



EDO UNIVERSITY IYAMHO



FACULTY OF ARTS, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (FAMASS)

DEPT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

COURSE: POL 413: Politics and Law in Africa
COURSE CREDIT UNIT: 3 Credits
DAY & TIME OF LECTURE: Mondays, 11 am -12 noon, Thursdays, 10 am -12 noon
CLASS VENUE: LC6, FAMASS
LECTURER: DR (Mrs) Florence U Masajuwa, Associate Professor
(Law)
CONTACT OFFICE: Faculty of Law Building
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesdays 1 pm -3 pm or by Appointment
Email: florence.masajuwa@edouniversity.edu.ng

1. OUTLINE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE, POLITICS AND LAW IN AFRICA

Students taking this course will learn to appreciate both in theory and practice, the interconnection of politics and law. They will also understand how this interconnection influences the quality of governance in Africa. The course will use a comparative approach in examining political institutions, legal systems and their evolution, citing examples from selected African Countries. Furthermore, students will from a broad socio-legal perspective, understand how politics and law from both domestic and international--- levels shape African Regional political developments.

Consequently, the main goals of the course are to use specific theories developed in research on Africa to speak to different regions of the continent (and Vice versa); to hone the skills of extracting theoretical claims from the recommended and other readings, assessing such claims, employing theory to generate hypothetical answers to research questions, and to provide students of Political Science and Public Administration with substantive knowledge about Africa. The Course also aims to unpack the continent's political, economic and social diversity and to place individual countries in their specific macro-regional and/or micro-regional context. In effect, Africa's many regions are discussed in inter-state, intra-state, macro and micro terms.

Students will engage in some core debates about the political, legal and developmental challenges affecting a variety of African regions and will address the continent's political and legal diversities by examining regional, sub--- regional and case studies. To this end, topics such as overview of the concepts of politics, law in precolonial and colonial Africa, entry and domestication of foreign laws in Africa, governance and rule of law, the judiciary, (Are Judges "Politicians in Robes" or Not?), dependency and underdevelopment in Africa, conflict, violence and legal processes, Quo Vadis Africa?

COURSE OUTLINE

- Introduction: Mindsets on issues of politics and law in Africa
- Politics, law in precolonial and colonial and post-colonial Africa,
- Constitutionalism, Rule of law and governance in Africa
- Dependency and underdevelopment of African States
- The judiciary under military and democratic regimes,
- Gender, politics and Law
- Qua Vadis -Africa and the future

2. LEARNING OUTCOME

This course builds on courses such as The Nigerian Legal System (I & II) and African Politics. At the end of the course, students shall have learnt the following

- Cultivating the mindsets on issues of politics and law in Africa
- The concept of Politics, law in precolonial and colonial Africa,
- The nexus between rule of law and governance in Africa
- How Dependency and underdevelopment impinge on politics and law
- How the judiciary fairs under military and democratic regimes,
- Ascertain whether constitutional reforms has brought gender equality to women in Africa.
- Why Conflicts and violence persist and effectiveness of the legal processes for addressing them
- Interplay Politics and Law and Africa's future

3. Course Calendar, Structure, Teaching/Learning Plan, and Expectations

The course is structured to be taught for twelve weeks and for three hours a week: one period/hour on a Monday and two periods/2hours on Tuesdays. There shall be assigned readings each week. Students are expected to read the assigned texts ahead, before coming to the class.

This instructional style combines instructor-led discussions with collaborate learning methods such as student--- led presentations. There will be individualized assignments as well as group assignments; and effective learning technologies including instructional audio-visuals and other online resources may be utilized as the need arises.

EVALUATION:

1. Continuous Assessment-

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| a) Community/ field Interviews Report & Presentation | (10%) |
| b) Class/tutorials participation | (5%) |
| c) Note book marking | (5%) |

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| d) Class Test | (10%) |
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| 2. Final Examination | (70%) |
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READING LIST

Main Texts

1. Akpotor, Akpovuyono, S. (2011). *Politics and Law: African Perspectives*. (Benin-City, Nigeria: Mindex Publishers Ltd)
2. Gordon Silverstein. (2009). *Law's Allure: How Law Shapes, Constrains, Saves, and Kills Politics*. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press)
3. Okafor, Victor Oguejiofor. ((2006). *A Roadmap for Understanding African Politics Leadership and Political Integration in Nigeria*. (New York & London: Routledge)
4. Raz, Joseph. (1980). *The Concept of a Legal System: An Introduction to the Theory of the Legal System*, 2nd Revised edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
5. Werner Menski. (2006). *Comparative Law in a Global Context: The Legal Systems of Asia and Africa*. Second Edition. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press).

Others

Thompson, Alex. (2010). *An Introduction to African Politics*. 3rd edition. (London, UK: Routledge)

Sarat, Austin, Editor. (2009) *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*, Volume 50

Lee, Margaret C. (2006). 'The 21st Century Scramble for Africa', *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 24:3, pp. 303--- 330

Film: Al Jazeera, 2014, "The French African Connection: France's Thirst for Energy", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZKHZVVRITY> (47 mins.)

Samir Amin. (1972). "Underdevelopment and Dependence in Black Africa—Origins and Contemporary Forms." *The Journal of Modern African States*, 10:4, pp. 503--- 524

Whitt, Laurelyn. (2009). *Science, Colonialism, and Indigenous Peoples: The Cultural Politics of Law and Knowledge*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Max Gluckman. (1965). *Politics, Law and Ritual in Tribal Society* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell Oxford).