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School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Summer 2019

DIPL 6700 International Relations of African States

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Course Syllabus
International Relations of African States (DIPL 6700)
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University (Summer 2019)

Instructor: Dr. Assefaw Bariagaber
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I. Course Description

This course examines the international relations of African states, narrowly defined. This includes inter-state relations in Africa, and relations between African states and major powers outside of Africa. In addition, relations between African states and other international actors, such as the United Nations and the European Union will be examined. In particular, we will ask whether or not there has been qualitative change in how and to what extent Africa, as a unit, has interacted with influential international actors, and if so, which factors account for the change. Therefore, mapping out the trajectory of the international relations of Africa over the last seventy years will be an important component of the course.

As students of diplomacy you are required to think in terms of bridging the gap between the theoretical and practical issues related to the international relations of African states. To this end, each student will write and present a well-developed research paper (that is, a paper with both academic and policy significance) on any topic related to the international relations of African states, including relations between two African countries, or between an African country and a country from outside of Africa. You may also choose a topic that examines a regional grouping and its/their relations with actors outside of Africa. Prior approval of the topic by the instructor is required. The class sessions will conclude with PowerPoint presentations of students' research.

II. Required Readings

Each student must make online searches to access copies of articles for personal use. The instructor will make copies book chapters for student use. IT IS REQUIRED THAT STUDENTS READ EACH OF THE ARTICLES, as indicated in Section V below. There is no required book for the course.

III. Course Activities

- lectures and class discussions
- student-led review and critique of published materials
- submission of review and critique
- research paper
- research paper PPT presentation

IV. Course Requirements and Grading

Class sessions will be conducted in the form of seminars and will combine lectures, presentations, and discussions of assigned readings by the instructor and students. The most important component of the course is the production of a well-researched papers. Therefore, each day there will be 30 minutes, one-on-one discussion with interested students. Students will receive grades based on the following:

1. A student-led class presentation and critique of a published article carrying a maximum of 10 points. Each student is required to write and distribute 1-2 pages long outline of the paper. The instructor will assign the student the article for presentation on the first day of classes;
2. A well-written, four pages long summary and in-depth critique of an article published in refereed journals to be submitted to the instructor in a hard copy during the next class session. The summary must provide a clear and comprehensive summary of the article such that any scholar may not need to read the actual article to grasp the contents of the paper. Students are also required to provide an informed critique of the article. This will carry a maximum of 20 points.
3. A PowerPoint presentation of the final paper carrying a maximum total of 15 points to occur on dates as indicated in the course schedule below.
4. A well-developed research paper carrying a maximum total of 40 points due on the date indicated in the course schedule below.
5. Class participation carrying a maximum total of 15 points. You are required to come to class with questions or comments on the day the paper is presented. Participation is measured in terms of the questions/comments of a student to make the discussion informative (and the class lively).

Final course grade will be awarded according to the following scale:

93-100 = A
89 - 92 = A-
85 - 88 = B+
81 - 84 = B
77 - 80 = B-
73 - 76 = C+
69 - 72 = C
65 - 68 = C-
≤ 64 = F

Remarks

1. It is very important that the four-page summary/critique of a referred article is submitted on **time in hard copy**. The instructor will deduct significant points and/or reject any project not handed on time. Also, failure to make the class presentation on the assigned date will result in a zero point for the presentation.
2. It is very important that the final term research paper is completed and handed on **time, both in hard copy and electronically** (as an email attachment). The instructor will

deduct significant points and/or reject any project not handed on time. Moreover, each student is required to discuss the topic of his/her proposal with the instructor to seek approval by June 25, 2019. It is very important to note that failure to make class presentations on the assigned date will result in a zero point for the presentation. Indeed, it is very difficult to reschedule the term research paper PowerPoint presentation *because it is a class presentation*.

3. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here:

<https://www.shu.edu/student-life/upload/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

I encourage each student to submit the paper to *SafeAssign* to check for any plagiarism. The instructor may submit the electronic copy to *SafeAssign* to check for a possible plagiarism.

4. The term research paper will make an in-depth study of a topic to be selected by the student and approved by the instructor. The length of the paper, of course, depends on the issue(s) raised: therefore, there is no set limit on the length. However, it is preferred that the paper is between 20 and 23 double-spaced pages, with font size of 12, and a one-inch margin on all sides. The instructor will give more guidance on the research paper in due course.

5. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and will be held responsible for materials covered in class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. A high rate of attendance will be an asset in determining borderline grades.

6. Policy on Incompletes: Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

7. It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities

Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

8. Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are posted in the course Blackboard.

9. It is very important that students maintain high class etiquette.

V. Course Schedule and Readings

June 11—

Course syllabus, requirements, grading, readings, etc.

General Introduction

International relations and foreign policy of states

Scope of study

Contextual background on the international relations of African states

Talton, B. (n.d) The Challenge of Decolonization in Africa. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (Lecture by the instructor).

June 12 –

Young, C. 2009. The Heritage of Colonialism, in Harbeson, J. and D. Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order*, Boulder: Westview Press.

The New Scramble for Africa, *The Economist*, March 9th 2019.

Africa and Geopolitics: Choices on the Continent, *The Economist*, March 9th 2019.

June 13 –

Organization of African OAU Charter

Available at: [http://www.africa-](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/text/OAU_Charter_1963.pdf)

[union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/text/OAU_Charter_1963.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/text/OAU_Charter_1963.pdf)

Zartman, W. 1967. Africa as a Subordinate System in International Relations, *International Organization*, 21 (3): 545-564.

Shaw, T. 1975. The Political Economy of African International Relations, *A Journal of Opinion*, 5(4): 29-38.

June 14 --

African Union: Constitutive Act of the African Union. Available at:

http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/AboutAU/Constitutive_Act_en.htm

Murithi, T. 2008. The African Union's Evolving Role in Peace Operations: The African Union Mission in Burundi, the African Union Mission in Sudan and the African Union Mission in Somalia, *African Security Studies*, 17(1): 69-82.

June 17 –

Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union
<https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-relating-establishment-peace-and-security-council-african-union>.

Taylor, I. 2013. Africa's Place in International Relations: Domestic Politics, Global Linkages, in M. Carbone, ed., *The European Union in Africa: Incoherent Policies, Asymmetrical Partnership, Declining Relevance?* Manchester: Manchester University Press.

June 18 –

Franke, B. 2007. Competing Regionalisms in Africa and the Continent's Emerging Security Architecture. *African Studies Quarterly*, 9(3):31-64.

Edoho, F. Globalization and Marginalization of Africa: Contextualization of China-Africa Relations, *Africa Today*, 58(1): 102-124.

June 19 --

Khadiagala, G. 2009. Euro-African Relations in the Age of Maturity, in Harbeson, J. and D. Rothchild eds., *Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order*, Boulder: Westview Press.

Haastrup, T. 2013. EU as Mentor? Promoting Regionalism as External Practice in EU-Africa Relations. *Journal of European Integration*, 35(7), 785-800.

June 20 – No class

June 21 –

Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want (popular Version, 20 pages long). Available at:
https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf

Schoeman, M. 2011. Of BRICs and Mortar: The Growing Relations between Africa and the Global South, *The International Spectator*, 46(1), 33-51.

Shaw, T. 2015. African Agency? Africa, South Africa and the BRICS, *International Politics*, 52(2): 255-268.

June 24 -- Individual consultation. The instructor will be in his office to discuss and approve student research topic. Please make an appointment! The instructor will allocate about 25 minutes for each student. The instructor may leave at 3:30 if there is no student appointment.

June 25 -- Individual consultation. The instructor will be in his office to discuss and approve student research topic. Please make an appointment! The instructor will allocate about 25 minutes for each student. The instructor may leave at 3:30 if there is no student appointment.

June 26 -- Students prepare PPT for presentation on June 27. The instructor will be in his office to consult with students. Will leave around 3:30 if no student comes to seek help. Better you make appointments!

June 27 -- PowerPoint presentation of research (about 15 minutes). The schedule of presentations will follow the class roster by last name.

Research paper due -- JULY 8 (in lieu of June 28) -- You must drop off the hard copy of the research paper at the instructor's office between 2:30pm - 3:30 pm. Electronic copies must be emailed (as Word attachment) by 7:00 pm.