Governments and Politics in Africa

The course will examine Africa partly in relation to dialectical processes (not necessarily Marxian) and partly according to themes. Each student will be required to review a major book and either take a final examination at the end or submit a research paper.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: THE DIALECTICAL APPROACH

I. (a) The dialectic between continuity and change. How much of the heritage of pre-colonial Africa continues to condition political behavior in the post-colonial era? How much of a reflection of colonialism is independent Africa today?

(b) The dialectic between tradition and modernity. This is a special normative formulation of the above dialectic. It rests on a paradigm of transition from tradition to modernity. The paradigm includes theories of modernization.

II. (a) The dialectic between dependency and liberation. This includes the impact of European colonialism, western commerce and Christian churches on Africa. This section of the course will also examine strategies of resistance and liberation adopted by, or open to, African nationalists and policy-makers.

(b) The dialectic between foreign and indigenous influences. This is a special formulation of II(a) above. What should be remembered is that indigenization is only one strategy of liberation. Other strategies range from establishment of revolutionary socialism to the pursuit of counter-penetration into the Northern hemisphere.

III. (a) The dialectic between anarchy and order. This part of the course will focus on problems of nation-building, political integration and cultural engineering. How can Africa move from ethnic tensions to more settled nationhood?

(b) The dialectic between political decay and political development. This is a special formulation of the above theme. It includes Huntington's distinction between modernization and development - with the assertion that rapid modernization could cause political decay rather than development.

IV. (a) The dialectic between democracy and authoritarianism. This part of the course is more directly normative and ideological. It evaluates the other political processes according to certain standards of political participation, economic distribution and social justice.

(b) The dialectic between socialism and capitalism. This is viewed as a special case of the above dialectic - and relates issues of power to the
forces of class-formation and class relations.

Discussion in class will only be illustrative of these dialectics. Students are expected to bear in mind their reading as well.

The following themes are also broader than can be handled in class. Again, they are a guide to students in analyzing what they read.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: THE THEMATIC APPROACH

THEME I: African Nationalism: Primary and Secondary Resistance

(a) Primary Resistance at the Time of Colonialism
(b) The Origins of African Nationalism
(c) The Politicization of the Masses Under Colonialism

THEME II: Race Consciousness and the Rise of Pan-Africanism

(a) Pan-Africanism: Sub-Saharan, Trans-Saharan, and Trans-Atlantic
(b) Race-Consciousness and the Continental Mystique
(c) Negritude and Pan-Black Solidarity
(d) Toward Institutionalizing Pan-Africanism

THEME III: The Emergence and Development of Political Parties

(a) The Politicization of Social and Cultural Groups
(b) Organized Agitation in Comparative Perspective
(c) The Infrastructure of Modern Leadership

THEME IV: Independence and the Growth of Executive Power

(a) The Decline of Political Parties
(b) The Decline of Legislatures
(c) The Rise of Presidential Power

THEME V: Ethnicity in African Politics

(a) Ancient Loyalties and Modern Identities
(b) Ethnicity and Resource Allocation
(c) Ethnicity and the Scramble for Power
(d) Ethnicity and Cultural Nationalism

THEME VI: Class-Formation in Changing Africa

(a) Is there Class-Struggle in Africa?
(b) Traditional and Modern Elites
(c) Ethnicity, Class Differences, and Economic Underdevelopment

THEME VII: Problems of Civil-Military Relations
V. Civil/Military Relations in Africa


VI. Ethnicity in African Politics


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<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Cooperative and Conflict in Southern Africa</td>
<td>Gutkind, Peter E.</td>
<td>Northwestern Univ. Press</td>
<td>(Montreal, 1972)</td>
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<td>1978</td>
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<td>Mazrui, Ali A.</td>
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**Appendix**


IX. Problems of Cultural Dependency


2. Fanon, Frantz, White Masks, Black Faces.


X. Pan-Africanism and the Organization of African Unity


2. Green, R. and A. Seidman, Unity or Poverty? (Harmondsworth, 1968).