

Information sheet for the course Contemporary African Politics

University: <i>Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín</i>	
Faculty/Department: <i>Department of Political Science</i>	
Course unit code: <i>PLTV11</i>	Course unit title: <i>Contemporary African Politics</i>
Type of course unit: <i>compulsorily optional</i>	
Planned types, learning activities and teaching methods: <i>Seminar: 2 hours weekly/26 hours per semester of study; face to face (classroom mode)</i>	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: <i>3rd semester in the 2nd year (full-time)</i> <i>5th semester in the 3rd year (part-time)</i>	
Degree of study: <i>Master's</i>	
Course prerequisites: <i>none</i>	
Assessment methods: <i>include evaluation of activities below:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Term paper writing project (5-8 pages) 30%</i> <i>2. Active participation 20% (attendance, class activities, consultation)</i> <i>3. Presentation 20%</i> <i>3. Test 30%</i> <i>Passing grade: 60% and above.</i>	
Learning outcomes of the course unit: <i>Upon completion of the course, students are able to explain pre-independence Africa, as well as, the most pressing problems African countries have faced since independence. They are able to describe why state institutions are weaker in African continent as compared to other developing regions, why the economic growth is slow in Africa. They are able to provide a comprehensive assessment and describe why some African countries have been plagued by high levels of political violence while comparably others have not, whether the current approach of major actors of the West and the East in Africa is designed to "save" Africa or own interest. They are able to suggest proposals that aim at improving and maintaining political accountability and sustainable development in the continent.</i>	
Course contents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Introduction to contemporary African Politics (an overview)</i> <i>2. Pre-Colonial and Colonial Politics in Africa</i> <i>3. The Slave Trade and European Rule in Africa</i> <i>4. Nationalism, Pan-Africanism and Independence</i> <i>5. The Scramble for Africa and legacies of Colonial Rule</i> <i>6. Post-Colonial Politics (Decolonization, the State in Contemporary Africa)</i> <i>7. Salient Social Identities and Politics (Race, Ethnicity, Class, Gender, Religion)</i> <i>8. Political Regimes and Political Change (Praetorianism to failed state)</i> <i>9. Patronage Politics and the African Voter (The Quest for Democracy)</i> <i>10. Explaining Africa's "Growth Tragedy" (African Political Economy)</i> <i>11. The Politics and Economics of Foreign Aid (Structural Adjustment, Globalization)</i> <i>12. Explaining Political Violence in Africa (Humanitarian intervention)</i> <i>13. Civil wars and post-conflict recoveries in Africa, integration efforts</i> 	
Recommended of required reading: <i>Chazan, Naomi. 1999. "The Diversity of African Politics: Trends and Approaches," in Naomi Chazan (ed.), Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, pp. 5-34.</i> <i>Young, Crawford. 2002. "Deciphering Disorder in African Politics: Is Identity the Key?" World Politics 54: 4, pp. 532-557.</i>	

<p>Nunn, Nathan. 2010. "Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa's Slave Trade," Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson, eds., <i>Natural Experiments of History</i>. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 142-184.</p> <p>Davidson, Basil. 1995. "Conquest and Colonial Rule," chapter 7 in <i>Africa in History</i>. New York: Simon and Schuster.</p> <p>Coleman, James. 1954. "Nationalism in Tropical Africa," <i>American Political Science Review</i> 48:2, pp. 404-426.</p> <p>Rodney, Walter. 1972. "Colonialism as a System for Underdeveloping Africa," chapter 6 in <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i>. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press.</p> <p>Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. <i>States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 1 and 9.</p> <p>Bates, Robert. 1983. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition and the Rationality of Politics," in <i>State versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas</i></p> <p>Arriola, Leonardo. 2009. "Patronage and Political Stability in Africa," <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 42: 10, pp. 1339-1362.</p> <p>William Easterly and Ross Levine. 1997. "Africa's Growth Tragedy: Policies and Ethnic Divisions," <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 112: 4, pp. 1203-1223.</p> <p>Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," <i>American Political Science Review</i> 97: 1, pp. 75-90.</p> <p><i>E-materials relevant to the course would be utilized.</i></p>					
Language: Slovak/ English					
Remarks: <i>The course is provided only in the case it is chosen by at least 16 students.</i>					
Evaluation history:					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
0	0	0	0	00	
Lectures: Mgr. Getnet Tamene, PhD.					
Last modification: June 30, 2014					
Supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Samuel Čelovský, DrSc. – guarantor of the study program "Political Science"					