

IRL 233 /S2024

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN AFRICA

DR. HERMAN T. SALTON

Associate Professor of International Relations
Department of Politics and International Studies

1. CONTACTS

EMAIL: salton@icu.ac.jp
 OFFICE: ERBII-230
 TIMES: Thu, 15.10-16:20; 16:30-17:40
 ROOM: SH-E302

2. INSTRUCTOR

QUALIFICATIONS: B.A. in Law (Trento, Italy)
 Ph.D. in International Law (Auckland, New Zealand)
 M.Phil. in International Relations (Oxford, UK)
 Ph.D. in International Politics (Wales, UK)

EXPERTISE: International Relations, International Law, International History
 International Organization (especially the UN), Diplomacy

PROFILE: *I am an Associate Professor of International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies, having joined ICU in 2018. I also serve as the Associate Director of the Rotary Peace Center, as well as ICU Human Rights Adviser.*

I was educated at the Universities of Trento (Italy), Auckland (New Zealand), Oxford (UK) and Aberystwyth (UK), and I hold two doctoral degrees, one in International Law and the other in International Relations.

Prior to joining ICU, I was an Associate Professor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) at the Asian University for Women (AUW); a researcher at Sciences-Po in Paris; an officer at the Icelandic Human Rights Centre in Reykjavik, Iceland; a Visiting Professor at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China; and an Associate with the UN Under-Secretary-General's Office in New York City.

I teach and publish in the areas of international politics, international law, global institutions (especially the UN) and human rights. I have written a number of academic articles and three single-authored monographs, most recently 'Dangerous Diplomacy', which was published by Oxford University Press in 2017.

In addition to my role at ICU, I am also the Deputy Director of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), Tokyo Office; the Deputy Secretary-General of the Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ); a Senior Adviser to the Centre for Advanced Studies on South Asia in Kathmandu, Nepal; and the Secretary/Treasurer of the International Studies Association, Asia-Pacific.

For more info, see www.hermansalton.net

3. DESCRIPTION

This course considers Africa both as an ‘idea’ and as a continent. It is partly because the former – the ‘image’ of Africa – was created by European colonialism, that the latter – the geographical space we call Africa – has struggled to find its place both within the international system and within the disciplines of political science and international relations (IR). On the one hand, these disciplines have historically regarded African states as tribal, deviant, and even pathological in comparison to the ‘ideal’ of the Western nation-state. On the other hand, Africa is increasingly recognized as a land of challenges as well as opportunities: from transnational crime to environmental protection, from migration to economic development, from natural resources to security, what we commonly refer to as ‘Africa’ – in fact, a problematic designation that belies the diversity of this vast continent – can no longer be ignored. Together with technological changes and the so-called ‘death of distance’, the rise of China has accelerated this process of recognition both of the African continent as a vital player in IR, and of African states (and their economies) as entities bestowed with individual agency. This course provides an overview of these two distinct but interrelated processes, namely, the formation of the ‘idea’ of Africa by European colonizers, and the recognition that the continent has become an important player both regionally and internationally. Since it is only recently that African states have become sovereign political entities, so the African continent has entered the global political arena comparatively tardy – and *not* as neutral object of study.

4. LEARNING GOALS

This course has three aims. The first is to familiarize students with some of the key political and historical developments that led to the formation both of an ‘idea’ of Africa by Europeans, and of a geographical entity with that name. This is important, because colonialism is one of the unifying factors that contributed to bring together this strikingly diverse continent, both in terms of a shared history of oppression and in the formation of an African ‘consciousness’ or identity. The course’s second aim is to highlight the contribution that Africa can give to IR theory: long dominated by Western (especially British and American) social scientists, the discipline of IR is finally recognizing that both the ‘concept’ and the continent of Africa – far from lying at the ‘periphery’ of IR – can significantly contribute to our understanding of domestic and international processes, particularly in an age of declining (USA) and rising (China) powers. Last but not least, the third aim of this course is to highlight how individual African states are developing a sense of agency as well as distinctive identities that question the existence of a pan-African foreign policy.

5. SCHEDULE

PART I:

HISTORY

WEEK 1 | 11 APRIL 2023 | COURSE OVERVIEW

CL1. Introducing the Course: Teacher, Students, Method

CL2. Introducing the Subject: IR & Africa

WEEK 2 | 18 APRIL 2023 | FROM AFRICAN KINGDOMS TO AFRICAN STATES

- CL1. The Colonial Experience in Africa
- CL2. Case Study: South Sudan

WEEK 3 | 25 APRIL 2023 | AFRICA DURING THE COLD WAR

- CL1. The Cold War in Africa
- CL2. Case Study: Angola

**PART II:
THEORY**

WEEK 4 | 2 MAY 2023 | AFRICA AND IR THEORY

- CL1. Understanding Africa's IR
- CL2. Challenges to IR Theories in Africa

WEEK 5 | 9 MAY 2022 | AFRICA, IR THEORY, AND RACISM

- CL1. Africa, Racism, and World Politics
- CL2. Case Study: The Niger Delta

WEEK 6 | 16 MAY 2023 | HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES

- CL1. External Pressures for Political Reform and Human Rights
- CL2. Case Study: Kenya

**PART III:
ISSUES**

WEEK 7 | 23 MAY 2022 | PEACE OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

- CL1. Peacekeeping in Africa
- CL2. Case Study: Liberia

WEEK 8 | 30 MAY 2022 | AFRICA, UNITED STATES, AND EUROPE

- CL1. US and European Policies Towards Africa
- CL2. Case Studies: Somalia & Côte d'Ivoire

WEEK 9 | 6 JUNE 2022 | AFRICA AND EMERGING POWERS

- CL1. Africa and China
- CL2. Economic and Political Relations with BRICs

WEEK 10 | 13 JUNE 2022 | CONCLUSIONS

- CL1. Final Essay (in class)
- CL2. Conclusion

6. LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

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| Lectures: | English |
| Readings/Materials: | English (materials in other languages can be supplied) |
| Essays/Presentations: | English |
| Communication with Instructor: | English/French/Spanish/Italian |

7. GRADING POLICY

Presentations:	30%	<i>Topic: Assigned by Instructor</i>
E-Attendance/E-Participation:	20%	<i>Your Active Participation is Encouraged</i>
Final Paper (No Exam):	50%	<i>Topic: The IR of any African Country of Your Choosing</i>

Grades matter and you should strive to obtain the best possible grade. However, *the way* you study and approach the subject is even more important. In this course, factual knowledge is insufficient; participation to class discussions and critical thinking is what will make the difference in terms of grades and—far more importantly—in terms of your learning. Consequently, the mere memorization of facts will not take you far—only the critical assessment of them will. What I am interested in is your own approach to a certain theme. However, you will only be able to acquire this analytical capacity if you do the readings *before* coming to class and if you participate in the discussions. Remember: analytical reasoning without facts is impossible, but facts without an analytical framework are useless! Both are required and both will be assessed throughout the course.

8. INDEPENDENT STUDY

Study time depends on the student's attitude and abilities. The best performers will have done the readings carefully, perform well in presentations, participate actively in class discussions, and finished their final paper at least a few days before the deadline.

9. COURSE FORMAT

The course involves a mixture of lectures, discussions and presentations. All classes will be highly interactive: in my view, the role of the teacher is not to offer correct answers but to raise questions, especially in a course like this one that deals with a wide range of topics. As a result, it will not be enough to come to class: you will need to be proactive and participate in the discussions. Naturally some of you will be shy than others, which is fine (the best students are not the most talkative!) But you need to interact with myself and your peers.

10. REQUIRED READINGS

Materials will be uploaded on Moodle a week before class. Books used include:

B. E. Whitaker & J. F. Clark
Africa's International Relations: Balancing Domestic and Global Interests
 Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2018

E. A. Henderson
African Realism? International Relations Theory and Africa's Wars
 Rowman & Littlefield, 2015

T. Murithi
The Routledge Handbook of Africa's International Relations
 Routledge, 2015

11. FURTHER READINGS

You may also find the following readings useful, especially for your Final Paper:

Abrahamsen, R. "Africa and International Relations: Assembling Africa, Studying the World", *African Affairs*, Vol.116, No.462 (2017), pp. 125-139.

Adi, H. and M. Sherwood. *Pan-African History* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2003).

Allen, C. "Warfare, Endemic Violence and State Collapse in Africa", *Review of African Political Economy*, Vol.26, No.81 (1999), pp. 381-2.

Ani, M. Y. *An African Centred Critique of European Cultural Thought and Behavior* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1994).

Bakut, B. and Sagarika Dutt (eds.), *Africa at the Millennium: An Agenda for Mature Development* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2000).

Bayart, J.-F. *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly* (Cambridge: Polity, 2009).

Brown, W, Simon Bromley and Suma Athreya (eds.), *Ordering the International: History, Change and Transformation* (London: Pluto Press, 2004).

Brown, W. "Africa and International Relations: A Comment on IR Theory, Anarchy and Statehood", *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Jan., 2006), pp. 119-143.

Bull, H. & Adam Watson (eds.), *The Expansion of International Society* (Oxford University Press, 1985).

Busia, A.P., "What is Africa To Me? Knowledge Possession, Knowledge Production, and the Health of Our Bodies Politic in Africa and the Diaspora". *African Studies Review*, 49(01), 2006, pp.15-30.

Chabal, P. and Jean-Pascal Daloz, *Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument* (London: International African Institute, 1999).

Chafer, T. *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization?* (Oxford: Berg Publishing, 2002).

Clapham, C. *Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Clapham, C. "Degrees of Statehood", *Review of International Studies*, 24 (1998), pp. 143-57.

Davidson, B. *The Black Man's Burden: Africa and the Curse of the Nation-State* (London: Currey, 1992).

Diop, C.A., *Cultural Unity of Black Africa* (London: Third World Press, 1959).

Dunn, K. C. "Tales from the Dark Side: Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory", *Journal of Third World Studies*, 17:1 (2000), pp. 61-2.

Dunn, K. C. and Timothy M. Shaw (eds.), *Africa's Challenge to International Relations Theory* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2001).

Dunn, K. C. *Imagining the Congo: The International Relations of Identity* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

Fortes, M. and E. Evans-Pritchard (eds.), *African Political Systems* (Oxford University Press, 2003).

Havinden, M. and David Meredith, *Colonialism and Development: Britain and its Tropical Colonies 1850-1960* (London: Routledge, 1993).

- Jackson, R. *Quasi States: Sovereignty, International Relations and the Third World* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- Jackson, R. "Armed Humanitarianism", *International Journal*, 48:3 (1990), pp. 579-606.
- Khadiagala G. and Terrence Lyons, *African Foreign Policies: Power and Process* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2001).
- Krasner, S. D. *Structural Conflict: The Third World against Global Liberalism* (Berkeley, CA: California University Press, 1985).
- Mboya, T., *The Challenge of Nationhood: A Collection of Speeches and Writings* (New York, Heinemann International Press, 1970).
- Mamdani, M. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996).
- Mshomba, R. E. *Africa in the Global Economy* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000).
- Mudimbe, V. Y. *The Invention of Africa: Prognosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1988).
- Murithi, T. *The African Union: Panafricanism, Peacebuilding and Development* (London: Ashgate Publishing, 2005).
- Reno, W. *Warlord Politics and African States* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1998).
- Rodney, W. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (Nairobi, Kenya: EAEP, 1989).
- Schraeder, P. J. *African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation* (London: Wadsworth Publishing, 2003).
- Shivji, I.G., *The Concept of Human Rights in Africa* (Oxford: African Books Collective, 1989).
- Siba, N. G., "Regimes of Sovereignty: International Morality and the African Condition", *European Journal of International Relations*, 8:3 (2002), pp. 315-38.
- Tandeka, C. N., "Africa and International Relations: Regional Lessons for a Global Discourse", *International Political Science Review*, 22:3 (2001), pp. 279-90.

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