

**Political Science 465: African Politics**  
**Monday 7:05-9:45; CLS 2081**  
**Spring 2002**  
**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Syllabus**

**Professor Liebowitz**  
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### **Introduction:**

The African continent has been the scene of dramatic political changes over the last decade. The end of apartheid in South Africa, the massacre in Rwanda, a massive wave of democratization across the continent, and the breakdown of state structures in Somalia and the Congo have all marked the continent's recent political history. This course will seek to develop theories that explain these changes and their relevance for politics in Africa and elsewhere.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will gain knowledge of the theories and practices of African Politics. To do so students will analyze theoretical texts and case studies that address the key debates and trends in African Politics. By the end of the course, students should be able to apply theories of democratization, state-building, the interplay between international and domestic politics, and the politics of identity to understand African Politics.

### **Course Requirements:**

The requirements for the course include: regular participation and attendance; a short presentation based on one week's readings; a short paper (5-7 pages); an in-class final exam; and a research paper (15-20 pages). The breakdown of your grade will be as follows:

Attendance, Participation and Presentation: 20%

Short Paper: 15%

In-Class Final: 25%

Research Paper: 40%

### **Texts:**

Nuruddin Farah. *Sweet and Sour Milk*.

Jeffrey Herbst. *States and Power in Africa*.

Celestin Monga. *The Anthropology of Anger*.

Frederic Schaffer. *Democracy in Translation*.

Dave Wilson. *The Politics of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa*.

### **Course Outline:**

Week 1: Jan. 7

Course Introduction and Discussion

Week 2: Jan. 14

Topic: Pre-colonial and colonial politics in Africa

Readings: Herbst, 3-136

Week 3: Jan. 21

NO CLASS—MLK DAY

Week 4: Jan. 28

Topics: Politics of State-building in postcolonial Africa

Readings: Herbst, 137-246

Week 5: Feb. 4

Topics: Case Study: Postcolonial Politics: Somalia, Part I

Readings: Farah, 1-129

Week 6: Feb. 11

Topics: Case Study: Postcolonial Politics: Somalia, Part II

Readings: Farah, 130-242

Week 7: Feb. 18

**Short Paper Due; Final Paper Topic Due**

Week 8: Feb. 25

Topics: Democratization in Africa, Part I

Readings: Monga, 1-107

Week 9: Mar. 4

Topics: Democratization in Africa, Part II

Readings: Monga, 109-189

Week 10: Mar. 11

Topics: Democratization in Africa: Case Study—Senegal, Part I

Readings: Schaffer, 1-85

Week 11: Mar. 18

NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

Week 12: Mar. 25

Topics: Democratization in Africa: Case Study—Senegal, Part II

Readings: Schaffer 86-146

**DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE**

Week 13: Apr. 1

Topics: Democratization in Africa: Case Study—South Africa, Part I

Readings: Wilson, 1-121

Week 14: Apr. 8

Topics: Democratization in Africa: Case Study—South Africa, Part II

Readings: Wilson, 122-230

Week 15: Apr. 15

Topics: The Future of African Politics: Democracy, Dictatorship, or Decay?

Readings: Herbst, 251-272

Week 16: Apr. 22

**FINAL PAPERS DUE**

Discussion of Student Papers