What accounts for the prevailing patterns of ethnic, gender, race and status relations in present-day Africa? To what extent have they been prefigured by earlier histories? How have various political forces sought to overturn discriminatory legal and racial orders, to end the various forms of gender bias, to reverse exclusion from citizenship rights, or to end authoritarian rule? How do we make sense of current African debates about citizenship, women’s rights, and alternative forms of modernity?

This is a Comparative Politics course that is also listed with Women’s Studies. It examines issues of political identity, gender relationships and citizenship in contemporary Africa – through analytical frameworks that focus on processes of democratization, modes of interest representation, and the challenges of nation-building. You will learn how to identify distinctive patterns of ethnic, race and gender relations; how to historicize a concept in order to analyze change over time; how social categories become a basis for constructing political identities; and how to apply these constructs in a variety of approaches to the analysis of democracy and the dynamics of political inclusion and exclusion. Case studies that vary the context are used to provide comparative perspective, to test hypotheses, and to ground the phenomena we try to understand in concrete situations. Particular emphasis is paid to the relationship between politics and culture.

I will not try to be comprehensive with regard to the entire continent but hope to abstract patterns that are illustrative of the cultures of politics in Africa. The aim is to understand the changing socioeconomic, cultural, and gender dynamics of African societies as we relate these processes to general theories of politics and governance.

Course Requirements & Assessment

There will be one mid-semester examination, a news analysis assignment, and a final examination. Weighted equally, these three assessments count for 90% of the course grade. The news analysis consists of two segments: a) a 4-6 page background paper and b) a 6-8 page discussion of the critical political interests and issues involved.

In addition to the required books and journal articles, this course has a Blackboard site that hosts supplemental documents, external links, and online exercises. You are expected to logon to the site at least once a week to keep current with Africa news and to participate in the various online assignments. The online assignments, together with in-class presentations, will account for 10% of the final course grade. The course site can be accessed at the following URL: [http://blackboard.tufts.edu](http://blackboard.tufts.edu)

Midterm Examination – Wednesday, October 20
Background paper due – Monday, November 8
Analysis Paper due – Monday, November 22
Final Examination – Thursday, December 16 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Make-up exams will be given only with a written, verified, medical excuse. Please Note: Papers will be submitted through TurnItIn.com.
Books for Purchase in the Campus Bookstore

Kelly Askew – *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania*
Michael Bratton and Nicolas van de Walle – *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*
Barbara Callaway and Lucy Creevey – *The Heritage of Islam: Women, Religion and Politics in West Africa*
Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf – *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa’s First Woman President*
Mahmood Mamdani – *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda*
Anthony W. Marx – *Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa and Brazil*
Michael Schatzberg – *Political Legitimacy in Middle Africa: Father, Family, Food*
Aili Mari Tripp – *Women and Politics in Uganda*

All Additional readings listed on the syllabus are available on the Blackboard coursesite.

I. THE PRESIDENT’S FORUM WITH YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS: BREAKING OLD HABITS

September 8: Introduction: Citizens and Subjects – A Tale of Two Africas

View video: “Town Hall with President Obama”
U.S. Department of State website

Photograph students for Blackboard site

Assignment: Students create Personal Homepages on PS129
Blackboard Site

II. DEMOCRACY, CITIZENSHIP AND POLITICAL INCLUSION

September 13: Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject,* “The Bifurcated State,” pp. 16-18


Assignment: Take Preliminary LeaderPix Quiz online
September 15: View Video: *Hopes on the Horizon*, Part I

*Hopes on the Horizon* chronicles the rise of pro-democracy movements in six African countries during the 1990s: Benin, Nigeria, Morocco, Rwanda, Mozambique, South Africa. This two-hour documentary tells the stories of the men and women who initiated, witnessed, and participated in these changes.

**Benin**: Citizens Effect a Peaceful Transition from Dictatorship to Democracy

**Nigeria**: A Human Rights Movement Challenges the Military

**Rwanda**: Historians Build a Platform for Dialogue

Assignment 2: Online Discussion relating Dryzek’s concept of autonomous civil society to the events in the film *Hopes on the Horizon*

III. POLITICAL LEGITIMACY AND CULTURES OF POLITICS

September 20: Michael Schatzberg, *Political Legitimacy in Middle Africa: Father, Family, Food*

Ch. 1 – Metaphor and Matrix,
Ch. 2 – Representations of Power
Ch. 3 – Parameters of the Political

September 22: Schatzberg, *Political Legitimacy*

Ch. 5 – Matrix I: The Father-Chief
Ch. 6 – Matrix II: Gender and Generation
Ch. 7 – Democracy and the Logic of Legitimacy

IV. GENDER AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION


_Pray the Devil Back to Hell_, a film by Abigail Disney & Gini Reticker

Assignment 3: LeaderPix bio posting – This assignment is designed to familiarize you with politically prominent African personalities.

September 29: Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, *This Child Will Be Great*

October 4: Ali Mari Tripp, *Women and Politics in Uganda*

Ch. 1 – Women’s Mobilization and Societal Autonomy in Comparative African Perspective
Ch. 3 – The National Resistance Movement: Closing Political Space
Ch. 4 – The Political Impact of the Women’s Movement under the NRM

October 6: Tripp, *Women and Politics in Uganda*

Ch. 6 – Going against the grain: Women’s Challenges and the Politicization of Ethnicity & Religion
Ch. 11 – Gender & Institutional Analysis: The Limits of Political Representation
October 11: 
Tripp, Women and Politics in Uganda, case study presentations:
Ch. 7 – Reconfiguring the Political: The story of a Jinja Health Clinic
Ch. 8 – The Practical & the Political: A Battle for Market Stalls & Power
Ch. 9 – Resisting Patronage Politics: The Case of Kawaala Housing Project
Ch. 10 – Anatomy of a Deception: “Something is Fishy in Kamuli”

V. POLITICAL IDENTITY: DEFINITIONS, IMPLICATINS & CONSEQUENCES

October 13: 
Columbus Day (University Holiday) CLASSES HELD

Mahmood Mamdani, When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda
Introduction: Thinking about Genocide, pp. 3-14
Ch. 1 – Defining the Crisis of Postcolonial Citizenship: Settler and Native as Political Identities, pp. 19-39
Ch. 4 – The “Social Revolution” of 1959

October 18: 
Mamdani, When Victims Become Killers
Ch. 6 – The Politics of Indigeneity in Uganda: Background to the RPF Invasion
Ch. 7 – The Civil War and the Genocide, p. 185, pp. 209-233
Ch. 8 – The Citizenship Crisis in Eastern Congo, pp. 243-247
Conclusion – Political Reform after Genocide, pp. 270-282

October 20: 
Midterm Exam

October 25

PowerPoint presentation: Political Cartoons in Pre-genocide Rwanda in Comparative Perspective

VI. NATION-BUILDING AND POLITICAL IDENTITY

October 27
Anthony Marx, Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of South Africa, the United States and Brazil
Ch. 1 – Introduction, pp. 1-26

November 1:
Anthony Marx, Making Race and Nation:
Ch. 2 – Trajectories from Colonialism – pp. 29-46
Comparative Overview & Conclusion, pp. 264-278

November 3:
Marx, Making Race and Nation
Case study presentations
VII. ISLAM, GENDER & CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

November 8: Background Paper Due

Barbara Callaway and Lucy Creevey, The Heritage of Islam: Women and Politics in West Africa
Ch. 1 – Introduction: Does Religion Shape or Reflect Society?
Ch. 2 – The Islamic Encounter
Ch. 3 – Socialization and the Subordination of Women

November 10: Ch. 4 – Education and Attitudes Toward Women
Ch. 6 – The Political Empowerment of Women
Ch. 7 – Conclusion


November 15: Callaway and Creevey, The Heritage of Islam
Case Study presentations

View PowerPoint on Blackboard: Islam and Female Empowerment among the Tijaniyya in Niger

Assignment 5: Strategies of Female Empowerment – Online Exercise based on the PowerPoint presentation about Saïda Oumul Khariy Niasse

November 17 Film showing: Hopes on the Horizon, Part II
By the late 1980s, individuals and groups in many African countries began to assert their rights to own land, be represented in government, educate their children, change economic structures, document their history, and gain equal rights for women and ethnic minorities.

MOROCCO: WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS REFORM THE TRADITIONAL FAMILY CODE
MOZAMBIQUE: AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES ADVOCATE ECONOMIC REFORM AND LAND RIGHTS
SOUTH AFRICA: A TOWNSHIP UNITES TO PROMOTE QUALITY EDUCATION

Michael Bratton and Nicolas van de Walle, Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective
Introduction, pp. 1-18

PTR attending African Studies Association annual meeting in SFO

VIII. REGIME CHANGE AND DEMOCRATIZATION

November 22: Analysis Paper Due

Bratton and van de Walle, Democratic Experiments
Ch. 1 – Approaches to Democratization, pp. 41-60

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Ch. 2 – Neopatrimonial Rule in Africa, pp. 61-96
Ch. 3 – Africa’s Divergent Transitions, pp. 97-127

November 24:  *No Classes*

November 25  Thanksgiving (*University Holiday*)  No Classes

November 29:  Bratton and van de Walle, *Democratic Experiments*
   Case study presentations
   Ch. 6 – Explaining Democratic Transitions, pp. 194-232
   Bratton and van de Walle, *Democratic Experiments*
   Ch. 7 – The Prospects for Democracy, pp. 233-267


IX.  **CONSTRUCTING A CULTURE OF POLITICS**

December 1  View Video:  Film showing:  Ali Mazrui – *The Africans, A Triple Heritage*
   Program 6 – In In Search of Stability
   In a continent where more than 70 coups have taken place in the last 30 years, the question of governing effectively is critical. This segment compares African military regimes, one-party states, Marxism in Mozambique, and the styles of the presidents of Tanzania and Zaire.


December 6:  Kelly Askew, *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania*,
   Ch. 1 – Arts of Governance
   Ch. 2 – Tanga, Tanganyika, Tanzania
   Ch. 5 – Cultural Revolution in Tanzania?, pp. 157-161, 169-195

December 8:  Askew, *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania*
   Ch. 6 – Competing Agendas: The Production of Tanzanian National Culture, pp. 221-223
   Ch. 7 – Of Mwanyas and Multipartyism
   Ch. 8 – Conclusion: Cultural Policy by and for the People

Final Exam:  Thursday, December 16 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm
This Political Science Course is classified in the Department’s Comparative Politics subfield. It meets the following Thematic Concentration requirements for the Program in International Relations: Regional and Comparative Analysis, Africa (1C) and The United States in World Affairs (5). It also satisfies the World Civilization requirement, and serves as an Elective for the Women’s Studies Major and Minor, the American Studies Major, as well as the Africa in the New World Interdisciplinary Minor.