

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

Instructor: Professor Claire Adida  
University of California San Diego  
Winter Quarter 2015  
Tue-Thurs: 2-3.20pm  
WLH2207

### **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. This class offers no study guide for exams. Part of your job is to figure out what is important information and what is not. However, because most of you do not know me or my expectations, I will assist you in two ways: (1) Every week before the midterm, I will post the lecture slides online as well as a list of the important terms you need to know from that week. Putting together that weekly list of terms will help you prepare for the midterm. **I will no longer do this after the midterm** (though posting lecture slides will continue); (2) There will be study sessions led by your TA, one before the midterm and one before the final.

### **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 27**. 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 5**. This will be a closed-book, closed-note exam. It will include multiple-choice and identification questions. There will be a TA-led review session on Tuesday, February 3 during class time.

**Final (50%):** The final exam will be held on **Thursday, March 19 from 3-6pm**. 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. There will be a TA-led review session Thursday, March 12 during class time.

### **Course policies**

The use of laptops, cell phones, tablets, or any other type of electronic device is prohibited during class time. Research shows that you learn more and distract others (including me) less if you stick to good old pen and paper:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/09/25/why-a-leading-professor-of-new-media-just-banned-technology-use-in-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).

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 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**

John Porten (jporten@ucsd.edu)

SSB326

O.H.: Tuesdays 3.30-5.30pm

### **Readings**

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

## **BACKGROUND**

January 6: Introduction

January 8: 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 13: 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 15: 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 20: 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 22: 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 27: **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 29: Case Study: Liberia

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

Anderson, Jon Lee. 1998. "The Devil they Know". *The New Yorker*.

February 3: Midterm Review Session

**February 5: MIDTERM**

## **CONFLICTS IN AFRICA**

### February 10: 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 12: 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 17: 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 19: Solutions to Electoral Violence

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

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

### February 24: 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 26: The Secessionist Origins of the Malian Crisis (John Porten)

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 3: Climate change & agricultural adaptation (Professor Burney, IRPS)

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

March 5: 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 10: 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 12: Conclusion and review session

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

**FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 3-6pm**