

Covenant University
College of Leadership Development Studies
School of Human Resource Development
2014/2015 Academic Session

Department:	Political Science and International Relations
Programmes:	(1) Political Science (2) Policy and Strategic Studies (3) International Relations
Course Code:	POS114
Course Title:	Introduction to African Politics
Course Units:	2 Credits
Lecturer:	Dr. (Mrs.) Owolabi, F. and Mr. Olanrewaju, I.P.
Semester:	Alpha
Time:	Friday, 8.00 – 10.00 am
Venue:	H401

Brief Overview of Course:

The course explains the meaning and scope of Political Science; examines basic and introductory concepts in the discipline in order to equip the students with the appropriate tools for analysing African politics. It periodizes African politics: the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras, taking note of the nature of political institutions that were and still created and the political contestations and competitions. It explains how the development ideology and the interest(s) of each historical epoch have, in turn, shaped the conduct of African politics and the nature of political institutions such as the parliament, the political parties, and the conduct of elections. Finally, it examines the consequences of all this for democracy and development in Africa.

Course Objectives/Goals:

The course introduces the students to basic conceptual issues in Political Science in the hope of enabling them to grasp the understanding of the forces that have, in turn, shaped contemporary African politics and its development.

Methods of Lecture Delivery/Teaching Aids:

Basically, the course is taught by lecturers with the use of multimedia power point presentations and short relevant video clips will be shown to students to enhance understanding. Most importantly, emphasis is made on students' participation during contact hours.

Course Outlines

Module 1: Introduction: Conceptual Issues

Week 1: Definition and scope of Political Science

Week 2: Concepts of power, authority, government and state

Week 3: Separation of power

Module 2: Basic Issues in African Politics

Week 4: African Society and the Advent of Colonialism

Week 5: Nationalism and Independence in Africa

Week 6: Military Coups and Military Rule in Africa

Module 3: Democratization and Democratic Consolidation in Africa

Week 7: Civil Rule and Multi-party Politics in Africa

Week 8: Periodic Elections and Politics of Succession in Africa

Module 4: Issues in African Politics and Government

Week 9: Ethnicity and National Integration in Africa

Week 10: Leadership Failure in Africa

Module 5: Issues in African Politics and Government Continues

Week 11: Corruption and Economic Crisis in Africa

Week 12: Underdevelopment, Globalization and Africa in World Politics

Week 13: Revision

Tutorials: Tutorials will be done 45 minutes before the end of every class

Structure of the Programme/Method of Grading:

Attendance: 15%

Continuous Assessment Test: 15%

Examination: 70%

Total: 100%

Grand Rules and Regulations:

It is compulsory for registered students to attend all lectures and must be seated 10 minutes before the commencement of lectures. Students must accumulate at least 75% attendance to be qualified to seat for the examination.

Topics for Term Papers/Assignments/Student Activities

In not less than three pages typed, double line spacing, font 12; “Africa’s current socio-economic underdevelopment cannot be attributed to the 50 years colonial exploitation, but to her own undoing”. What is your take?

Alignment with Covenant University Vision/Goals:

The objectives of the course as stated above, is to produce students who can interpret and analyse the issues that underpin Africa’s political and economic development; all as part of the University’s core value of capacity building, and vision of rising a new generation of leaders in Africa.

Contemporary Issues/Industry Relevance:

Africa’s protracted underdevelopment and the strategy for its recovery from crisis has become a major global concern, in part, because Africa’s politics is played to ‘end politics’ and deepen the loot of the continent by the political leadership and its foreign collaborators. The course enhances the students’ understanding of the nature of African politics and; herein partly lies, its relevance.

Recommended Reading Texts:

- Ajayi, R. and Fashagba, Y. (eds.) (2012). *Introductory Text in Political Science*, Kwara, Nigeria: Landmark University
- Ake, C. (1978). *The Political Economy of Africa*, Lagos: Longmans
- Ake, C. (1985). *The Political Economy of Nigeria*, Lagos: Longmans
- Akinsanya, A. & Ayoade, J. (2005). *Reading in Nigeria Government and Politics*, Ijebu Ode, Nigeria: Gratia
- Bayart, J. (1993). *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*, London: Longmans
- Ekundare, O. (1973). *An Economic History of Nigeria, 1860-1960*, London: Matheun and Co.
- Gordon, A. and Gordon, D. (eds.). (2001). *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, Boulder: Lynne Reinner
- Nnoli, O. (ed.) (1981). *Path to Nigeria’s Development*, Dakar: Codesria
- Onah, E.I. (2010). *Politics and Government in Africa*. Lagos: Concept Publications
- Rodney, W. (1972). *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Abuja: Panaf Publishing
- Rothchild, D. & Chazan, N. (eds.) (1988). *The Precarious Balance: State and Society in Africa*, Boulder: Lynne Reinner

Schraeder, P.J. (2000). *African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation*, NY: St. Martin's Press.

Thompson, A. (2003). *Introduction to African Politics*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner