

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science
POL 301H1F: Colonial Legacies and Post-Independence African
Politics, F2025

Instructor: Professor Abbas Gnamo
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:00PM to 14:45 PM
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Lecture : 1:00pm-3:00pm
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Course TA : TBA



Source : http://www.africanoz.com/af_arts/af_arts.html

Karibu Mgeni means “welcome visitor” or “welcome stranger” in Swahili.

THEMES:

This course highlights the critical roles of pre-colonial and colonial histories in shaping contemporary political and economic developments in Africa. It covers the emergence of colonial states, the central legacies of colonial rule, and the impact of colonialism in shaping processes of state and nation building from independence to the present by focusing on both challenges and prospects of modern Africa.

Those readings are available electronically through Robarts and can be accessed through Portal/Blackboard. To access the reading look for the link to “Library Course Reserves” on your Quercus, which will lead to all the materials. Instructions for accessing the reading can also be found in the “Course Reserve” section of the course page on Quercus. Nothing to purchase for this offering.

Format and requirements

Course evaluation will include two in-class tests administered online, and two written works submitted online through Quercus.

| Requirements | Evaluation | Due date |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Critical review of an article | 10% | Oct 22, 2025, |
| Mid-Term Test | 25% | Nov 6, 2025, |
| Essay | 30% | November 19, 2025, |
| Final Exam | 30% | Dember 5-2025, |
| Participation | 5% | TBA |

Late penalty: 2% per day

Lectures and course management.

This course Quercus for Couse course work and power point slides will be posted online. Students need to access to Quercus, including).

Critical review of an article: due on Oct 22, 2025.

Term Test and Final tests

The Mid-Term test will be held during regular class, Nov 06, 2025, whereas the final exam will be administered during the University’s official December exam, The test and exam will include a mix of short answer and essay questions and will test your familiarity with the lecture material and reading assignments as well as your ability to apply what you have learned. I will provide some tips and guideline as well selected readings to prepare you for the tests and exam.

Research Essay

All students will be expected to complete one Research Essay in 3500-4000 words, 13-14 pages double spaced or 25 lines per page to be submit Nov 19, 2025. Broad topic areas and guidelines will be posted by **Sept 10, 2025.**

Please note the following for essay submission:

1. Unless you specifically make alternative arrangements in advance (see below), essays should be submitted online via Quercus, and the receipt attached to the hard copy of your essay should the TA required.
2. Before submitting your essay, you must also review the Academic Integrity Checklist, included at the end of this document, and make sure that you are able to check every category on this checklist. By submitting your essay, you are pledging that you have read the checklist and can check every items. Quercus includes plagiarism detection technology. Your essay submission will not be regarded as complete until you have completed all these steps.

If you have a principled objection to the use of Turnitin and wish to make an alternative arrangement for the submission of your essay, this must be discussed well in advance of the submission deadline with the course instructor, and certainly no later than two weeks before that deadline.

Late penalty and extension policy:

Extensions will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances that could not be anticipated ahead of time. Any request for an extension or the waiver of a late penalty must be accompanied by appropriate documentation, using the official/approved university forms. You are strongly urged to approach the instructor as soon as you are aware that you will be needing an extension. Extensions requested after the fact will be treated much less sympathetically. You should never assume that an extension will necessarily be granted.

Similarly, missing the quiz, term test or exam will require an acceptable doctor's note or other documentation. This must be submitted within one week of the test or assignment date and it should be submitted on the official UofT form.

There will be a penalty of 2% per day for late papers (including weekends i.e., penalties will continue to accrue at 2% per day over the weekend). Papers handed in late but before 5pm on the due date will be subject to a graduated penalty. Late papers must be submitted to the Politics department on the 3rd floor of Sidney Smith during business hours. You must ensure that the paper is dated and stamped. You should never attempt to submit your paper by leaving it under an office door or sending it by e-mail or fax.

Note: There will be only one make-up test in each case. Only those with a valid, documented reason for missing the mid-term test will be allowed to write a make-up test. It is the student's responsibility to ascertain the date and place of the make-up test. Late penalties on essay may be reduced (but not necessarily eliminated) upon presentation of medical documentation. For full elimination of the late penalty the student must show evidence of a protracted medical condition that has affected his/her performance over the course of 3-4 weeks

Plagiarism is a most serious academic offense, and the offender will be punished. In the academy where the currency of the realm is ideas, to cite someone else's words or thinking without due attribution is theft. *It is not sufficient merely to list your sources in the bibliography or to only use footnotes.* You must ensure that you identify and attribute all your sources in text, whether you are quoting them directly or paraphrasing them.

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“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>)”.

Students who object to using plagiarism detection technologies, the following alternative procedure: inform the instructor, in the first two weeks, that they will not be using Turnitin and discuss alternative arrangements including submitting a disc with all saved drafts of their paper and handing in all notes, outlines, bibliographic research, etc.

According to the University's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters, it shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

- a) to forge or in any way alter or falsify any document or evidence required for admission to the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered, or falsified document, whether the record be in print or electronic form.
- b) to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work.
- c) to personate another person, or to have another person personate, at any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work.
- d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work.
- e) to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.
- f) to submit for credit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.

For further information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, please refer to the University's policy at www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html.

Students are strongly encouraged to explore the numerous resources available at the "Writing at the University of Toronto" website at www.utoronto.ca/writing.

Evaluation Criteria for Written Work

1. *Level of Style and Organization:* Your work must be completely free of grammatical, spelling, and typographical errors. References can be in any style, but the same format must be used consistently, and they must be accurate. The organization of the paper should assist the reader by providing a readily understandable presentation of background information, research findings, analysis, and conclusions.
2. *Adequacy of the Research:* Your findings should be derived from thorough research. Your work should be free of major factual errors or unsupported and/or undocumented assertions. You should link your findings to those of other scholars and draw meaningful conclusions based on your evidence.
3. *Cogency of the Argument:* Your written work should have a clear focus and an argument that is logically constructed. Your analysis should display understanding of the topic and originality of thought.

Please see.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html> and <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html> for two important documents entitled *How Not to Plagiarize* and *Standard Documentation Formats* respectively.

Should you require any further assistance with how to properly reference and footnote your work, please consult one of the many guides available in the library or the Writing Center. Your course instructors are also happy to provide guidance at any point prior to the submission of your work as to what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

How to contact me

Please feel free to stop by the office of the relevant course instructor office during our office hours. I will hold virtual office hours, and you contact me through e-mail. I will do my best to respond to e-mails and phone calls within 48hrs. Please note that I will not, however, be checking my e-mails on weekends or after hours so do not leave your requests or queries to the last minute.

Due to online nature of the course, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course

materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .

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LECTURE AND REQUIRED READINGS

Sept 03, 2025: General Introduction and orientation

Sept 10, 2025: Africa before colonialism: Tracing the historical origins of Africa

- Jared Diamond: *Guns, Germs and Steel*, New York: WW Norton and Co. (1999), Chapter 19, pp.376-401
- B Jewsiewicki and VY Mudimbe, “Africans’ memories and contemporary history of Africa,” in *History and Theory*, vol32, no. 4, Beiheft 32: History Making in Africa (December 1993), pp1-11
Matthew Garaham, *Contemporary Africa*, MacMillan International, Red Close Press, Chapter 3, pp. 37-71

Sept 17, 2025: The advent of the colonial era and the logic of colonial rule

- Crawford Young: “Constructing Bula Matari” in *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, New Haven: Yale University Press (1994), Chapter 4, pp.771-80.
- Peter J. Schraeder, *African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation*, Thomson/Wadsworth, 2004, Chapter III (Political and Economic Impact of Colonialism (1884-1951), pp.49-79.

Sept 24, 2025: The movement towards independence

- Irving Markowitz, *Leopold Sedar Senghor and the Politics of Negritude*, London: Heinemann (1969), Chapter 4, pp102 – 118
- *Africa since 1940: the past of the present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 2002 Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2002, Chot 4. *Ending empire and imagining the future*
- Bill Freund, “The Decolonization of Africa: 1940-60” extract from *The Making of Contemporary Africa*, 2nded. London: Macmillan Press, 1998, chapter 8, pp. 167-203

Oct 01, 2025: The new generation of independent African states

- Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “Personal Rule: Theory and Practice” Peter Lewis, (Ed), *Africa: The Challenges of Change and Development*, 1998, pp.17-43.

- Goran Hyden, *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, *Big Man Rule*, pp.94-115.

Oct 08, 2025: Ideologies and Development Strategies

- Colin Leys, “African Economic Development in Theory and Practice” *Daedalus* 111, 2 (1982), pp. 99-124
- Elizabeth Schmidt, James H. Mittelman, Fantu Cheru & Aili Mari Tripp, “Development in Africa: What is the Cutting Edge in Thinking and Policy?” *Review of African Political Economy*, 36: 120, 273-282
- Matthew Graham, *Contemporary Africa*. Macmillan International, Red global Press, 2019, Ch. 5 (The Economy) pp.106-140.
- **Quiz will be administered**

Oct 15, 2025: The onset of economic crisis

- Richard Sandbrook, *The Politics of Economic Stagnation*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1985), Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1– 41 and chapter 5.
- Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “Sovereignty and Underdevelopment” in *Journal of Modern African Studies* 24, 1, (1986) pp1-31.
- Development and disappointment: social and economic change in an unequal world, 1945–2000.

Oct 22, 2025: Structural Adjustment Programs and the pressure to reform

- **Quiz day**
- “The Crisis – Diagnosis and Prescriptions” in Mkandawire, Thandika and Charles C Souldo, *Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment*, Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press (1999)., Chapter 2
- Paul Nugent, “The Invasion of Acronyms: SAPs, AIDS and the NGO Takeover” extract from *Africa Since Independence*, London, Palgrave, 2004, pp.326-357

Oct 27-31: Reading Week

Nov 06, 2025: Midterm test

Nov 12, 2025: African militaries

- Edward Luttwak, *Coup d’Etat: A Practical Handbook*, New York: Alfred A Knopf (1989), Chapter 1, pp.3-12
- Thomson, *Introduction to African politics and government*, pp. 121-141.

Nov 19, 2025: The decline of post-colonial and democratization and African democratic Transition I

- Michael Bratton and Nicholas van de Walle: “Neo patrimonial regimes and political transitions in Africa” *World Politics* 46, 4 (1994) pp. 453-489
- Crawford Young Africa: An Interim Balance Sheet” in Peter Lewis, (Ed), *Africa: The Challenges of Change and Development*, 1998, pp.341-358.
- **Research essay due date**

Nov 26. 2025: The wave of democratization and African democratic Transition II

- Gabrielle Lynch and Gordon Crawford, “Democratization in Africa 1990–2010: an assessment,” *Democratization*, Vol. 18, No. 2, April 2011, 275–310
- Stephen Brown & Paul Kaiser, “Democratisations in Africa: attempts, hindrances and prospects,” *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 6, 2007, pp. 1131 – 1149.

December 5 - 23, 2025: Final Exam Period

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Academic Integrity Checklist
POL 301 Government and Politics in Africa

For Prof Abbas Gnamo

Please read the following statement, tick the appropriate boxes, and sign the declaration when you are ready to do so. You must submit a copy of this form along with your essay. If you do not feel able or ready to tick all the boxes, you are strongly urged to contact the relevant instructors to discuss the matter with them.

It is far better to take action to resolve the matter ahead of time rather than submit an essay that falls short of the university's academic integrity standards.

I, _____, affirm that this assignment represents entirely my own efforts.

I confirm that:

- I have acknowledged the use of another's ideas with accurate citations.
- If I used the words of another (e.g., author, instructor, information source), I have acknowledged this with quotation marks (or appropriate indentation) and proper citation.
- When paraphrasing the work of others, I put the idea into my own words and did not just change a few words or rearrange the sentence structure
- I have checked my work against my notes to be sure I have correctly referenced all direct quotes or borrowed ideas.
- My bibliography includes only the sources used to complete this assignment.
- This is the first time I have submitted this assignment (in whole or in part) for credit.
- Any proofreading by another was limited to indicating areas of concern which I then corrected myself.
- This is the final version of my assignment and not a draft.
- I have kept my work to myself and did not share answers/content with others, unless otherwise directed by my instructor.
- I understand the consequences of violating the University's academic integrity policies as outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

By submitting my essay, I agree that the statements above are true.

Signed: _____

Date: _____