

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
School of Arts & Sciences  
**Department of History & Government**

**GOVT 250-001: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF AFRICA (3 Credits)**  
**SPRING 2020**

**Instructor:** Dr. William B. Lewis                      **Contact Phone:** (301) 860-3602  
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**Off. Hrs:** M 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00-4:00 pm  
                    W 1:00-3:00 p.m.  
                    F By Appointment

I.        **THE PREREQUISITES:** GOVT 130 or permission of the instructor.

II.       **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is a study of the government and politics of selected nations in Africa. Though the emphasis will be on sub-Saharan Africa, the dominant themes will include the pre-and post-colonial era, political organizations, political participation, ideologies and nationalism.

III.      **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Khapoya, Vincent B. *The African Experience* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc., 2013.

Taylor, Ian. *African Politics: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

**Other Readings:**

Students will be required to stay abreast of current events on Africa. The following news sources are useful:

- The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) website via [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk), and click on “Africa”
- Newspapers-*The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*
- All-African News Group via <http://allAfrica.com>

IV.      **KNOWLEDGE-BASES:**

- Understand the history, issues, conditions and problems associated with Africa’s pre and post-colonial experience.
- Study the development and impact of nationalism
- Examine Africa’s post-independence successes and challenges.

V. **STUDENT OUTCOMES:** The course is designed to enable students to

1. Understand the intricacies of studying Africa politics;
2. Analyze the history and traditions of the African continent;
3. Study Africa's pre-and-post colonial systems;
4. Examine colonialism and its impact;
5. Develop a critical understanding of African nationalism and the post-independence challenges;
6. Assess the role of Africa in international relations;
7. Make use of the library and technologies through class assignments; and
8. Write a term paper on a topic related to African politics.

VI. **CURRICULUM THEMES:**

- Academic Scholar: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Effective Practitioner: Objectives 6, 7
- Technological Applications: Objective 6
- Multiple Forms of Assessment: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Special Population Perspectives: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Multicultural & Global Perspectives: Objectives 2, 3, 4, 5
- Reflective Practitioner: Objectives 2, 5, 7
- Personal and Interpersonal Perspectives: Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

VII. **INSTRUCTIONAL MODES:** Methods of instruction and activities for the course would include:

- Lectures that aim to illuminate the major terms, concepts and themes in the readings;
- Documentaries and videos to explain and discuss certain selected issues, topics and/or problems;
- Written assignments and presentations that require critical analysis; and
- Active learning through students rigorous participation and class discussions.

VIII. **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:**

A) Attendance:

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually.
2. Students are required to sign the attendance roll at each class session. A record of the attendance will be maintained throughout the semester.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to make-up all work missed during any period of absence.
4. The University's rule states that "a student may be advised by the

instructor to withdraw from a course for excessive absences. Five (5) or more hours of unexcused absences before the final date for withdrawal may result in the student's receiving a grade of 'F' for the course."

B) Examinations and Term Paper(s):

1. Examinations will be given based on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up examinations, except in extenuating circumstances such as death of a relative, child birth, auto accident, etc.
2. The submission of a term paper at a specified date.
2. Class Participation: Students will be required to participate in class discussions. Each student will be assigned specific readings and requested to lead in the discussion(s).

**IX. STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES:**

A) Methods of Evaluation:

Examinations, term papers, and class participation will be used in evaluating the performance of students in this course.

1. Students will be given three unit examinations. The lowest unit score will be dropped in the computation of the final grade.
2. Students will be required to take the final examination as scheduled.
3. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled.
4. The mid-semester evaluation will be based on the average of the two unit examinations administered in February and March 2020.

B) Term Papers:

1. Each student will be required to write a term paper on a topic related to Africa. No two students can write on the same topic.
2. The paper will be no more than six pages in length, typed, double-spaced with excellent organization, and proofread.
3. A minimum of six references is required, excluding the text and internet sources.
4. The use of footnotes or endnotes to document sources is required.

5. The paper must include a bibliography page consistent with the manual of style for writing within the discipline.
6. An outline of the paper is required.
7. Students will be required to give an oral presentation of their paper. Oral presentations will be evaluated as follows:

- Clarity of thesis statement = 5%
- Organization and coherence of presentation = 15%  
Total = 20%

8. Students who participate in the annual Model African Union (AU) Conference, at Howard University, in February 2020, may submit a written summary of their experiences in lieu of the term paper. It should be noted that citations are required in the AU paper.

9. Term paper procedures and deadlines as follows:

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
A) Selection of a topic	February 12, 2020
B) Submission of Outline	February 19, 2020
C) Submission of the First Draft	March 25, 2020
D) Submission of the Final Paper	April 22, 2020

**Note:** Rules for deadlines will strictly be enforced!

10. Plagiarism: Any plagiarism will result in an “F” grade for the course. This includes copying materials from the internet or other sources without proper citations.

11. Grading the Papers: The term papers will be graded as follows:

A.	Thesis Statement (with clarity, concept and definitions)	10%
B.	Organization and Coherence (mechanics such as paragraphing, sentence structure, proper grammar, correct use of words/language)	20%
C)	Critical Thinking and Analysis (ability to synthesize and make certain inferences based on contextual relationships)	30%
D)	Depth of Research (literature review, citations)	30%
E)	Citations’ Format (endnotes, footnotes, bibliography)	10%
		100%

11. Grading Scale & Distribution of Percentages

- i) First Unit Examination 20%
- ii) Second Unit Examination 20%

iii)	Final Examination	20%
iv)	Term Paper	20%
v)	Oral Presentation	10%
vi)	Class Participation	10%
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	Total:	100%

12. The numerical equivalence or letter grades are as follows:

90-100:	A
80-89:	B
70-79:	C
60-69:	D
Score below 60:	F

13. The examinations will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer questions and essay questions. They will cover the lectures, reading assignments, and class handouts. Class participation is based on students' analysis of assigned readings and meaningful contributions to the ongoing class discussions. The final examination will be comprehensive. THE FINAL EXAM MAY ONLY BE TAKEN ON THE DATES AND TIMES LISTED FOR EACH CLASS AS PUBLISHED IN THE SPRING 2020 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES.

14. All exams and assignments will be taken or handed in as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in zero points earned for the exercise; therefore, except in the most extreme circumstances, (death in family, child birth, auto accident, hospitalization) there will be no make-up. An INCOMPLETE (I) grade will rarely be given and only in cases where the student is doing passing work and has a valid excuse (distress or illness). Please contact the professor prior to an exam in case of an emergency/illness which would be a cause for an official excuse from the DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. However, the final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.

15. Students are expected to maintain regular and punctual attendance; there will be a roll call at the beginning of each class session. Therefore excessive tardiness or unexcused absences will not be tolerated; any such documented absences may negatively impact the final letter grade. In any case, the University's rule states that "a student may be advised by the instructor to withdraw from a course for excessive absences. Five (5) or more hours of unexcused absences before the final date for withdrawal may result in the student's receiving a grade of "F" for the course."

Finally, the instructor reserves the right to modify the organization of the course content, and may adjust the grading scale in the computation of the final grade.

**Disability Statement:** Students who have a disability and would like accommodations should report immediately to Disability Support Services (DSS), located in Thurgood

Marshall Library (Room 079) or call Dr. Michael S. Hughes, DSS Coordinator at 301-860-4067.

**BSU Blackboard:** The instructor will post some items (announcements, course syllabus, examination-study guides, etc.) on the BSU Blackboard.

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND UNITS OF INSTRUCTION**

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Topics &amp; Required Reading Assignments</b>
Weeks 1-2	<p><b>A. Course Overview</b>  <b>B. African Politics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Introduction</li> <li>• Geography and Demography</li> <li>• Language and Culture</li> </ul> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 1, “Introduction to Africa and its Politics”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 1, “Africa: The Continent and its People” and  Chapter 2, “African Traditional Institutions”</p>
Weeks 3-5	<p><b><u>Prehistoric Africa</u></b></p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 2, “Pre-colonial Systems and Colonialism” (pp. 11-17)</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 3, “Political development in Prehistoric Africa”</p> <p><b>First Unit Exam:</b> February 19, 2020</p>
Weeks 4-5	<p><b><u>Pre-Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences</u></b></p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 2, “Pre-colonial Systems and Colonialism” (pp. 17-24)</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 4, “Colonialism and African Experience”</p>
Weeks 6-7	<p><b>African Nationalism and the Transfer of Power</b></p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 3, “The Transfer of Power and the Colonial Legacy”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 5, “African nationalism and the Struggle for Freedom”</p>

Weeks 8-9	<p><b><u>Post-Independence Challenges</u></b></p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 4, “The Primacy of Patronage Politics”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 7, “The Military in African Politics”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 6, “African Independence: The First Thirty years”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 3, “Political development in Prehistoric Africa”</p> <p><b>Second Unit Exam:</b> March 11, 2020</p>
Weeks 10-11	<p>Ethnic and Gender Politics</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 5, “Women in African Politics”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 6, “The Role of Identity in African Politics”</p>
Weeks 12-13	<p><b><u>Political Reform and Democratization</u></b></p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 8, “Democracy in Africa”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 7, “The Struggle for Democracy and Free Markets”</p> <p><b>Third Unit Exam:</b> April 15, 2020</p>
Weeks 14-15	<p>Africa’s International Relations</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Taylor, Chapter 9, “Africa’s International Relations”</p> <p><b>Text:</b> Khapoya, Chapter 8, “Africa in World Affairs”</p>
	<p><b>Final Examination Date:</b> TBA</p>

<b>Suggested Topics</b>	
1.	The Impact of Colonialism on the Development of Africa
2.	The Role of the Military in African Politics
3.	The Causes of Economic Stagnation in Africa
4.	China's Foreign Policy in Africa
5.	Ethnic Conflicts and the Threat to the Sovereignty of African States
6.	African Women in Politics
7.	The Successes and Failures of the One Party System in Africa
8.	The Politics of Unity in Africa
9.	The Politics of Democratization in Africa
10.	Sudan and the Comprehensive Peace Accord

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Nkrumah, Kwame. (1965). *Neo-Colonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*.
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