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Off. Hours: Wed 4:00 – 5:00
 Thu 1:00 - 3:00
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PS 151C: African Politics
Section Syllabus

Thursday: 12:00- 12:50
Bunche A151
3:00 – 3:50
Bunche 3170
4:00 – 4:50
Royce 152

Objectives:

Our time in sections will be divided between the review and expansion of the central concepts of each week's topic, and open discussion of readings and related materials. Rather than attempting to explore each concept separately, I will structure each discussion around two or three broad themes that tie important concepts together. In the interest of reaching that goal under severe time constraints, I will prepare each section with a specific plan, but the little can be achieved if you don't come prepared to explain, discuss, and question the assigned material.

Expectations:

I expect you to have read *and* prepared all assigned readings prior to sections. By this, I mean that a cursory reading is insufficient; you must read actively: take notes, take reflective breaks... The material can be dense, so take the time to process it. To help you in processing the assigned material and relate it to lectures, I require that you be prepared to present on one of the main concepts of the reading. I will provide weekly guidelines and you should be able, in 3 or 4 minutes at most, to explain the term and its significance. This will also help you prepare for exams. I am not assigning anyone to any particular week so that you have to come prepared every week. While I will call on you individually, I encourage you to work in small groups to stimulate discussion and help you process the material. This exercise will count for a large part of your participation grade.

Optional:

Studying history and theoretical concepts is crucial in gaining a better understanding of current issues in Africa; yet, we easily forget how they apply to real world situations. As a way to bring current events into our discussion, and expand the discussion beyond the classroom, I am experimenting with Twitter as a powerful tool for gathering and sharing information. I invite you to share news pieces that you found perplexing, amusing, fascinating, and in some way relevant to our ongoing discussion about African politics. I will share my own findings through @acomandon. You don't have to follow me, but tag your post with #PS151, so I can keep track of your posts and bring a selection to class when appropriate.

This exercise's goal is for you to develop your skills in finding relevant information and sharing it in a clear concise way. Twitter has a 140 character limit. If you are going to post, I want you to use that space to share your thoughts about the information you are sharing. If you are worried about privacy, security, or are against the use of Twitter, but would still like to share interesting articles, feel free to email me. This is purely voluntary, participating or not won't affect your grade in any way.