What makes Africa an interesting continent to study? What is the rule of law? What is the history of colonialism in the African continent? How does the legacy of colonialism continue to impact Africa today? Utilizing documentaries and historical videos, we will critically examine Africa’s history prior to the slave trade and the European colonization of the entire continent. We will investigate the governing styles of the British and French metropoles in Western Africa and how these metropoles systematically impose their laws and legal systems on their colonies. We will also study how these legal structures continue to manifest in contemporary political terrains. Each student will get the opportunity to focus and research a specific Western African nation.

The **TEXTBOOKS** for the class are:


**Grading Criteria/Standards:** The professor grades each individual student independently of other students. Grades are earned on a letter grade basis. Cumulative 90-100 earns a student an A in the class; 80-89.9 = B; 70-79.9 = C; 60-69.9 = D; Below 60 = F. Plus/Minus grade attachment is largely based on whether the cumulative score is on the higher (7-9) or lower (1-3) end of the range. Pass/fail students must earn at least 65% or better to pass the course. We would have four reflection essay papers written in-person during class sessions. We would be allowed to drop the lowest grade of the four essays and thus, each essay is worth 13.3% toward the final grade. The reflection essays will be short essays testing our general comprehension of assigned readings. Thus, if we do the assigned readings, we should easily earn 13.3% for each essay! 😊😊😊

There will be only one examination in the course and it will count for 25% of our final grade. Details of the midterm exam contents will be discussed prior to its schedule date. Our final 25% of the final grade will be earned on the Research Paper that will be due at the very end of the semester. We would have opportunities to discuss at length the expectations for that paper. **There are no extra credit opportunities in the course.**

We are expected to attend class so that we can share and gain knowledge from each other. Thus, attendance will be taken at each class meeting. There are no minimum or maximum excused or unexcused absences, but 3 or more absences will yield a very low participation grade. **5 or more absences in the course, regardless if the class is being taken pass/fail or for a letter grade, result in an automatic F in the class!** However, given the ongoing global pandemic and its potential implications for each individual, these attendance requirements could/would be waived under certain circumstances. Details are provided at a later page in this syllabus.
Course Format
The course will be interactive (but not necessarily physically😊😊😊) and we are expected and required to contribute our comments during class discussions. At times, some of us will be assigned to lead class discussions each class meeting, but if one is not assigned, one could still be randomly called upon. While the course focuses on African politics, colonial legacies, and the rule of law, at times our opinions on current events related to the African continent even if not directly about politics could still be reflected upon. Of course, we welcome any or all opinions but we must be respectful. We care more for the thoughtfulness of our opinions than we do for one’s ideological positions.

Exams
Again, there will be only one examination in the course: a midterm examination. The midterm exam will test comprehension on all of the course discussions and readings through the mid-section of the semester. There is no final examination in the course; the research paper will serve as the final examination. No make-up exam will be scheduled or given (except in certain circumstances related to the pandemic) as we would have had several weeks to prepare our schedules prior to this exam date (see date below). Missing the exam will net one a zero grade. Exam and paper submission dates/times are non-negotiable (except in special circumstances related to the pandemic). The dates are written in stone.

Participation
Our participation grade will depend largely on the quality of one’s participation and to a degree, class attendance. One is expected to contribute regularly to the discussion. While the frequency of one’s participation will be considered for one’s grade, the frequency must be accompanied with quality comments that reflect one’s familiarity with the assignments and one’s thoughtfulness. A reminder that while there are no minimum or maximum excused or unexcused absences, 3 or more absences (except for the special circumstances related to the pandemic), will yield a very low participation grade.

Other Important Notes
Please NEVER HESITATE to contact the professor and set up an appointment to meet (outside in the open space or via zoom) and talk, especially for those of you that might be interested in attending law school later in life (as some of us know, the professor has a legal background). If one is struggling in the class, please do not do so in silence. The professor strongly believes that a significant reason why he teaches is to assist students to the best of his ability. He is a firm believer that every student is capable of earning an excellent grade in the course.

Cell phones must be kept out of sight during class sessions. Laptops (except for students with specific academic accommodations) are not allowed in the classroom. THEY CONSTITUTE A DISTRACTION FOR ALL OF US. THUS, THEY ARE TO BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT DURING CLASS PERIODS.

Accommodations
Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to
individuals with documented disabilities. If one has a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor with an accommodation notification letter from Access, Disabilities Services and Resources office. We are expected to give two weeks-notice of the need for accommodations. If one needs immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to talk with the instructor as soon as one’s accommodations have been finalized.

**Academic Integrity**
The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, we each affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher’s instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. We each agree that the teacher is entitled to move one to another seat during examinations, without explanation. We each also affirm that if one witnesses others violating the code we have a duty to report them to the honor council.

http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html

**SPECIAL MESSAGE CONCERNING THIS SEMESTER**

**Teaching and Learning during the Pandemic**
I want our classroom community to thrive no matter the classroom delivery method or your individual methods of participating in class. I cannot guarantee an identical experience for students who cannot be physically in the classroom or an experience that is identical to pre-pandemic semesters, but my goal is to treat all students equitably and to ensure grading is clear, consistent, and fair for all of you.

This semester is unusual in that there is a global pandemic. This class may have to shift from in-person to remotely teaching at some point this semester (hopefully not 😭😭😭). Additionally, some students in this class may need to be off campus for some portion of the semester. My goal is for all students to receive a high-quality experience to the extent possible. To that end, during the summer I participated in Oxford College/Emory University’s workshops on online teaching methods, and I am prepared to teach this class remotely as needed.

Due to the unusual nature of the semester, communication is important. I commit to responding to emails within 48 hours of receipt, and my intention to respond faster than that most of the time. I will likely be slower on weekends. Likewise, if your situation changes regarding health, housing, or in any other regard with respect to your ability to participate in the class, please contact the appropriate Oxford/Emory student support organization first and then me as soon as feasible. It is easier for me to address your needs if I know about them as soon as they arise. This does not mean I can successfully respond to every request for consideration, but I emphasize that my goal is to treat you all equitably and do what I can to help you succeed in this course.

**Attendance Policies**
This semester due to the pandemic, some students might be sick or will need to go into isolation or quarantine. If you are sick, understand that I will be flexible about attendance. Please make sure to email me so that we can discuss your individual circumstances. For students in quarantine
who are well, we have provided ways that you can keep up with your schoolwork, whether our class is delivered online or in person. Please also contact me via email if you are in quarantine.

**Accessibility and Accommodations**

As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. I want every student to succeed. The Department of Accessibility Services (DAS) works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. It is your responsibility to request accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must register with the DAS at [http://accessibility.emory.edu/students/](http://accessibility.emory.edu/students/). Accommodations cannot be retroactively applied so you need to contact DAS as early as possible and contact me as early as possible in the semester to discuss the plan for implementation of your accommodations. For additional information about accessibility and accommodations, please contact the Department of Accessibility Services at (404) 727-9877 or accessibility@emory.edu.

**Health Considerations**

At the very first sign of not feeling well, stay at home and reach out for a health consultation. Please consult the campus FAQ for how to get the health consultation. As you know, Oxford/Emory does contact tracing if someone has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A close contact is defined as someone you spend more than 15 minutes with, at a distance less than 6 feet, not wearing facial coverings. This typically means your roommates, for example. However, your classmates are not close contacts as long as we are following the personal protective equipment protocols in the classroom: wearing facial coverings, staying six feet apart. As your instructor, I may be following different PPE guidelines which have been judged to be equally safe by Emory’s Environmental Health and Safety Office, which includes usage of face shield and acrylic barrier. Due to the necessity of keeping your PPE on, eating and drinking is strictly forbidden in the classroom.

**Class session recording**

Our in-person class sessions at times will be audio/visually recorded for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Lectures and other classroom presentations presented through video conferencing and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students enrolled in the course. The release of such information (including but not limited to directly sharing, screen capturing, or recording content) is strictly prohibited, unless the instructor states otherwise. Doing so without the permission of the instructor will be considered an Honor Code violation and may also be a violation of other state and federal laws, such as the Copyright Act.

**Weekly Tasks and Readings before Class** *(Subject to Change!!!)*

**Week 1: August 19, 2020**

1. Introduction and Get-to-Know-You Session

**Week 2: August 24-26, 2020**

1. Read *Course Syllabus* and ask questions
2. Read *Khapoya*, Chapters 1-2 (The Continent, People, and Institutions)
3. Watch Documentary in Class
Week 3: August 31-September 2, 2020
1. Read Khapoya, Chapters 3-4 (Political Development and Colonialism)
2. Read Khapoya, Chapters 5-6 (Nationalism and Independence)
3. Watch/Listen to Documentaries prior to Classes

Week 4: September 7-9, 2020
1. Reflection Essay #1 Writing in Class
2. Read Thomson, Chapters 1-2 (History)
3. Read Thomson, Chapters 3-4 (Ideologies, Ethnicity, and Religion)
4. Watch Documentary prior to and in Classes

Week 5: September 14-16, 2020
1. Read Thomson, Chapters 5-6 (Social Class and Legitimacy)
2. Watch Documentary in class
3. Check-in Discussion

Week 6: September 21-23, 2020
1. Visit by Librarian
2. Reflection Essay #2 Writing in Class
3. Read Thomson, Chapters 7-8 (Military Intervention and Sovereignty I)
4. Read Thomson, Chapter 9 (Sovereignty II)

Week 7: September 28-30, 2020
1. Read Thomson, Chapters 10-12 (Authority and Democracy)
2. Decide on Nations to be Studied and Presented
3. Review Session for Midterm Exam

Week 8: October 5-7, 2020
1. Take Midterm Exam on October 5th!
2. Watch Documentary: An African Election in Class

Week 9: October 12-14, 2020
1. Special Lecture by Professor on the Rule of Law, Colonial Legacies, Definitions, Elements, etc.
2. Read Fichter, Chapters 1-2 (Britain and France – Connections and Rivalries)

Week 10: October 19-21, 2020
1. Read Fichter, Chapters TBD
2. Read Fichter, Chapters TBD
3. Visit by Dr. Peter McLellan re Milestone/Digication
4. Check-in Discussion

Week 11: October 26-28, 2020
1. Reflection Essay #3 Writing in Class
2. Watch Documentary in Class
3. Special Lecture by Professor on *Rule of Law, Colonial Legacies, Manifestations in the Nigerian Context*

**Week 12: November 2-4, 2020**
1. Readings to be Assigned
2. Other Tasks to be Determined
3. Week Might be Swapped with Next Week (for Advising)

**Week 13: November 9-11, 2020**
1. NO ASSIGNED READINGS; STUDENTS TO FOCUS ON RESEARCH FOR FINAL PAPERS
2. Students meet with Professor Individually (via Zoom or outside in the open space)

**Week 14: November 16-18, 2020**
1. Readings to be Assigned
2. **Reflection Essay #4 Writing in Class**

**Week 15: November 23, 2020**
1. Last Day of Class-November 23, 2020!!!
2. **LAST CHECK-IN DISCUSSION**

**FINAL PAPER DUE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 11, 2020 @ 5PM**