

# POL-2060: POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF AFRICA

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: POL-2060 : Political Systems of Africa**

**Board of Trustees:**

May 2022

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2022

**Subject Code**

POL - Political Science

**Course Number:**

2060

**Title:**

Political Systems of Africa

**Catalog Description:**

Comparative discussion of selected topics in Africa with particular focus on interrelationship between internal and external affairs. Examination of colonial policies, party systems, interest groups and modes of development.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

POL-1010 American National Government is recommended.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Evaluate the impact of historical events on the current political environment in various African countries.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Using European and African resources, analyze the impact of French, British, and Belgian colonial rule on the political structure of various African countries.
2. Discuss the factors that led to the national liberation struggles promoting independence from colonial rule.
3. Assess the effect of political independence from colonial rule on the stability and strength of various African states.
4. Analyze the role that the Cold War played in the development of modern governance structures on the continent.
5. Discuss the historical legacy of white minority rule in governance of various African countries.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Analyze the role of the state on the political environment in various African countries.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Describe how various African states respond to threats of terrorism.
  2. Locate African states along the continuum of power and control from democracy to totalitarianism.
  3. Evaluate the extent to which various African states conduct free and fair elections.
  4. Discuss how African states attempt to maintain peace and mitigate conflict.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Evaluate the influence of civil society on political structures and policies in Africa.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Demonstrate the influence of professional organizations, labor unions, trade associations, women's groups, church assemblies, political parties, and community groups on political decision making by various African states.
  2. Discuss the impact of ethnic identities on political behavior in various African countries.
  3. Discuss the role of religion on political coalitions and policy decisions on the continent.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Analyze the effect of external interests on political structures and policies in various African countries.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss the effects of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and structural adjustment programs on economic development on the continent.
  2. Analyze the role of external interests on the current use of natural resources, human labor, and capital consumption on the continent.
  3. Analyze the influence of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), human rights organizations, donors, and international agencies on the policies and politics of various African countries.
  4. Evaluate the role played by various African countries in the global economy.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Evaluate the effectiveness of various African states' policies in addressing stubborn social problems.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss how various African countries attempt to address the issue of health and disease.
  2. Discuss the efforts of various African countries to mitigate the problem of migration and trafficking.
  3. Evaluate the success of African countries in addressing poverty, social stratification, and famine.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Essay exams
2. Objective tests
3. Quizzes
4. Participation in class discussion
5. Projects and research papers
6. Book reviews
7. Oral reports

**Course Content Outline:**

1. African geography
  - a. North Africa
  - b. West Africa
  - c. East Africa
  - d. Central Africa
  - e. Southern Africa
  - f. Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Historical influences on current African political systems
  - a. The impact of slavery and colonialism
  - b. The impact of national independence movements
  - c. The impact of the Cold War
  - d. Neocolonialism
3. The role of the state in African politics
  - a. Types of regimes
  - b. Authoritarian states
  - c. Democratic states
  - d. Electoral processes
  - e. Terror and security issues
  - f. The role of the military
  - g. The specter of political corruption
4. The influence of civil society on African politics
  - a. Labor unions
  - b. The media
  - c. Trade associations
  - d. women's groups
  - e. Religious groups
  - f. Political parties
  - g. Businesses
  - h. Identity politics
5. The influence of external interests on African politics
  - a. NGO's and human rights organizations
  - b. International donors
  - c. United Nations and international agencies
  - d. Pan-African organizations
  - e. International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and economic development
6. Major social policies and issues
  - a. Poverty and famine
  - b. Health policy and disease
  - c. Migration and trafficking
  - d. Agricultural and natural resource policies

**Resources**

Cheeseman, Nic, et al. (November 2014) *Routledge Handbook of African Politics*, Routledge.

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Taylor, Ian. (2018) *African Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press.

---

Thomson, Alex. (2016) *An Introduction to African Politics*, Routledge.

---

Dunn, Kevin C. and Englebert, Pierre. (2019) *Inside African Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.

---

Achebe, Chinua. (1994) *Things Fall Apart*, Penguin Books.

---

Fanon, Frantz. (2021) *The Wretched of the Earth*, Grove Press.

---

Rodney, Walter. (2018) *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Verso.

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<https://allafrica.com/>

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Gaddafi, Muammar. (2016) *The Green Book*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

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## **Instructional Services**

### **OAN Number:**

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS

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