**Course description**

This course introduces students to the systematic study of conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. It has two goals: to provide a theoretical and methodological overview of how to study conflict in Africa, and to offer a substantive introduction to the various forms of conflict the region encounters.

**Course format**

This course meets as a lecture twice a week for the ten weeks of the quarter. Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the readings for that day. Lecture slides are posted online on a weekly basis, at the end of each week. Lectures will not be podcast. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the material from classmates.

**Course requirements**

Students will be graded based on a blog post assignment (20%), a midterm (30%) and a final exam (50%):

**Blog Post (20%):** over the course of the quarter, you are expected to write two blog posts (1 in weeks 2-5 and the other in weeks 6-10). Details about topics and expectations will be provided in class. To prepare for this assignment, it is strongly recommended that you regularly read the following blogs:

- Political Violence @ a Glance
- African Arguments
- Sahel Blog
- Texas in Africa

At the end of the quarter, I will select the most impressive blog post and submit it for publication at “Political Violence @ a Glance”.

**Midterm (30%):** The midterm will be held during class time on May 2. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. One part of the exam will be a map quiz, which will ask you to locate and identify a random sample of sub-Saharan African countries, their current leader, and ex-colonial power.
**Final (50%):** The final exam will be held on Tuesday, June 11 from 8-11am. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will be cumulative. It will include short-answer, identification, and essay questions.

**Course policies**

Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances, and not without proper written documentation justifying your absence (i.e., a doctor's note).

Please consult [http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html](http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html) for UCSD’s Academic Integrity Policy. Students in this course are expected to comply with this policy. Any student in violation of UCSD’s policy will automatically fail this class.

If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, please come see me as soon as possible and present your certification to me and to Ariane Parkes (aparkes@ucsd.edu).

If you seek a re-grade, you must email the TA within 72 hours of the assignment being returned to the class, and explain – in that email and in detail – why you believe you deserve reconsideration. The TA then has the ability to review the entire exam, and the authority to increase your grade, decrease your grade, or keep the grade unchanged.

**Teaching Assistants**

Consult your TAs first with any questions relating to the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kate Blackwell</th>
<th>Dotan Haim</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSB 345</td>
<td>SSB 350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.H.: Thursday 1-3pm</td>
<td>O.H.: Tuesday 2-3pm</td>
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</tbody>
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**Readings**

All reading are available on the class website: [http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/poli120n/](http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/poli120n/)
BACKGROUND

April 2: Introduction

April 4: The Challenge for Africa's Leaders

  *Granta* 92.


April 9: The European Imprint on Africa


  Nunn, Nathan. 2010. “Shackled to the Past: The Causes and
  Consequences of Africa's Slave Trade.” Jared Diamond and
  Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

April 11: African Independence

  Meredith, Martin. 2005. *The Fate of Africa*: Chapters 8, 9 and
  13.

  11.
THEORIES OF VIOLENCE

April 16: Ancient Hatreds versus Rational Origins


April 18: Economic roots of conflict


April 23: Political roots of conflict


April 25: Case Study: Liberia I


April 30: Case Study: Liberia II

In-class documentary: “Liberia: An Uncivil War” *(http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b5100106~S9)*

May 2: MIDTERM
CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

May 7: Genocide


Lemkin, Raphael. 1946. “Genocide” American Scholar 15(2)

May 9: Explaining the Rwandan Genocide


May 14: Electoral Violence


May 16: Solutions to Electoral Violence


May 21: Secession (Guest Lecture: Dotan Haim)


“Emeka Ojukwu”. 2011. The Economist

May 23: The Secessionist Origins of the Malian Crisis


May 28: Climate Change in Africa (Guest Lecture: Professor Jennifer Burney)

2010. “Adapting to Climate Change; Facing the Consequences.” The Economist

May 30: Climate Change and Conflict


June 4: Migration and Conflict


June 6: Conclusion


FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 8-11am