Course outline for Political Science MA program

Course Title: Democracy, Development and Conflict in Africa (PSIR5024)

**Instructor: Degu Asress (PhD); (email: deguasress@gmail.com)**

**Course objective and competences to be acquired**

**Upon course completion, student shall be able to:**

* Demonstrate thorough knowledge on the concepts and theories of democracy and democratization
* Explain the legacy of pre-colonial and colonial politics on post independence Africa
* Independently reflect upon and analyze issues relating to Africa's transition to democracy
* Apply and relate theories in an empirical manner and take a critical approach to economic reforms in Africa
* Demonstrate thorough knowledge on the politics of development and economic reform measures in Africa.
* Comprehend the origin, features and impacts of conflict in Africa.
* Explain the status of some countries which were ravaged by protracted countries.
* Discuss the challenges and prospects of peaceful conflict resolution in Africa.

**Course Description**

Over half a century has passed since Africa became 'independent' and over two decades since the so-called the wind of 'third wave of democratization' began to blow across the continent in the 1990s. Progress is being made but it is uneven and slow. Africa is still lagging behind Latin America and Central & Eastern Europe. Though few African countries conducted regular elections and practiced occasional political power transfers, many of the countries plagued by widespread ethnic conflicts, electoral fraud, exclusionary (and often violent) politics, incivility, violence and insecurity. Therefore the central tenet of this course is to explore, describe and explain the dynamics of these processes and setbacks in Africa's quest for democracy and development in view of historical, regional and global contexts.

**Chapter one: Concepts and Theories**

* 1. Democracy: concept and contending perspectives
  2. Models and approaches to democracy
  3. Democracy and political culture
  4. Democracy and economic development
  5. Waves of democratization, democratic transition and consolidation

**Chapter two:**  **Shaping post-independence Africa**

* Nationalism, struggle for independence and decolonization
* the legacy of pre-colonial and colonial politics
* Neo-Colonialism
* Patronage Politics: Rise of authoritarianism and personal rule, Clientilism and Corruption in Africa

**Chapter three: Democratization, Political liberalization and regime transition in Africa**

* Internal and external forces of political liberalization
* Regime types, approaches and degree of political liberalization
* Democratic transition, electoral politics and party systems in Africa

**Chapter four: Case studies in political liberalization and regime transition in Africa**

* South Africa
* Ghana
* Senegal
* Algeria
* Botswana
* Ethiopia
* Sudan
* Nigeria
* Angola
* DR Congo

**Chapter five: the politics of economic reforms in Africa**

* Africa's economic realities and conditions
* Post-independence economic reforms in Africa
* Neo-liberal structural adjustment policies in Africa
* Alternative paths to Africa's development: the East-West contentions and Sino-Africa relations?

**Chapter six: Emerging issues in democracy and development in Africa**

* Economic globalization and Africa
* Foreign aid and debt burden in Africa
* Human rights and conflicts in Africa
* The politics of inclusion and identity: African Diaspora, intellectuals, youth, women, ethnicity and pastoralists

**Chapter Six: Peace and Conflict in Africa**

* 1. Basic concepts in peace and conflict

The concept of peace, conflict, violence and security

* 1. Theories of Conflict
* Individual level Theories
* Societal Level theories
* Human Needs theories
* Functionalist theories
* Class structure and Conflict theories

6.3 Conflict Analysis

6.4 Common causes of Conflict in Africa

* Ideational
* Material
* Conflict and Revolution in selected Countries (Somalia, Sudan, Ruanda, Liberia, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

**Chapter Seven: Challenges and prospects of peaceful Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Africa**

* Role of OAU/AU
* Role of Sub-Regional Groups

**Teaching and learning methods**

Classroom contact/Lecture, group work, interactive tutorial sessions (group and pair work/discussions and individual work /independent learning)

**Assessment**

* Article reviews……………………………… (30%)
* Individual term paper and presentation……. (30%)
* Final exam…………………………………. (40%)

**Course Expectation**

**Preparedness:** Completing the reading assignments and other activities on time is mandatory. For Individual and Group assignments students are advised to refer other books other than those books put here as references.

**Participation**: Students must make active participation in class room in time of term paper presentation and question and answer session.

**Policy**

**Term paper and article review**: you must do your assignment on time.

**Cheating/plagiarism**: Cheating/plagiarism will result in a total discarding of results.

**Reference**

Use materials uploaded in the University website (dmursource.edu.et) under postgraduate, political science