

## **POLI120N: Contention and Conflict in Africa**

Instructor: Professor Claire Adida  
University of California San Diego  
Winter Quarter 2014  
Tue-Thurs: 9.30-10.50am  
YORK4080A

### **Course description**

This course introduces students to the systematic study of conflict in sub-Saharan Africa. It has two goals: to provide a theoretical and methodological overview of how to study conflict in Africa, and to offer a substantive introduction to the various forms of conflict the region encounters.

### **Course format**

This course meets as a lecture twice a week for the ten weeks of the quarter. Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the readings for that day. Lecture slides are posted online on a weekly basis, at the end of each week. Lectures will not be podcast. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the material from classmates.

### **Course requirements**

Students will be graded based on a map quiz (20%), a midterm (30%), and a final exam (50%):

**Map quiz (20%):** Students are expected to be able to identify the 48 sub-Saharan African countries on a map, their current leader, and ex-colonial power(s). You will have 20 minutes to locate and identify that information for a random sample of sub-Saharan African countries. The map quiz will take place during the last 20 minutes of class on **Tuesday, January 28**. A study sheet will be provided. A good place to practice is: <http://youdontknowafrica.com/>.

**Midterm (30%):** The midterm will be held during class time on **Thursday, February 6**. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will include multiple-choice and identification questions.

**Final (50%):** The final exam will be held on **Tuesday, March 18 from 8-11am**. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will be cumulative. It will include multiple-choice, identification, and essay questions. Depending on how well the class performs on the map quiz, it may include another map quiz.

## **Course policies**

Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances, and not without **proper written documentation** justifying your absence (i.e., a doctor's note) and **submitted to the instructor at least one week in advance**.

Please consult <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html> for UCSD's Academic Integrity Policy. Students in this course are expected to comply with this policy. Any student in violation of UCSD's policy will automatically fail this class.

If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, please come see me **as soon as possible** and present your certification to me and to Ariane Parkes ([aparkes@ucsd.edu](mailto:aparkes@ucsd.edu)).

If you seek a **re-grade**, you must email the TA **within 72 hours** of the assignment being returned to the class, and explain – in that email and in detail – why you believe you deserve reconsideration. The TA then has the ability to review the entire exam, and the authority to increase your grade, decrease your grade, or keep the grade unchanged.

## **Teaching Assistant**

Consult your TA first with any questions relating to the course:

Cameron Sells

[csells@ucsd.edu](mailto:csells@ucsd.edu)

O.H.: Wednesday 1-3pm in SSB352

## **Readings**

All reading are available on the class website: <http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/poli120n/>

## **BACKGROUND**

January 7: Introduction

January 9: The Challenge for Africa's Leaders

Binyavanga Wainana. 2005. "How to write about Africa." *Granta* 92.

Herbst, J. 2000. State and Power in Africa: Chapter 1.

January 14: The European Imprint on Africa

Herbst, J. 2000. State and Power in Africa: Chapter 3.

Nunn, Nathan. 2010. "Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa's Slave Trade." Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson, Eds. Natural Experiments of History. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

January 16: African Independence

Meredith, Martin. 2005. The Fate of Africa: Chapters 8, 9 and 13.

Iliffe, John. 2007. Africans: The History of a Continent: Chapter 11.

## **THEORIES OF VIOLENCE**

January 21: Ancient Hatreds versus Rational Origins

Kaplan, R. 1994. "The Coming Anarchy." *The Atlantic*.

Fearon, J. 1995. "Ethnic War as a Commitment Problem."  
Working Paper.

January 23: Economic roots of conflict

Elbadawi, I. and N. Sambanis. 2000. "Why are there so many civil wars in Africa? Understanding and preventing violent conflict." *Journal of African Economies* 9(3).

Herbst, J. 2000. "Economic incentives, natural resources and conflict in Africa." *Journal of African Economies* 9(3).

January 28: **MAP QUIZ**

Political roots of conflict

Roessler, Phil. 2011. "The Enemy within: personal rule, coups, and civil war in Africa." *World Politics* 63(02): 300-346.

Wimmer, Andreas, Lars-Erik Cederman and Brian Min. 2009. "Ethnic Politics and Armed Conflict: A Configurational Analysis of a New Global Data Set." *American Sociological Review* 74.

January 30: Case Study: Liberia

Berkeley, Bill. 2001. The Graves Are Not Yet Full: Chapter 1.

February 4: Case Study: South Sudan

Fisher, Max. 2013. "The world's newest country is already on the brink of civil war. Here's how it happened." *The Washington Post*. December 23.

Roessler, Phil. 2013. "Why South Sudan has exploded in violence." *The Washington Post*. December 24.

February 6: **MIDTERM**

## **CONFLICTS IN AFRICA**

### February 11: Genocide

De Waal, Alex. 2013. "Playing the Genocide Card." *New York Times*: December 18, 2013:  
<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2013/12/19/opinion/playing-the-genocide-card.html?smid=tw-share>

Kasfir, Nelson. 2005. "Sudan's Darfur: Is it Genocide?" *Current History* 104(682)

Lemkin, Raphael. 1946. "Genocide" *American Scholar* 15(2)

### February 13: Explaining the Rwandan Genocide

Straus, Scott. 2006. Local Dynamics. In *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 65-94

Yanagizawa-Drott, D. 2012. "Propaganda and Conflict: Theory and Evidence from the Rwandan Genocide." Working Paper: Sections 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 (SKIP Sections 3 and 5)

### February 18: Electoral Violence

Arriola, Leonardo and Chelsea Johnson. 2012. "Electoral Violence in Democratizing States." Working Paper.

Klopp, J.M. and E. Zuern. "The Politics of Violence in Democratization: Lessons from Kenya and South Africa." *Comparative Politics* 39.

### February 20: Solutions to Electoral Violence

M. D. 2012. "How to Save Votes." *The Economist*.

Fisman, R. 2011. "A Picture of Democracy." *Slate*

### February 25: Secession

Englebert, P. and Hummel. 2005. "Let's stick together: understanding Africa's secessionist deficit." *African Affairs*. 104(416).

"Emeka Ojukwu". 2011. *The Economist*

February 27: The Secessionist Origins of the Malian Crisis

Whitehouse, B. 2013. "Understanding Mali's 'Tuareg Problem'." *Bridges from Bamako* blog.

Zachary, G.P. 2012. "Mali's Crisis, Obama's Opportunity." *The Atlantic*.

March 4: Climate change & agricultural adaptation (in-class video: Prof. Lobell: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpLpXZKZnP0&feature=youtu.be> start at 10')

2010. "Adapting to Climate Change; Facing the Consequences." *The Economist*

March 6: Climate Change and Conflict

Burke, M. et al. 2009. "Warming increases the risk of civil war in Africa." *PNAS* 106(49).

Hendrix, Cullen and Idean Salehyan. 2012. "Climate Change, Rainfall, and Social Conflict in Africa." *Journal of Peace Research* 49(1).

March 11: Migration and Conflict

Woods, D. 2003. "The tragedy of the cocoa pod: rent-seeking, land and ethnic conflict in Ivory Coast." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 41(4).

March 13: Conclusion

Adichie, Chimamanda. 2009. "The Danger of a Single Story." *TED Talk*.

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 8-11am**