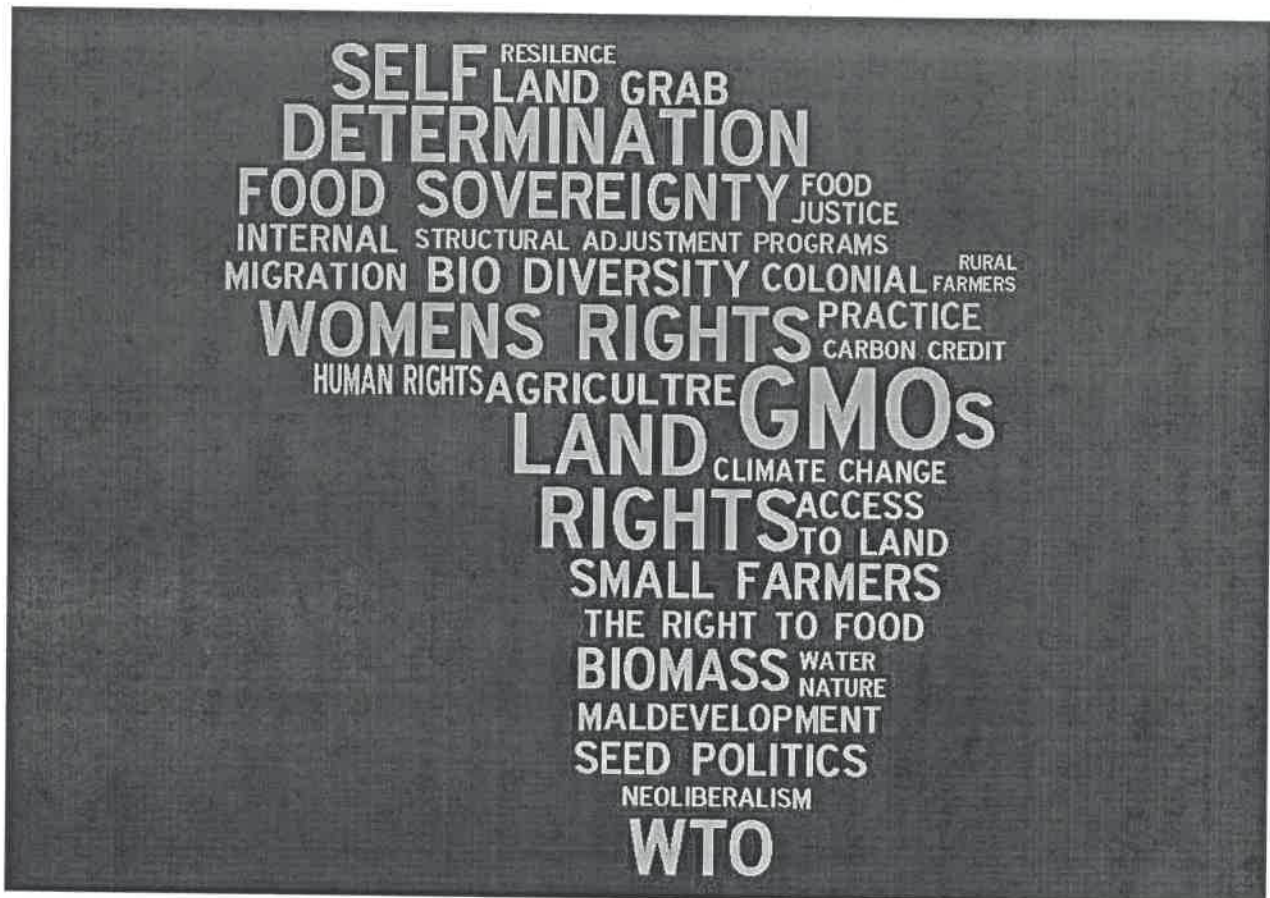


Stellenbosch University
Political Science 144
2019

Introduction to International Relations & African Politics



Lecturers: Prof. P. Fourie and Dr C. Steenekamp

Part 1: Introduction to International Relations (22 July – 6 September)

Lecturer: Prof. P. Fourie
Office: Arts & Social Sciences building, Room 630
E-mail: ppfourie@sun.ac.za
Website: <http://www.sun.ac.za/polwet>
Consultation hours: By appointment

Part 2: Introduction to African Politics (16 September – 25 October)

Lecturer: Dr C. Steenekamp
Office: Arts & Social Sciences building, Room 633
E-mail: cindylee@sun.ac.za
Website: <http://www.sun.ac.za/polwet>
Consultation hours: By appointment



Lecture times

Group 1 (Venue: R. W. Wilcocks building, room 1012)
Mondays 14:00; Tuesdays 11:00

Group 2 (Venue: R. W. Wilcocks building, room 1012)
Tuesdays: 10:00; Thursdays: 15:00



Note that group allocations are done for a specific reason, taking into account the seating capacity of each lecture room; you are NOT allowed to switch groups.

Departmental rules on class attendance:

Please be aware that Stellenbosch University is not a distance-learning institution and class attendance is compulsory. Consult *Part One: General* of the University's Calendar for the necessary requirements in terms of requesting absence from classes. Besides the module content, important information including assignments, test, and exam preparation is covered in the lectures. If you choose not to attend lectures (without requesting permission to do so) you accept the responsibility for and consequences of not knowing these important details. Lastly, please note that students are not allowed to use audio or other recording devices in class; you are allowed to take your own written/typed notes, during lectures, but you are not allowed to record the lectures.

Aims of the module

This is an exciting time to study international relations! We find ourselves in a turbulent period of change in the international system. The world recently experienced an economic crisis, climate change threatens the very existence of our planet, the USA competes with China for global dominance, conflict in Africa continues unabatedly, and tensions in the Middle East are exacerbated by nuclear posturing and the situation in Syria. Where do states fit in a world where organisations, multinational companies, terrorist networks and other actors play an increasingly important role? These are some of the issues that this module will address. This is an introductory module on the systematic study of international relations, designed to introduce you to the basic concepts, questions and theoretical perspectives that we deal with in this field. We shall, amongst others, explore some of the most important actors in world affairs, and the interactions between them. We shall also develop explanations for the way in which the international system operates.

The section on introduction to African Politics is part historical, and part political. The historical approach is reflected in the chronological treatment of state-development in Africa, including the analysis of Africa's pre-colonial states and the impact of the colonial era on the African continent. This will be followed by analyses of the various processes leading to decolonisation, independence and finally a consideration of the most important post-independence trends on the continent. In particular there will be analysis of Africa's place in the broader international system, specifically the rising prominence of the continent in international relations.

Outcomes

After completing this module you will have a solid foundation and understanding of the dynamics of International Relations and of the unique challenges that the international system poses to an array of state and non-state actors, be they students, captains of industry, multinational corporations, or sport stars. You will also develop the ability to apply the knowledge gained in this module to the way in which international politics influences your daily life and to ask critical questions about the impact of globalization on South Africa, how wealth and power is distributed in the world today, and whether this distribution can be ethically, politically, and economically justified. More specifically, you should be able to discuss the following questions in an intelligent manner:

- What are states, when did they become the main actors in the international system, and is their power being challenged?
- What is the role of non-state actors in the international system?



- What is power in the context of international relations?
- Who benefits most from the current global order?
- Why do states (sometimes) choose to co-operate?
- How do international law and international organisations function?
- How do the main theoretical approaches to International Relations differ? Which theory provides the best explanation for the most important challenges facing the international system today?
- Why is the study of African Politics such an important endeavour?
- Why is an in-depth understanding of Africa's colonial and post-colonial history so important?
- What has been the impact of Africa's colonial history on current political developments on the continent?
- What impact did the Cold War have on the African continent?
- What has been the role and influence of African nationalism in the continent's politics?
- Why are African states prone to weakness, failure and collapse?
- To what extent have ethnic differences influenced the political processes and outcomes of African politics in the post-colonial era?
- What was the justification for African leaders centralising states and imposing one-party rule?
- Which factors have contributed to military coups taking place in Africa?
- What have been the key obstacles towards the achievement of democratic consolidation in Africa?
- Is Africa emerging as a major actor in the world economy?

Requirements

In order to pass this module, you are required to:

1. Write a semester test;
2. Write an exam;
3. Submit one assignment (essay) correctly and on time, in the fourth term;
4. Complete four online tutorials/assessments in the third and fourth terms (information about the online tutorials/assessments will be provided during lectures);
5. Attend classes regularly (success in tests and exams is largely dependent on good class notes); and
6. As a Political Science student we assume that you will be on top of news events both nationally and internationally. You are therefore expected to expand your knowledge of current affairs by regularly reading newspapers, news magazines and the Internet, and by following news bulletins on television, radio, and on social media.

Mark allocation

Class mark, consisting of:

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|------------------------------|-----|
| Semester test | 50% |
| Online tutorials/assessments | 20% |
| Assignment | 30% |

Final performance mark, consisting of:

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Exam mark | 60% |
| Class mark | 40% |

IMPORTANT: You must complete the semester test, the assignment, the online tutorials/assessments, and have a minimum class (predicate) mark of 40% to gain entrance to the exam.

Very important: you need to complete ALL the individual components of the class mark in order to qualify for the exam. In other words, you have to complete the semester test, all the online tutorials/assessments, and the assignment; even if you achieve the minimum class mark required for predicate (40%), but you fail to complete one or more of the components of the class mark, you will be excluded from the exam.



Prescribed books

Baylis, J., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (eds.) (2017) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations (2nd international ed.)* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

* Check that the version that you will be using has the following ISBN: 9780198796367.

Thomson, A. (2016) *An Introduction to African Politics (4th ed.)* London & New York: Routledge.

Assignment

You will be expected to hand in one written assignment in the course of the semester; it will constitute 30% of your predicate. The assignment has been designed to develop your analytical, communication and research skills. Please note that the assignment must be typed, and submitted on time. Students are expected to keep copies of all essays.

More information with regards to the assignment will be provided during the course of the semester.

Departmental rules on late submission of essays and non-completion of tutorials:

Five per cent will be deducted per day (or for part of a day) for late essays, or for incomplete essay submissions (this includes Saturdays and Sundays).

Essays submitted late without a timely and valid excuse (example: acceptable medical certificate) will only be accepted for a period of up to three days after the submission date. After the third day you will have to submit a valid excuse (example: acceptable medical certificate), or the essay will not be accepted at all.

The following general rules apply for the handing in/handling of medical certificates:

1. A medical certificate connected to the absence from an assessment or to the late submission of an academic assignment will only be considered if it has been issued within 24 hours from the time the assessment occurred or the submission date of an academic assignment (unless the certificate explicitly states why it could not be issued within 24 hours), and handed in within 7 days after the test date or the submission date of the academic assignment;
2. Medical certificates issued by family members will not be accepted;
3. In cases of mental health conditions, only medical certificates issued by psychiatrists, medical practitioners and registered clinical psychologists will be accepted.

Plagiarism penalties: Turnitin similarity %: 24-29 (-5%); 30-39 (-10%); Above 39% (0 + disciplinary procedures).

The Assignment

Due date and submission protocol: Monday, 14 October by 5 p.m. via SUNLearn (Turnitin).

Note that the online system will not allow submission of the essay after 5 p.m., and that only a single upload is possible. This means that you will not be able to resubmit a different/new version of your essay after you have submitted it.

Assignment topic: African political thought as ideology

Ideologies have been very important in shaping African political culture, socialisation and behaviour. These ideologies influence various aspects of political life and the decisions that political leaders make. In Africa, ideologies have also played a major role as a form of political thought in the post-colonial era.

You are required to select ONE case study from the selection below. Your essay should describe the various attributes or characteristics of the political philosophy under the given nationalist leader within

your selected country and critically discuss the influence of that particular ideology on the social, political and economic development in that country.

- Burkina Faso under Thomas Sankara
- Kenya under Jomo Kenyatta
- Senegal under Léopold Sédar Senghor
- Zambia under Kenneth Kaunda

Technical requirements: The assignment should be typed in 12 font (Times New Roman or Arial) with 1.5 line spacing and 0 pt spacing before and after each paragraph. The assignment content should be 2,000 words (excluding the cover page, table of contents, and bibliography). You are allowed to go 10% over or under the word count (i.e. 1,800 – 2,200 words); however, a word count beyond these parameters will be penalised. The assignment can be uploaded via SUNLearn (Turnitin) in either Word (.docx) or PDF (.pdf) format.

All instances of plagiarism will be referred for disciplinary action.

Criteria for the evaluation of assessments

Assessments will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Have you answered the question in a satisfactory manner?
2. Did you develop a solid, logical argument? In other words, did you adopt a position, and is it supported by evidence and convincingly presented?
3. Are concepts clearly defined?
4. Did you reflect critical, independent thinking, and show an understanding of the material?
5. Are references correct and complete – both in the text and in the bibliography?
6. For the essay, does the structure include an introduction, conclusion and clear paragraphs, and is there coherence across paragraphs (in other words, does the argument 'flow'?)
7. Are statements and sentences clearly and unambiguously formulated?

Important dates

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Start of second semester: | Monday, 22 July |
| Assignment/essay: | Monday, 14 October via Turnitin |
| Applicable public holidays: | 9 August (no lectures) and 24 September (no lectures) |
| Mid-semester recess: | 7-15 September |
| Semester test: | Tuesday, 8 October (in the evening) |
| Sick test: | Wednesday, 23 October |
| Last day of lectures: | Friday, 25 October |
| First exam opportunity:* | to be confirmed |
| Second exam opportunity:* | to be confirmed |

* **You have to reconfirm the test and exam dates, times, and venues:** The information in this course framework reflects the best information available at the beginning of July 2019, but this could change closer to the test and exam periods. We strongly advise you to write during the first exam opportunity. You only get two exam opportunities – the exam office makes no exceptions. Should you decide to write during the second opportunity and fall ill on or before that day, you do not get another chance, and you will have to repeat the module in 2020.



Lecture schedule

PART 1: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (textbook: Baylis, Smith & Owens)

- WEEK 1 (22-26 July):** **International Relations: Key concepts and historical overview**
Prescribed reading: Introduction, and chapters 1-4
- WEEK 2 (29 July-2 Aug.):** **Theoretical approaches**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 6-8, 10-11
- WEEK 3 (5-9 August):** **Theoretical approaches (continued)**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 6-8, 10-11
- WEEK 4 (12-16 August):** **War, security, and terror**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 12, 14, 24, 26, 28
- WEEK 5 (19-23 August):** **Trade, poverty, and development**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 13, 21, 22
- WEEK 6 (26-30 August):** **Global governance**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18
- WEEK 7 (2-6 September):** **Gender, race, and the environment**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 19, 20, 23

PART 2: AFRICAN POLITICS (textbook: Thomson)

- WEEK 8 (16-20 Sept):** **The study of African politics**
Prescribed reading: Chapter 1
- WEEK 9 (23-27 Sept):** **Africa's pre-colonial and colonial history**
Prescribed reading: Chapter 2
- WEEK 10 (30/9 to 4/10):** **Africa's political ideologies, ethnicity and religion**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 3 and 4
- WEEK 11 (7-11 October):** **Personal rule and military intervention in Africa**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 6 and 7
- WEEK 12 (14-18 October):** **External influences and Africa's political economy**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 8 and 9
- WEEK 13 (21-25 October):** **Legitimacy and democracy in Africa**
Prescribed reading: Chapters 10 and 11

