

# AFRICAN POLITICS AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTA 689-DC

Fall 2022

Mondays, 6:30 – 9:10

Professor **Dr. Jerry Laurienti**

George Bush School of Government and Public Service

1620 L Street NW, #700

Washington DC

Phone: 571-246-7138

Email: [jerry.laurienti@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.laurienti@gmail.com)

## OVERVIEW

This course will provide a forum to think, learn, and argue about Africa. We will have a special emphasis on the word “argue” as it relates to crafting, talking, and writing about current issues across African countries, events, and themes. The course will provide an informed framework for constrictive understanding of Africa-related issues. We will explore the foundations of African issues alongside our investigation of current issues. Much of what occurs across African states today is related to experiences before, during, and after the colonial period on the continent. We will examine how these periods relate to current events within each class discussion, rather than holding these discussions as separate preliminary sessions.

In addition to learning the substantive content, this course will seek to provide useful approaches to writing and talking about African issues, skills that should be transferable to other academic topics and to both government and private-sector work. We will wrestle with the arguments that we forge in a way that grows each student in a tangible way and that offers skills they can apply as practitioners, professionals, and students.

This course will be applicable, challenging, engaging, fulfilling, and useful. We will focus on discussions how and why current and past events happened, including what the real actions of stakeholders and what that does or might look like to practitioners dealing with these events. Each class discussions will feature an aggressive examination of key stakeholders in the events covered in the readings, what is happening in the readings, why and how it is happening, the impact of these events, and the implications of these events for the stakeholders moving forward. We will wrestle with and argue about Africa. Some classes will feature guest discussants with direct experience related to the course.

Finally, this course will embody The Bush School and Texas A&M's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## **The Bush School and Texas A&M University are working to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion through**



*A strong, demonstrable presence of diversity in our faculty, staff, students, administrators, and supporters*



*An environment where the opportunity to fully participate does not inappropriately or unintentionally depend on elements of an individual's identity*



*An equitable environment where success depends on work effort and contributions that advance the mission of the University*

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

In addition to the below books, each class meeting will list one or two additional required readings/podcast episodes/videos

1. Meredith, M. (2005). *The fate of Africa: from the hopes of freedom to the heart of despair: a history of fifty years of independence*. New York: Public Affairs.
2. Dunn, K. C., & Englebert, P. (2019). *Inside African politics*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.

Other readings may be assigned throughout the course and will be available to the students in the form of handouts or e-mails.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Participation, attendance, presentation. Class participation is worth 15% of the course grade. All students are expected to attend each class ([what are the A&M rules on virtual attendance?](#)) and to participate actively in classroom discussions. Students will give one class presentation on their research topic; the presentation will be graded on effort over content as the goal will be to learn presentation skills and gather feedback to incorporate into a final research paper.

Midterm examination. **The mid-term is worth 25% of the course grade.** The mid-term will be a one-hour examination on the lectures, podcast, videos, classroom discussions, and readings up to the mid-point in the course. The examination will take place in the classroom and via Zoom, and it will be open book. You will answer three 20-minute essay questions from a choice of five topics. Zoom students will email their answers to me immediately after the exam.

Final examination. **The final exam is worth 30% of the course grade.** The final will be a two-hour exam on the lectures, podcasts, videos, classroom discussions, and readings from the second half of the course, but students will be allowed to draw upon coursework and lectures from the first half. (A minimum grade of 60 on the final examination is required to pass the course). The examination will take place in the classroom and via Zoom, and it will be open book. You will answer four 30-minute essay questions from a choice of six topics. Zoom students will email their answers to me immediately after the exam.

Research Paper. **The research paper is worth 30% of the course grade.** The paper should rely on original research on a topic to be chosen by the student in consultation with me. The paper should be directly related to one or more of the course topics. The paper should be 15-20 pages, but it cannot exceed 20 pages (anything over 20 pages will not be graded . . . this is not arbitrary, it is an exercise in concision). It should be double-spaced and printed on one side only. It should be in Times New Roman font with margins set at 1" on top and bottom and 1.25" on left and right. The goal of this paper is to learn both the research topic and how to build and write an argument. In order to best position you for a successful experience, the paper requirements will include:

- **Topic Selection:** You will select a topic in consultation with me. You will provide a one paragraph summary due by the start of class on week 4. of your research proposal, including topic and initial thesis. Your thesis can change as your research finding unveil key insights; the goal is to at least have a good concept before your start.
- **Class presentation:** The class presentation will be 3-5 minutes with 5-7 minutes for discussion and feedback (10 minutes total). You will not be graded on the quality of the presentation, but the class will provide feedback and tips to help you hone these skills, particularly your ability to orally convey and argument. Further, you will receive feedback and tips on the substance of your argument that will be critical to you fine tuning your final research paper. You will sign up for a date that will occur sometime between weeks 5-8, 10.

- First Draft: Your first draft should be as close as possible to what you intend to submit as the final paper. The closer you are to that draft, the closer you will be to a good final grade. The goal of turning in the draft is to get feedback and to learn. I will not grade the draft, but I will provide you with the grade I would give that paper as submitted so that you know how much you can improve. Although your draft will not get a grade, failure to provide a draft paper will count a full letter grade against your final paper grade. I will review the drafts and provide substantive, structural, and editorial feedback within one week. My feedback is always up for discussion, if you wish to “argue” about a better way forward, that’s a positive for you and the paper.
- Final Draft: Your final draft should represent the best of your ability in research, writing, and argumentation. You will have ample guidance from multiple class sessions to help you get there.

## **GRADING**

Participation (Attendance, classroom discussion, presentation)

15%

Research paper

35%

Mid-Term Exam

25%

Final Exam

35%

The following scale will be used for calculating final grades for this course:

90-100 A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 60-69 D; and 0-59 F

## **GRADING POLICY**

<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10>

## **KEY DATES**

Research proposal due: **Week 4**

Class Presentation: **Dates TBD based on sign-up, Weeks 5-8, 10**

Draft papers due: **Week 8**

Midterm exam:	<u>Week 9</u>
Final papers due:	<u>Week 11</u>
Final exam:	<u>Week 13</u>

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Carefully think, learn, and argue about Africa-related topics
- 2) Identify what is occurring across African states, regions, and themes; the stakeholders affected; why and how the events are happening; the impact of the events; and the future implications for the stakeholders
- 3) Prepare written and oral arguments that clearly articulate what is happening, why or how it is happening, the impact of the event, and the future implications for key stakeholders

## COURSE OUTLINE

**(Syllabus topics are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.)**

**Class 1 - August 29**      Framing how to think, learn, and argue about Africa (Guest discussants TBD)

### Reading:

- Dunn & Englebert, Ch. 1, pp. 1-15.
- Meredith, Maps and Introduction, pp. viii-16.
- Seay, L. (2012). How not to write about Africa. *Foreign Policy*.  
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2012/04/25/how-not-to-write-about-africa/>

### Listening:

- Devermont, J (Sept. 2021). *Thinking Differently About Africa*. Into Africa Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62501>

### Videos/visuals:

- Okonjo-Iweala, N. (2007). Want to help Africa? Do business here. *TED2007*.  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/ngozi\\_okonjo\\_oweala\\_want\\_to\\_help\\_africa\\_do\\_business\\_here](https://www.ted.com/talks/ngozi_okonjo_oweala_want_to_help_africa_do_business_here)

- True size of Africa. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/map-true-size-of-africa/>

## **September 5**

No Class – Labor Day

## **Class 2 - September 12**

North Africa

### **Reading:**

- Meredith, Ch. 2-3, pp. 30-57.
- Anderson, L. (2011). *Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences Between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya*. *Foreign Affairs*, 90 (3), 2–7. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23039401>
- Dworkin, A. (Ed.). (2016). *FIVE YEARS ON: A NEW EUROPEAN AGENDA FOR NORTH AFRICA*. European Council on Foreign Relations. **(Choose three country chapters)** <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep21607>
- Council on Foreign Relations. (n.d.). *The arab spring at Ten Years: What's the legacy of the uprisings?* Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/article/arab-spring-ten-years-whats-legacy-uprisings>

### **Listening:**

- Daoud, A. (2021). *Unable to govern, North African governments are using repression as their only tool in their toolbox*. *The North Africa Journal*. <https://north-africa.com/2021/01/how-governments-in-northern-africa-are-left-with-only-repression-as-they-are-unable-to-govern/>

## **Class 3 - September 19**

Southern Africa (Guest discussant TBD)

### **Reading:**

- Meredith, Ch. 7, 24, 34 pp. 116-140, 412-442, 647-675

### **Listening: (Choose 2)**

- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *South Africa with Ambassador Michelle Gavin*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61569>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Botswana with Ambassador Michelle Gavin*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61576>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Angola with Zenaida Machado*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61577>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Zambia with O'Brien Kaaba*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61568>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Lesotho with Silence Charumbira*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61574>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *eSwatini with Cebelihle Mbuyisa*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61575>

- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Zambia with O'Brien Kaaba*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61568>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Namibia with Shinovene Immanuel*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61570>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Mozambique with Zenaida Machado*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61572>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (July 2021). *Malawi with Johnnie Carson*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61573>

#### **Class 4 - September 26**

West Africa (Guest discussant TBD) (**RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE**)

#### **Reading:**

- Meredith, Ch. 1, 4, 11, 30 pp. 17-29, 58-75, 193-206, 574-588

#### **Listening: (Choose 2)**

- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Côte d'Ivoire with Ambassador Phil Carter*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62073>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Burkina Faso with Kamissa Camara*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62074>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Mali with Kamissa Camara*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62068>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Liberia with Gyude Moore*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62069>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Guinea-Bissau with Paulo Gomes*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62070>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Guinea with Ambassador Phil Carter*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62071>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Ghana with Kwasi Prempeh*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62072>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Mauritania with Intissar Fakir*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62067>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Togo with Désiré Assogbavi*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62064>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Nigeria with Uzodinma Iweala*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62065>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Niger with Ambassador Bisa Williams*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62066>
- Devermont, J. Wilet, N. (August 2021). *Togo with Désiré Assogbavi*. 49 Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/62064>

#### **Class 5 - October 3**

East Africa, Class Presentations (Guest discussants TBD)

#### **Reading:**

- Meredith, Ch. 12, 14, 19, 26 pp. 206-218, 249-259, 331-343, 464-484

**Listening:**

- Boswell, A. (December 2021). *Special Episode: Putting the Horn of Africa Back Together*. The Horn Podcast | International Crisis Group.  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/special-episode-putting-the-horn-of-africa-back-together/id1481350176?i=1000545912180>

**October 10**

No Class – Columbus Day

**Class 6 - October 17**

Central Africa, Class Presentations

**Reading:**

- Meredith, Ch. 6, 17, 27, 28 pp. 93-115, 293-308, 485-544

**Listening:**

- Seay, L. (May 2020). *GREAT WAR IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION OF AFRICA*. War Room|US Army War College.  
<https://warroom.armywarcollege.edu/podcasts/great-war-great-lakes/>

**Class 7 - October 24**

Governance, Class Presentations

**Reading:**

- Dunn & Englebert, Ch. 2-3, pp. 17-140.
- *Eight priorities for the African Union in 2022*. Crisis Group. (2022, February 2). Retrieved February 21, 2022, from <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/african-union-regional-bodies/b-177-eight-priorities-african-union-2022>
- Suleiman, M. Onapajo H. (2022, February 15). *Why West Africa has had so many coups and how to prevent more*. The Conversation.  
<https://theconversation.com/why-west-africa-has-had-so-many-coups-and-how-to-prevent-more-176577>

**Class 8 - October 31**

Power Politics, Class Presentations (**DRAFT PAPERS DUE**)

**Reading:**

- Dunn & Englebert, Ch. 3-5, pp. 141-230.
- Meredith, Ch. 9, 13 pp. 162-178, 218-248

**Class 9 - November 7**

Regional Security, Conflict, and Cooperation (Guest discussant TBD) (**MIDTERM – 1 hour**)

**Reading:**

- Dunn & Englebert, Ch. 7-8, pp. 289-406.
- Khadiagala, G. M. (2018). *REGIONAL COOPERATION ON DEMOCRATIZATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- ALVI, H. (2019). Terrorism in Africa: The Rise of Islamist Extremism and Jihadism. *Insight Turkey, A New Scramble for Africa?*, 21(1), 111–132.

**Visual:**

- ACSS. (January 2022) Surge in Militant Islamist Violence in the Sahel Dominates Africa's Fight against Extremists. <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/mig2022-01-surge-militant-islamist-violence-sahel-dominates-africa-fight-extremists/>

**Class 10 - November 14**      Regional Economic Development, Class Presentations**Reading:**

- Dunn & Englebert, Ch. 6, pp. 231-288.
- Bandiera, O., Elsayed, A., Smurra, A., & Zipfel, C. (2022). Young Adults and Labor Markets in Africa. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 36(1), 81–100.
- Asafu-Adjaye, J., & Brown, E. K. (2021). *REAPING AFRICA'S DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND: Two scenarios for Africa's youth*. European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).
- Ojakorotu, V., Kamidza, R., & Eesuola, O. S. (2018). Oil Wealth Paradox and Its Implication for Sustainable Development in Angola and Nigeria. *Journal of African Foreign Affairs*, 5(1), 85–106.
- CHIVUNGA, M., & TEMPEST, A. (2021). *Digital Disruption in Africa: Mapping Innovations for the AfCFTA in Post-COVID Times*. South African Institute of International Affairs.

**Class 11 - November 21**      Great Power Competition (Guest discussant TBD) (**FINAL PAPERS DUE**)**Reading:**

- Zimmerman, K. (2020). No Competition Without Presence: Should the U.S. Leave Africa??. *PRISM*, 9(1), 68–87.
- Batty, F. (2019). No Questions Asked? Development and the Paradox of China's Africa Policy. *Insight Turkey, A New Scramble for Africa?*, 21(1), 151–166.
- Benabdallah, L. (2021) China's Soft-Power Advantage in Africa: Beijing Isn't Just Building Roads—It's Making Friends. *Foreign Affairs*.
- Ramani, S. (2022). Russia Has Big Plans for Africa—America must push back against Russia's big plans for Africa—without getting dragged in. *Foreign Affairs*.

**Listening:**

- Devermont, J. (August 2021). *China, the U.S., and African Security Chiefs*. Into Africa Podcast, CSIS. <https://www.csis.org/node/61790>

**Class 12 - November 28** Africa's Global Future (Guest discussant TBD)

**Reading:**

- Temin, J. (2021). Africa Is Changing—and U.S. Strategy Is Not Keeping Up. Washington Needs to Rethink Its Approach to the Continent. *Foreign Affairs*
- Signé, L. (2018) How Africa Is Bucking the Isolationist Trend—The world is turning isolationist. Africa is a striking exception. *Foreign Affairs*.
- Devermont, J. (2020). *A new U.S. policy framework for the African Century*. A New U.S. Policy Framework for the African Century | Center for Strategic and International Studies.

**Listening:**

- Africa expert Judd Devermont talks with Michael Morell on “Intelligence Matters” <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-africa-expert-judd-devermont-talks-with-michael-morell-on-intelligence-matters/>

**Visual:**

- ACSS. (December 2021). African Migration Trends to Watch in 2022. <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/african-migration-trends-to-watch-in-2022/>

**Class 13 - December 7** FINAL EXAM (Note: this final class is on a Wednesday)