

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW COURSE PROPOSAL</b> <b>Undergraduate Programs</b>		UUPC Approval <u>11-16-20</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	<b>Department</b> Political Science <b>College</b> Arts and Letters <i>(To obtain a course number, contact <a href="mailto:erudolph@fau.edu">erudolph@fau.edu</a>)</i>		
<b>Prefix</b> CPO <b>Number</b> 4204	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i>  <b>Lab Code</b>	<b>Type of Course</b> Lecture	<b>Course Title</b> African Politics
<b>Credits</b> <i>(Review Provost Memorandum)</i> 3	<b>Grading</b> <i>(Select One Option)</i> <b>Regular</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Pass/Fail</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>Sat/UnSat</b> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Course Description</b> <i>(Syllabus must be attached; Syllabus Checklist recommended; see Guidelines)</i> This course explores the interaction of local and global factors that have influenced the politics of communities, nation-states, and regional organizations in Africa. The course balances the study of continental-wide trends and case study analysis of specific countries on the continent. The course studies the politics of the precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial eras. It probes the nature of political authority and citizen-states relations in African countries. The course examines the international dimensions of politics on the continent, including questions of development and western interventions.	
<b>Effective Date</b> <i>(TERM &amp; YEAR)</i> Fall 2021	<b>Prerequisites, with minimum grade*</b> n/a		<b>Corequisites</b> n/a
		<b>Registration Controls</b> <i>(Major, College, Level)</i> College	
<i>*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. &amp; Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course</i>			
<b>WAC/Gordon Rule Course</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No  <small>WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See <a href="#">WAC Guidelines</a>.</small>		<b>Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement</b> <i>(Select One Option)</i> None  <small>General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See <a href="#">GE Guidelines</a>.</small>	
<b>Minimum qualifications to teach course</b> PhD in Political Science			
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b> Annette LaRocco, <a href="mailto:laroccoa@fau.edu">laroccoa@fau.edu</a>		<b>List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course</b> All units in Arts and Letters were consulted. None expressed any concerns.	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair _____ College Curriculum Chair _____ College Dean _____ UUPC Chair <u>Jerry Haky</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Edward Pratt</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____		<b>Date</b> <u>10/16/20</u> <u>10.27.20</u> <u>10-27-2020</u> <u>11-16-20</u> <u>11-16-20</u> _____ _____	

Email this form and syllabus to [mjennning@fau.edu](mailto:mjennning@fau.edu) seven business days before the UUPC meeting.

## African Politics

CPO 4204, Course Credits: 3  
Florida Atlantic University, Fall 2021  
M 2:00-4:50 PM, GS 115 (Boca Raton)

Professor: Dr. Annette LaRocco  
Contact: [laroccoa@fau.edu](mailto:laroccoa@fau.edu)

Office: Social Science Building, Room 391A  
Office Hours: M 12:00-2:00pm  
WF 11:00am-12:00pm, 2:00pm-3:00pm

### Course Description

This course explores the interaction of local and international factors that have influenced the social, political, and economic trajectories of communities, nation-states, and regional organizations in Africa. The course has the ambition to talk about themes that are continental but recognizes this is not an easy task, with the African continent encompassing 54 different countries, each with its own deeply embedded contextual histories and contemporary political situations. The course begins by considering the history of state formation and political systems, looking at African pre-colonial institutions, competing systems of colonial rule, the ideologies and strategies of anti-colonial struggle, and their legacies in the independence era. The significance of the period of European colonial presence for modern African politics is evaluated using different socio-historical frameworks. Following from this, the course probes the nature of political authority and mobilization, and the relationships between the state and citizens and between violence and politics in Africa. It also considers the advantages and drawbacks of analyzing post-colonial African political experience through ethno-linguistic, religious, and class lenses. Finally, the course concludes by considering the international dimensions of politics on the continent, including questions of development/underdevelopment, extraversion and resource extraction, western aid, as well as violence, intervention, and international paradigms of human rights.

### Course Objectives

- ✓ To provide an introductory overview of the major themes in African politics and economic development, including the role of the international system on the continent.
- ✓ To present opportunities for the connection of theoretical and conceptual academic arguments to case-study analysis.
- ✓ To promote multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of politics, encompassing a broad scope of social science research.
- ✓ To encourage critical examination of popular, journalistic, and academic representations of 'Africa'.

### Required Texts

There are **three** required texts for this course: two academic texts and one novel.

Alex Thomson. *An Introduction to African Politics, Fourth Edition*. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Nic Cheeseman, David M. Anderson, and Andrea Scheibler (editors). *Routledge Handbook of African Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2015. [available as ebook from FAU library]

One novel of African fiction (see options below). [available at FAU Library]

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As you read course materials you may want to consider:

- ✓ What are the central themes/arguments/points being made in the readings?
- ✓ What evidence or methods have the authors used to support their arguments?
- ✓ How does the material relate to other readings examine in the course?
- ✓ What is the author's positionality and how might it impact the argument?

It is essential that assigned readings are completed **before** class. If it becomes apparent that students are not coming prepared and/or class discussion is inadequate, I will require students to turn in reading responses each week and/or administer pop quizzes.

Additional suggested texts that may assist in your general comprehension of African politics:

Cooper, Frederick. *Africa since 1940: the past of the present, second edition*.  
Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019

Harrison, Graham. *Issues in the Contemporary Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa*, London:  
Palgrave, 2002.

Young, Tom. *Africa: A Beginner's Guide*. Oxford: OneWorld, 2010.

There is a sustained effort in African Studies and Africanist political science to decolonize the academy. As such, a crowd-sourced reading list of scholarly, peer-reviewed works written by African scholars has been developed over the last several years. It is a very helpful resource.  
[http://democracyinafrica.org/decolonizing\\_the\\_academy/](http://democracyinafrica.org/decolonizing_the_academy/)

*African Affairs* has curated a series of 'country' reading lists that may be useful for you in your Country Brief assignment. <https://academic.oup.com/afraf/pages/country-reading-lists>

Peer-reviewed journals that may provide a good basis for exploring the existing academic literature in African politics and for working on your Country Briefs:

Africa: Journal of the International African  
Institute  
African Affairs  
African Studies Review  
African Studies Quarterly  
Commonwealth and Comparative Politics  
Development and Change  
Journal of African and Asian Studies

Journal of Modern African Studies  
Journal of East African Studies  
Journal of Southern African Studies  
Politikon: South African Journal of Political  
Studies  
Review of African Political Economy  
Third World Quarterly

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### Course Requirements

#### *Participation*

This course consists of a combination of lecture, class discussion, and small group activities. As such, your attendance and engaged participation is vital. Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable, doing so will be noted and reflected in your participation grade

Students are required to actively participate in the class; you will have the opportunity to do so both during and outside of classroom hours via office hours. The most important aspect of class participation is demonstrating respect for your fellow classmates and professor. We will be discussing some controversial issues in class, and I expect that you will conduct yourself in a civil, respectful, and conscientious manner.

Simply <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> sitting in the class sessions will not earn you full marks on participation; coming to class with questions and comments will. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of “zero” (0) for that class (see full attendance policy below). Other factors to be taken into consideration in evaluating the quality of your participation include preparation for class, being attentive during class discussions, and raising thoughtful comments and questions. Productive participation can take many forms including:

- ✓ initiating a topic or question
- ✓ providing examples/empirical evidence to clarify a point <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- ✓ trying to synthesize or summarize a part of the discussion <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- ✓ seeking clarification when one is unsure <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- ✓ adding to and amending what other students have said
- ✓ respectfully offering positive and negative reactions to others’ points <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- ✓ seeking the positions (or clarification of positions) from other students <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- ✓ attending office hours with substantive questions

#### *Map Quiz*

The map quiz will test the students’ knowledge of the political geography of Africa. Students will be expected to be able to identify and name the 54 states on the continent. There will be an opportunity for extra credit on this quiz, which will be explained in detail on the first day of class.

#### *Assignments*

- ✓ Country Briefs (2)

Over the course of the semester students must complete two country briefs detailing the history, economy, and key issues of the contemporary political situation in the case-study country of your choosing. The first brief will focus on the context and political history and the second brief will focus on the contemporary political space. This will allow students to begin to develop a deeper case-study knowledge of an individual country alongside learning about continental-wide trends. During the first

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week of class, all students will select their focus country and I will approve these choices in order to prevent overlap and repetition among your classmates. Further information will be provided about the exact specifications of the assignment when case countries are selected. Your country briefs should be a maximum of 1,500 words in length (not including the bibliography). Citations using the APA method along with a full bibliography are required.

### ✓ African Politics News Briefing

Each student will give a 5-minute in-class oral presentation about a piece of contemporary political news occurring in Africa. You will be expected to present a journalistic article about a related current event and provide context in order to situate the issue within the larger political themes of the course.

### ✓ Book Review

In addition to our examination of academic texts and empirical case studies, this course will use African literature as a lens through which to study politics. Students are expected to read one work of fiction over the course of the semester and write a three page book review which includes a) an evaluation of the literary content of the novel and b) thoughtful reflections about how the novel confirms, contests, or complicates the picture of African politics gleaned from our academic study. Students may choose from one of the following novels:

- ✓ *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), 1958
- ✓ *The River Between*, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (Kenya), 1965
- ✓ *The Famished Road*, Ben Okri (Nigeria), 1991
- ✓ *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Nigeria), 2007
- ✓ *Coconut*, Kopano Matlwa (South Africa), 2008
- ✓ *We Need New Names*, NoViolet Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), 2013

More detailed assignment instructions will be distributed early in the semester.

There is an opportunity for extra credit if you'd like to read and write about more than one novel. Please see me during office hours to confirm your interest in reading a second work of fiction. NB: These novels should all be available from the library if you do not wish to purchase your own copy.

### *Examinations*

The course is divided into three broad sections, with an exam accompanying each section. The exams will test knowledge of themes discussed in course readings as well as information covered during class sessions and discussions. Class lectures and discussion will often cover material that is not covered in the texts alone, so receiving a good grade in this course requires that you attend class *and* do the readings. You will be expected to bring a blue book, which can be purchased at the campus bookstore, on the day of examination.

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- ✓ Midterm Exams (Midterm I and Midterm II)  
These examinations are based on the required readings, lecture materials, and class discussions. They will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer questions, and identifications.
  
- ✓ Final Exam  
This examination will take place from **1:15pm to 3:45pm on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. The exam is broadly cumulative but will focus primarily on the final third of the course. It will consist of short answer, identifications, and an essay question.

### Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated based on the following weighted average of each course requirement:

Map Quiz – 5%  
Participation and Attendance – 5%  
News Brief – 5%  
Book Review – 10%  
Country Briefs – 20% (10% each)  
Midterm I – 15%  
Midterm II – 20%  
Final – 20%

### Grading Scale

Students will be evaluated on the following grade scale:

	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	
A	94-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	below 60

### Course Rules and Regulations

#### *COVID-19 Policy*

All students in face-to-face classes are required to wear masks during class, and students must sanitize their own workstations upon entering the classroom. Taking these measures supports the safety and protection of the FAU community. Students who do not adhere to these rules will be asked to leave the classroom and/or be removed from the course. Students experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or students who have come in contact with an infected person should immediately contact FAU Student Health Services (561-297-3512).

#### *Classroom Etiquette*

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Being a respectful classmate means limiting the potential distractions that may disturb your colleagues' learning processes. In light of this, if you wish to use a laptop for note-taking purposes you must sit in the back row of the classroom. Once these seats are filled you, no other students will be permitted to use laptops on that day. Laptop use outside of the last row of seats will be reflected negatively in your participation grade. Similarly, cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited during class time.

### *Attendance and missed classes policies*

Attendance is required for this course. I will have attendance sign-in sheet for every class. Please make every effort to be seated promptly at the start of class so as not to disrupt your classmates, and frequent late arrivals/early departures will be reflected in your participation grade. Unexcused absences will negatively impact your participation grade. However, making the effort to attend office hours after an absence will be reflected in your participation grade, though office hours *are not* a substitute for regular, good attendance. An unexcused absence on an exam day will result in a failing grade for that exam. [SEP]

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates specified in this syllabus or on the assignment sheet. Written work not submitted at the beginning of class will be considered late. Late work will receive a full letter grade deduction for every 24 hours it is late. I will not accept work submitted 72 hours after the original deadline. If you are unable to complete an assignment on time due to illness or personal emergency, you can request an extension with the supporting documents such as a medical note from a doctor. I reserve the right to grant or deny an extension.

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

### *Honor Code Violations*

Good academic work requires citation of sources and the ability to put one's own thoughts into context. Citations are required for ideas as well as facts, and are necessary even if you are paraphrasing from academic research. The APA style of citation is compulsory and must be used for all materials incorporated into your work. When in doubt, cite. **If you are unclear about the rules for academic citation please see me during office hours.** [SEP]

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Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg\\_4.001\\_5-26-10\\_FINAL.pdf](http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf)

### *Disability policy*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 ([561-297-3880](tel:561-297-3880)); in Davie, LA 203 ([954-236-1222](tel:954-236-1222)); or in Jupiter, SR 110 ([561-799-8585](tel:561-799-8585))—and follow all SAS procedures. If you require a special accommodation, please make an appointment to discuss this with me at the beginning of the semester.

### *Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center Policy*

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

### *Email Etiquette*

I will always do my best to answer your questions in a timely manner (usually within 48 hours), but please keep the following in mind:

- ✓ When emailing include the course name and call number in the subject line.
- ✓ Follow basic norms of professionalism (don't start an email with 'hey'), if you have questions about what is appropriate this is a helpful resource <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>.
- ✓ Check the syllabus and/or Blackboard before sending questions on class logistics. I will not answer emails about information that can be found on the syllabus.
- ✓ Do not expect instant replies (especially in the evening) or replies over the weekend.
- ✓ Email is great for clarification and for setting up appointments. More substantive questions about course material are best handled face-to-face. I encourage you to come see me during office hours.
- ✓ I will not discuss grades over email. If you have a question about your grade, please stop by during office hours or make arrangements to meet at another time.



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### Course Schedule – Readings, Assignments and Examinations

#### Monday August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Course Overview, Introduction: How to start thinking about 'Africa'

##### **Required Readings:**

- Cheeseman and Anderson, *An introduction to African politics* (Routledge)
- Thomson, *Introduction: state, civil society and external interests*
- Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to write about Africa" (Canvas)

##### **Recommended Readings:**

- Friedman (2018) "The 'science' of superiority: Africa and scholarly colonial assumptions" *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 36(4): 449-463.

#### Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> – Historical Trajectories in Africa (Politics in Precolonial & Colonial eras)

##### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *History: Africa's pre-colonial and colonial inheritance*
- Young, *Africa before colonialism* (Canvas)
- Wright (1999) "What Do You Mean There Were No Tribes in Africa?: Thoughts on Boundaries—And Related Matters—In Precolonial Africa" *History in Africa*, 26: 409-426 (Canvas)

### **MAP QUIZ**

#### Monday September 6<sup>th</sup>

### **LABOR DAY NO CLASS**

#### Monday September 13<sup>th</sup> – Historical Trajectories in Africa (Politics of Decolonization & Independence)

##### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Ideology: nationalism, socialism, populism & state capitalism*
- Cheeseman, *Nationalism, one-party states, and military rule* (Routledge)
- Young, *Colonial rule and nationalist revolt* (Canvas)
- Dorman (2015) "The Varieties of Nationalism in Africa" *Current History* (Canvas)

### **COUNTRY BRIEF #1 FIRST DRAFT**

#### Monday September 20<sup>th</sup> – The African State and Modes of Authority

##### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Legitimacy: neo-patrimonialism, personal rule & the centralisation of the African state*
- Erdmann, *Neopatrimonialism and political regimes* (Routledge)
- Pitcher, Moran, and Johnston (2009), "Rethinking Patrimonialism and Neopatrimonialism in Africa" *African Studies Review*, 5(2): 125-156. (Canvas)

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Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>

### **MIDTERM I**

Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> – *The Politics of Postcolonial Africa*

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Authority: the crises of accumulation, governance and state collapse*
- Allen (1995), "Understanding African Politics" *Review of African Political Economy*, 22 (65): 301-320. (Canvas)

### **COUNTRY BRIEF #1 DUE**

Monday October 11<sup>th</sup> – *Identity in African Politics*

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Ethnicity and religion: 'tribes', gods and political identity*
- Lynch, *The politics of ethnicity* (Routledge)
- Geschiere, *Autochthony and the politics of belonging* (Routledge)

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Berman (1998), "Ethnicity, Patronage and the African State: The Politics of Uncivil Nationalism" *African Affairs*, 97(388): 305-341. (Canvas)
- Posner (2004), "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi" *The American Political Science Review*, 98(4): 529-545. (Canvas)

Monday October 18<sup>th</sup> – *Identity in African Politics*

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Social class: the search for class politics in Africa*
- Freund, *Class politics* (Routledge)
- Mama, *Women in politics* (Routledge)

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Bauer and Burnet (2013), "Gender quotas, democracy, and women's representation in Africa: Some insights from democratic Botswana and autocratic Rwanda," *Women's Studies International Forum*. 41: 103-112. (Canvas)

Monday October 25<sup>th</sup>

### **MIDTERM II**

## African Politics

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### Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> – Conflict and the role of the Military

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Coercion: military intervention in African politics*
- Curtis, *Post-conflict peacebuilding* (Routledge)
- Clark, *Transitional justice after atrocity* (Routledge)

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Mehler, *Power-sharing* (Routledge)
- Straus (2012), "Wars Do End!: Changing Patterns of Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa," *African Affairs*. 111(443):179–201. (Canvas)

### **COUNTRY BRIEF #2 FIRST DRAFT**

### Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> – Democratization

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Democracy: re-legitimising the African state?*
- van de Walle, *Electoral authoritarianism and multi-party politics* (Routledge)
- Ake (1993) "The Unique Case of African Democracy" *International Affairs*, 69(2):239-244. (Canvas)

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Bogaards, *Political Parties* (Routledge)
- Bratton, *Public opinion and democratic consolidation* (Routledge)
- Lindberg, *The power of elections* (Routledge)
- Barkan, *Emerging legislatures* (Routledge)

### Monday November 15<sup>th</sup> – Sovereignty I: Geopolitics and Africa

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Sovereignty I: external influences on African politics*
- Young, *Can outsiders change Africa?* (Canvas)
- Alden, *China and Africa* (Routledge)
- LeVan (2010) "The Political Economy of African Responses to the US Africa Command" *Africa Today*, 57(1): 2-23.

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Khadiagala, *Pan-Africanism and regional integration* (Routledge)

### Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sovereignty II: IPE and Africa

#### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Sovereignty II: neo-colonialism, structural adjustment and Africa's political economy*
- Mshomba, *Africa and the global economy* (Routledge)

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- Williams, *Aid, trade, investment and dependency* (Routledge)
- Taylor (2016) "Dependency redux: why Africa is not rising" *Review of African Political Economy*, 43(147): 8-25. (Canvas)

### **Recommended Readings:**

- Cooper, *Development and disappointment* (Canvas)

### **COUNTRY BRIEF #2 DUE**

Monday November 29<sup>th</sup> – Conclusion and Final Exam Review

### **Required Readings:**

- Thomson, *Conclusions: the changing relationship between state, civil society and external interests in the post-colonial era*

### **BOOK REVIEW DUE**

Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>

### **FINAL EXAM 1:15pm – 3:45pm**

### **Summary of Assignments and Examination Outline**

Monday August 30:	Map Quiz
Monday September 13:	Country Brief 1 first draft
Monday September 27:	Midterm I
Monday October 4:	Country Brief 1 due
Monday October 25:	Midterm II
Monday November 1:	Country Brief 2 first draft
Monday November 22:	Country Brief 2 due, 5-minute oral presentations
Monday November 29:	Book Review due
Monday December 13:	Final Exam

*The date for the African news brief assignment will be individually assigned.*