

POLS*3000 The Politics of Africa**Credit Weighting:** 0.5**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** See WebAdvisor**Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Ian S. Spears**Email:** ispears@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** 535 Mackinnon**GENERAL DETAILS**

Welcome to Politics of Africa. This course will provide students with an introduction to a number of major themes and ideas in contemporary African politics. The course begins with an introduction to key approaches or paradigms to African politics and development. Students will then consider perspectives on African history and identity. The course will consider the issue of personal rule, the nature of the African state, the prospects for democracy, and the legacy of white minority rule. A new section will examine Africa's role as both a catalyst of change and a recipient of international attention. Each week students will also have an opportunity to read speeches or other views in a section called "The African Experience."

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1) To expose students to the central and competing perspectives on the interpretation of African politics and its development.
- 2) To introduce students to relevant issues that confront African states and that inhibit or advance its place in the world.
- 3) To encourage students to expressing their own ideas about this region both in written and verbal forms as informed by contemporary readings and perspectives.
- 4) To provide students with a taste for life in Africa through African voices and narratives unmediated by outsiders.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The anticipated methods of assessment in this course will be as follows:

- 1) Midterm #1: Multiple Choice Exam
- 2) Midterm #2: Essay Format Exam
- 3) 5 Bi-Weekly Quizzes
- 4) Final Exam

REQUIRED READING

There is no textbook for this course. The course reading material will be available on e-reserve at McLaughlin Library. Go to the library website and click on course reserves. Other materials may be made available on the CourseLink website. Students are expected to come to class having read and prepared to discuss the course materials for that day. Students should make a habit of accessing any of the many Africa-related news sources on line.

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