. (2010). "Neoliberalism in Africa, Neoliberalism and Africa," and "Neoliberal Practice in Africa," <u>Neoliberal Africa: The Impact of Global Social Engineering</u>, 8-42, 104-124. London, UK: Zed Books. ProQuest Ebook Central. (Link: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=530470)</p> <p>Veseth, Michael. (2010). "Grassroots Globaloney," in <u>Globaloney 2.0: The Crash of 2008 and the Future of Globalization</u>. Plymouth, UK: Rowman & Littlefield, Publishers, 121-140 (on Canvas)</p> <p>Films: <i>Nakom</i> (Kanopy, review due 10/13), <i>Africa: Open for Business</i> (Kanopy, review due 10/20), <i>Owino</i> (Kanopy, review due 10/27)</p>
4	11/2	Exam 3 on November 2nd-3rd, completed and uploaded to Canvas by 4 p.m. on the 3rd
4	11/4-12/7	<p><u>Part IV: Interregional and International Politics</u> Thomson, Ch. 8</p> <p>Chazan, Naomi, Peter Lewis, Robert Mortimer, Donald Rothchild and Stephen John Stedman. (1999). "Inter-African Relations," in <u>Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa</u>. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 361-419 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Phillips, John. (2018). "Who's in Charge of Sino-African Resource Politics? Situating African State Agency in Ghana," <u>African Affairs</u> 118, 470 (2018): 101-124.</p> <p>Films: <i>Ezra</i> (Kanopy, review due 11/5), <i>Guangzhou Dream Factory</i> (Kanopy, review due 12/1)</p>
	11/11	Veterans' Day – NO CLASS
	11/25	NO CLASS due to Thanksgiving

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	12/7	Last Class – any excused work must be submitted to the instructor by 11:59 p.m. on this date, apart from Final Exam
Final Exam	12/9	Online from 2:45 p.m. on December 9th-2:44 p.m. on December 10th