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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Fall 2022

DIPL 6700 International Relations of African States

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Course Syllabus – Fall 2022
International Relations of African States (DIPL 6700)
School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University

Instructor: Dr. Assefaw Bariagaber

Virtual Office Hours (on Microsoft Teams): Tuesdays, 10:00-10:50am; Thursdays, 10:00-10:50am; Thursdays, 3:30-4:30pm and By APPOINTMENT at other times

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I. Course Description

This course examines international relations of African states, including inter-state relations in Africa and relations between African states and major powers outside of Africa, either bilaterally or multilaterally, and relations between African states/organizations and other international actors, such as the United Nations and the European Union will be examined. In addition, we will interrogate as to 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 African states over the last sixty years will be an important component of the course.

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

II. Required Readings

Each student is required to make online searches (JSTOR and others) to access copies of the articles in the Course Schedule below for personal use. The instructor will make copies of book chapters for student use. IT IS REQUIRED THAT STUDENTS CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTAND EACH OF THE ARTICLES. 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 PPT presentation
- research paper submission

- discussion of international relations of African states, as reported in newspapers and other online outlets.

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. Therefore, please come to class prepared to ask questions, provide comments, and make observations in order to make the class sessions productive. Although critical consumption of knowledge is an important component of the course, perhaps the more important component is the production of a well-researched paper. Students will receive grades based on the following:

1. A student-led PowerPoint (PPT) presentation and critique of a published article (10 points), and submission of a 2-3-page-long, double-spaced *summary and critique* of the same article within 48 hours of the PPT presentation (10 points). The instructor will assign each student the article for presentation in the first few class sessions.
2. A well-written, 3-4 pages long, double-spaced summary and in-depth critique of an article published in refereed journals (and selected by the student) to be submitted, as indicated in the Course Schedule below. The summary and critique must show a clear and comprehensive understanding of the article such that any scholar may not need to read the actual article to grasp the contents of the paper. Guidance on this will be provided at an opportune time (15 points).
3. A PowerPoint presentation of the final paper carrying a maximum total of 15 points, 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 10 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 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. 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.

2. The research paper should 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 at the proper time.
3. It is important that the 3-4 pages summary/critique of a refereed article is submitted on **time in hard copy**. The instructor will deduct 5% of points each day after the due date.
4. It is particularly 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 5% of the total points each day for five days after the due date. The instructor will assign zero points if submitted after 5 days. **Moreover, each student is required to discuss the topic of his/her proposal with the instructor to seek approval by 11/17/2022.**
5. Failure to make class presentations on the assigned date will result in a zero point for the presentation. Please be mindful that it is difficult to reschedule the research paper PowerPoint presentation *because it is a class presentation*.

6. **Disability Services Statement**

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.

7. **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.

8. **Academic Integrity & Dishonesty**

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> and <https://www.shu.edu/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

9. Citation Formats (please use some version of the paragraph below)

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

10. CAPS:

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, **Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.** In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>

11. Resources for academic integrity are on the course Blackboard page.

12. Each student must maintain high class etiquette.

V. Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1 (9/1)

Course syllabus, requirements, grading, readings, etc.

General Introduction

Scope of study -- International relations and foreign policy of states

Contextual background on the international relations of African states

Week 2 (9/8) – Colonial Legacy

A Hopeful Continent, *The Economist*, March 2, 2013.

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

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

Week 3 (9/15) – Africa in the International System a Decade after independence

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.

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

Week 4 (9/22) – African Attempts as a Credible Actor in the International System

Organization of African Unity Charter

Available at: https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7759-file-oau_charter_1963.pdf

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

<https://au.int/en/treaties/constitutive-act-african-union>

Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want (popular Version, about 20 pages long). Available at:

https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf

Week 5 (9/29)– African Solutions to African Problems

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

Williams, P. and Boutellis, A. April 2014. Partnership peacekeeping: Challenges and opportunities in the United Nations–African Union Relationship, *African Affairs*, 113(451), 254–278.

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. Available at: <https://issafrica.s3.amazonaws.com/site/uploads/17NO1MURITHI.PDF>

Week 6 (10/6) – Africa-EU Relations

Kotosopoulos, J. and Mattheis, F. 2018. A contextualization of EU-Africa relations: Trends and drivers from a reciprocal perspective, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 25(4), 445-460. [you need to "request full text" from the authors at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329804342_A_contextualisation_of_EU-Africa_relations_Trends_and_drivers_from_a_reciprocal_perspective]

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.

Nassi, T. 2021. EU external relations with Africa. Available at: https://leuropeunie.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/08_2021.pdf

Week 7 (10/13) – No Class

Instructor will Attend a Professional Conference

Week 8 (10/20) – Africa-EU Relations

Kotosopoulos, J. and Mattheis, F. 2018. A contextualization of EU-Africa relations: Trends and drivers from a reciprocal perspective, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 25(4), 445-460. [you need to "request full text" from the authors at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329804342_A_contextualisation_of_EU-Africa_relations_Trends_and_drivers_from_a_reciprocal_perspective]

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.

Nassi, T. 2021. EU external relations with Africa. Available at: https://leuropeunie.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/08_2021.pdf

Week 9 (10/27) – Africa-Global South Relations

Schoeman, M. 2011. Of BRICs and Mortar: The Growing Relations between Africa and the Global South, *The International Spectator*, 46(1), 33-51. Available at: https://repository.up.ac.za/bitstream/handle/2263/18829/Schoeman_Of%282011%29.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Shaw, T. 2015. African Agency? Africa, South Africa and the BRICS, *International Politics*, 52(2): 445-460. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/ip.2014.48>

Week 10 (11/3) – Africa-China Relations and Africa-U.S. Relations

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

Bodomo, A. 2009. Africa-China Relations: Symmetry, Soft Power and South Africa, *China Review*, 9:2, 169-178. Available at: https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/23462284.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A908144641c6af2593f33a81a9c353f1d&ab_segments=&origin=

Olsen, G. R. 2017. The ambiguity of US foreign policy towards Africa, *Third World Quarterly*, 38:9, 2097-2112. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01436597.2017.1315298?needAccess=true>

Week 11 (11/10) -- Individual consultation – required! The instructor will be in his office to discuss and approve student research topic for the first half of the class (in alphabetical order by last name). The instructor will allocate about 18 minutes for each student.

Submit the 3-4 pages summary/critique of a refereed article of your choice.

Week 12 (11/17) -- Individual consultation – required! The instructor will be in his office to discuss and approve student research topic for the second half of the class (in alphabetical order by last name). The instructor will allocate about 18 minutes for each student.

Deadline for approval of student research topics.

Week 13 (11/24) -- Thanksgiving Day!

Week 14 (12/1) -- PowerPoint presentation of research (about 15 minutes for presentation and 3-4 minutes for Q/A). The schedule of presentations (of the first half of the class) will follow the class roster by last name.

Week 15 (12/8) -- PowerPoint presentation of research (about 15 minutes for presentation and 3-4 minutes for Q/A). The schedule of presentations (of the first half of the class) will follow the class roster by last name.

Week 16 (12/15) -- Research paper due. You must drop off the hard copy of the research paper at the instructor's office (slide under the door) between 5pm and 7pm. Electronic copies must be emailed (as Word attachment) by 7:00 pm.