POLI120N: Contention and Conflict in Africa

Instructor: Professor Claire Adida
University of California San Diego
Winter Quarter 2014
Tue-Thurs: 9.30-10.50am
YORK4080A

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 map quiz (20%), a midterm (30%), and a final exam (50%):

**Map quiz (20%):** Students are expected to be able to identify the 48 sub-Saharan African countries on a map, their current leader, and ex-colonial power(s). You will have 20 minutes to locate and identify that information for a random sample of sub-Saharan African countries. The map quiz will take place during the last 20 minutes of class on **Tuesday, January 28.** A study sheet will be provided. A good place to practice is: http://youdontknowafrica.com/.

**Midterm (30%):** The midterm will be held during class time on **Thursday, February 6.** This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will include multiple-choice and identification questions.

**Final (50%):** The final exam will be held on **Tuesday, March 18 from 8-11am.** This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will be cumulative. It will include multiple-choice, identification, and essay questions. Depending on how well the class performs on the map quiz, it may include another map quiz.
**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) and **submitted to the instructor at least one week in advance**.

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 Assistant**

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

Cameron Sells

csells@ucsd.edu

O.H.: Wednesday 1-3pm in SSB352

**Readings**

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

January 7: Introduction

January 9: The Challenge for Africa’s Leaders

    Granta 92.


January 14: 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.

January 16: African Independence

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

    Iliffe, John. 2007. Africans: The History of a Continent: Chapter
    11.
THEORIES OF VIOLENCE

January 21:  Ancient Hatreds versus Rational Origins


January 23:  Economic roots of conflict


January 28:  MAP QUIZ

Political roots of conflict


January 30:  Case Study: Liberia


February 4:  Case Study: South Sudan


February 6:  MIDTERM
CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

February 11: Genocide


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

February 13: Explaining the Rwandan Genocide


February 18: Electoral Violence


February 20: Solutions to Electoral Violence


February 25: Secession


"Emeka Ojukwu”. 2011. The Economist
February 27: The Secessionist Origins of the Malian Crisis


March 4: Climate change & agricultural adaptation (in-class video: Prof. Lobell: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpLpXZKZnP0&feature=youtu.be start at 10’)

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

March 6: Climate Change and Conflict


March 11: Migration and Conflict


March 13: Conclusion


**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 8-11am**