YALOVA UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SYLLABUS

Course Name / Code	Africa in World Politics/ CIR 418
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Course Description

This course is an introduction to fundamental issues in contemporary African politics. The aim of the course is to raise students' awareness of the most pressing problems faced by African countries since their independence. The questions to be answered during the course include: How has Western intervention in the form of colonialism and development aid affected the social, political, and economic structure of Africa? Why are African states generally more unstable than non-African countries? What explains the failure of African countries to achieve stable economic development? What are the main causes of civil wars in many African countries? Why did authoritarianism appear in many African countries after independence? These questions will be examined closely with case studies, with an emphasis on the diversity that exists within and between African countries. The course consists of three parts. In the first part, we will look at Africa's recent political history by examining the major pre-colonial developments, the influence of colonialism, and the form of post-colonial states. We will then examine the socio-cultural and economic environments that characterize the political life in contemporary Africa. In the last part, we will analyze the events that occurred in selected African countries. Throughout the course, we will see that there are great differences between states in Africa in terms of economic development, power, and levels of violence. One of our main goals in this course will be to explain these differences. To do this, we will examine events in specific African countries in depth.

Course Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this CIR 418 coded course will be able to:

- Understand and define the issues that affect African countries' ability to become independent and sovereign states such as colonialism and nationalism.

- Identify the ongoing problems faced by African states in personal and military governance, and the weakness of party politics and democratization.

- Comprehend the progress of African states on economic development, considering the differences between states in terms of historical heritage, economic-policy preferences, and the effects of globalization and international aid.

- Understand and define the structure and functioning of institutions influencing regional African politics.

- Grasp the role of African countries in international politics since the Cold War.

- Describe the current issues that African countries have to solve at national and international scale.

Period	Unit	Material
Week 1	History Power and Space in Precolonial Africa	Thomson, A. (2016). 8-23 Herbst, J. (2014). 35-58
Week 2	Ideology	Thomson, A. (2016). 32-50
Week 3	Ethnicity and religion	Thomson, A. (2016). 60-74
Week 4	Social class	Thomson, A. (2016). 84-101
Week 5	Legitimacy	Thomson, A. (2016). 109-124
Week 6	Coercion	Thomson, A. (2016). 132-146
Week 7	MIDTERM	
Week 8	Sovereignty I	Thomson, A. (2016). 154-178
Week 9	Sovereignty II	Thomson, A. (2016). 188-205
Week 10	Authority	Thomson, A. (2016). 215-233
Week 11	Democracy	Thomson, A. (2016). 243-263
Week 12	Student presentations	
Week 13	Student presentations	
Week 14	Student presentations	

Evaluation Methods and Tools

Students will be responsible for the materials presented to them in the course and system during their exams. There will be midterm and final exams within the context of the course.

- The grading of the exams and the student presentations within the scope of the course are as follows;

    Midterm: 30% - Final Exam: 50% - Presentation 20% =Final grade.

Course Materials

Main Textbook:

Thomson, A. (2016). An introduction to African politics. Routledge

Herbst, J. (2014). States and power in Africa: Comparative lessons in authority and control. Princeton University Press.

Subsidiary texts:

Young, C. (2004). The end of the post-colonial state in Africa? Reflections on changing African political dynamics. African Affairs, 103(410), 23-49.

Michalopoulos, S., & Papaioannou, E. (2016). The long-run effects of the scramble for Africa. American Economic Review, 106(7), 1802-48.

Besley, T., & Reynal-Querol, M. (2014). The legacy of historical conflict: Evidence from Africa. American Political Science Review, 319-336

Migdal, J. S. (2004). State building and the non-nation-state. Journal of International Affairs, 17-46.

Martin, G. (2002). Africa in world politics: A pan-African perspective. Africa World Press

Method

The instructor may use lectures, comparisons, and case studies from textbooks and visual materials, too.

Students are encouraged to ask questions to clarify understanding and to discuss and debate the theories, principles, and concepts from the text, case studies, and lectures.

Class Participation

At the end of the term, instructor will check the attendance of all students in class. Students with highest attendance will be considered positively.

Course Adjustments and Changes

The course syllabus provides a general framework for Africa in World Politics course. The instructor of the course can make changes in the course plan in order to increase the student's knowledge and understanding of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Any student found to be involved in any verifiable incident of academic dishonesty (copying, cheating, plagiarizing, etc.) will receive a grade of "F" for the class