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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

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Spring 2024

## **DIPL 6700 International Relations of African States**

Assefaw Bariagaber Ph.D.

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**Course Syllabus – Spring 2024**  
**International Relations of African States (DIPL 6700)**  
**School of Diplomacy and International Relations**  
**Seton Hall University**

Instructor: Dr. Assefaw Bariagaber

Virtual Office Hours (all on Microsoft Teams and by appointment): Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
3:45-4:45pm. Available at other times by APPOINTMENT.

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### **I. Course Description**

This course examines international relations of African states, including relations between African states, African states and major powers outside of Africa, African states and other international actors, such as the United Nations and the European Union. In particular, the course interrogates whether there has been qualitative change in how and to what extent Africa, as a unit, has interacted with influential international actors, and if so, which factors accounted for the change. Therefore, mapping out the trajectory of the international relations of Africa over the last seventy years will be a critical component of the course.

As students in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, you are required to think in terms of bridging the gap between the theoretical and the practical issues related to the international relations of African states. To this end, each student will write and present a well-developed research paper (that is, a paper with academic and/or policy significance) on any topic related to the international relations of African states. This includes relations between two African countries, or two regional groupings within Africa, or between an African country and a country from outside of Africa, or between the African Union and other international actors, such as the EU, Arab League, etc. You may also choose a topic that examines a regional grouping and its/their relations with actors outside of Africa. Prior approval of the topic by the instructor is required. The class sessions will conclude with PowerPoint presentations of students' research and submission of a well-written paper.

### **II. Required Readings**

There is no required textbook for the course. But you are required to read a book chapter and a set of scholarly articles published in referred journals. Each student must make online searches (JSTOR, Proquest, and other library databases) to access copies of the scholarly articles for personal use. The instructor will make available a copy of the book chapter for student use. IT IS REQUIRED THAT STUDENTS READ CAREFULLY EACH OF THE ARTICLES in the Course Schedule and Readings section below.

### **III. Course Activities**

- lectures and class discussions

- student-led review and critique of published materials
- submission of a summary and critique of a refereed journal article of your choice
- research paper PPT presentation
- research paper submission
- discussion of international relations of African states, as reported in newspapers and other outlets

#### IV. Course Requirements and Grading

Class sessions will be conducted in the form of seminars and will combine lectures, presentations, and discussions of assigned readings by the instructor and students. The most vital component of the course is the production of a well-researched paper. Students will receive grades based on the following:

1. A student-led PowerPoint (PPT) presentation and critique of **three** assigned articles from the Course Schedule and Readings section. Each student is required to submit a 2-3-page-long *summary and critique* of the same article within 48 hours of the PPT presentation (10 points). Students will be notified of their assignments on 1/25. Remember that the summary and critique of each article is worth 10 points and the total score for the three articles is **30 points**.
2. A PowerPoint presentation of the final paper carrying a maximum total of **20 points** to be conducted on 4/25 and 5/2.
3. A well-developed research paper carrying a maximum total of **40 points** due on 5/9.
4. Class participation (**10 points**) -- You are required to come to class with questions or comments on the day any of the readings and student research papers are presented. The same is true for the current issues on international relations of African states reported in newspapers and other outlets. Participation is measured in terms of the questions and comments a student makes in the discussion.

Final course grade will be awarded according to the following scale:

93-100 = A
89 - 92 = A-
85 - 88 = B+
81 - 84 = B
77 - 80 = B-
73 - 76 = C+
69 - 72 = C
65 - 68 = C-
≤ 64 = F

#### Remarks

1. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and will be held responsible for materials covered in class. Classes scheduled as formal class sessions are in-person classes ONLY. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. A high rate of attendance will be an asset in determining borderline grades.

2. I expect and will appreciate students who respect deadlines for submission of written assignments. Be it as it may, I will extend a 24-hour grace period after the due date. Any submission of written assignments beyond the grace period will incur a deduction of 5% of points each day after the grace period and will be zero if submitted after 5 calendar days.
3. The research paper should make an in-depth study of a topic selected by the student and approved by the instructor. The length of the paper, of course, depends on the issue(s) raised: therefore, there is no set limit on the length. However, it is preferred that the paper is between 21 and 24 double-spaced pages (including footnotes and/or bibliography), with font size of 12, and a one-inch margin on all sides. The instructor will give more guidance on the research paper at an appropriate date.
4. The research paper must be submitted on **time in hard copy**. The instructor will deduct 5% of the total points each day for five days after the grace paper, and will assign zero points if submitted after 5 calendar days. Moreover, each student is required to discuss and seek instructor's approval of the topic of his/her research paper by 4/11/2024.
5. Student failure to make class presentation on the assigned date will result in a zero point for the presentation. Please be mindful that it is difficult to reschedule the research paper PowerPoint presentation ***because it is a class presentation***.
6. **Disability Services Statement**  
It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.
7. **Policy on Incompletes**  
Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

8. **Academic Integrity & Dishonesty**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here: <https://www.shu.edu/documents/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf> and <https://www.shu.edu/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>. In addition, Students may not use AI tools, such as ChatGPT. Any use of AI tools will be considered plagiarism.

9. **Citation Formats**

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are posted on course Canvas.

10. **CAPS:**

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, **Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.** In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychological-services/index.cfm>

11. Each student must maintain high class etiquette.

**V. Course Schedule and Readings**

Week 1 (1/18)

Course syllabus, requirements, grading, readings, etc.

General Introduction

International relations and foreign policy of states

Scope of study

Contextual background on the international relations of African states

Week 2 (1/25) – Africa: From Where to Where?

Africa Rising: A Hopeful Continent, *The Economist*, March 2, 2013. Available at:

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/1314372491/fulltext/7AB2C4D3CB2E48D6PQ/1?accountid=13793&sourcetype=Magazines>

The New Scramble for Africa, *The Economist*, March 9, 2019. Available at:

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2189162595/fulltext/76D844B8ED9541A6PQ/5?accountid=13793&sourcetype=Magazines>

Africa and Geopolitics: Choices on the Continent, *The Economist*, March 9, 2019. Available at: <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2189162698/6F0EE5371EA04F78PQ/11?accountid=13793&sourcetype=Magazines>

Coulibaly, B. Looking Forward: US-Africa Relations. March 27, 2019. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/looking-forward-us-africa-relations/>

Week 3 (2/1) – Africa in the International System a Decade after Independence

Zartman, W. 1967. Africa as a Subordinate System in International Relations, *International Organization*, 21(3): 545-564.

Shaw, T. 1975. The Political Economy of African International Relations, *A Journal of Opinion*, 5(4): 29-38.

Young, C. 2009. The Heritage of Colonialism, in Harbeson, J. and D. Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order*, Boulder: Westview Press.

Week 4 (2/8) – African State Attempts to Become Credible Actors in the International System  
Organization of African Unity Charter

Available at: [http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/text/OAU\\_Charter\\_1963.pdf](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/Documents/Treaties/text/OAU_Charter_1963.pdf)

African Union: Constitutive Act of the African Union. Available at:

[http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/AboutAU/Constitutive\\_Act\\_en.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/AboutAU/Constitutive_Act_en.htm)

Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want (popular version, about 20 pages long). Available at: [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063\\_popular\\_version\\_en.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf)

Week 5 (2/15) – African Challenges, African Solutions

Murithi, T. 2008. The African Union's Evolving Role in Peace Operations: The African Union Mission in Burundi, the African Union Mission in Sudan and the African Union Mission in Somalia, *African Security Studies*, 17(1): 69-82.

Williams, P and Boutellis, A. 2014. Partnership Peacekeeping: Challenges and Opportunities in the United Nations-African Union Relationships. *African Affairs*, 113(451):254-278.

Week 6 (2/22) – Inter-state Relations in Africa

Franke, B. 2007. Competing Regionalisms in Africa and the Continent's Emerging Security Architecture, *African Studies Quarterly*, 9(3):31-64.

Odubajo, T. and Akinboye, S. 1977. Nigeria and South Africa: Collaboration or Competition? *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 24(3): 61-77.

Atwan, M. 2018. Egyptian-Ethiopian Water Relations: Cooperation Beyond the Nile. PPAD Working Paper Series, Issue 6. Available at: <https://documents.aucegypt.edu/Docs/GAPP/PPAD-Working-Paper-Series-6.pdf>.

Week 7 (2/29) – Africa-EU Relations

Olivier, G. 2011. From Colonialism to Partnership in Africa-Europe Relations? *The International Spectator*, 46(1): 53-67.

Haastrup, T. 2013. EU as Mentor? Promoting Regionalism as External Practice in EU-Africa Relations, *Journal of European Integration*, 35(7): 785-800.

Kotosopoulos, J. and Mattheis, F. 2018. A Contextualization of EU-Africa Relations: Trends and

Drivers from a Reciprocal Perspective, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 25(4): 445-460.

Week 8 (3/7) – **SPRING BREAK!**

Week 8 (3/14) – Africa-Global South Relations

Schoeman, M. 2011. Of BRICs and Mortar: The Growing Relations between Africa and the Global South, *The International Spectator*, 46(1): 33-51.

Shaw, T. 2015. African Agency? Africa, South Africa and the BRICS, *International Politics*, 52(2): 445-460.

**Observations and general guidelines on the Research Paper**

Week 9 (3/21) – Africa-China Relations and Africa-U.S. Relations

Bodomo, A. 2009. Africa-China Relations: Symmetry, Soft Power and South Africa, *China Review*, 9(2): 169-178.

Edoho, F. 2011. Globalization and Marginalization of Africa: Contextualization of China-Africa Relations, *Africa Today*, 58(1): 102-124.

Olsen, G. 2017. The ambiguity of US foreign policy towards Africa, *Third World Quarterly*, 38(9): 2097-2112.

Owusu, F. Reboredo, R. and Carmody, 2019. Trumping Development: Selective Delinking and Coercive Governmentality in US-Africa Relations, *Africa Today*, 66(1): 3-26.

Week 10 (3/28) – **HOLY THURSDAY!**

Week 11 (4/4) -- Individual consultation – required! The instructor will be in his office to discuss and approve student research topics for about 20 minutes for each student. The schedule will follow the class roster by last name.

Week 12 (4/11) -- Individual consultation – only if interested! The instructor will be in his office to discuss any issue related to student research **based on appointments only**.

**Deadline for approval of student research topic!**

Week 13 (4/18) – **No class!** It is expected that students will work on their papers and PPT presentations.

Week 14 (4/25) -- **PowerPoint presentation of research** (maximum 20 minutes for presentation and 3-4 minutes for Q/A). The schedule of presentations will follow the class roster by last name.

Week 15 (5/2) -- **PowerPoint presentation of research** (maximum 20 minutes for presentation and 3-4 minutes for Q/A). The schedule of presentations will follow the class roster by last name.

Week 16 (5/9) -- **Research paper due**. You must drop off the hard copy of the research paper at the instructor's office (slide under the door if instructor is not present) by 5:30pm.