Course Syllabus and Policy Requirement Statement

To minimize disruptions for you in this course, your self-compliance should include doing the following:

- You have read, understood, and will comply with the policies and procedures listed in the class syllabus, and that you have acquired the required textbook(s).
- You have read, understood, and will comply with class policies and procedures as specified in the online Student Handbook.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with computer and software requirements as specified with Browser Test.
- You have familiarize yourself with how to access course content in Blackboard using the Student Quick Reference Guide or CSS Student Orientation Course.

SEC 6341 Security Issues in Africa I

Course Description/Overview

This course will examine political, military and social issues of the states of Sub-Saharan Africa. The focus of the course will be on the impact these issues have on world politics and particularly United States national security interests in that region. The course will address issues of the colonial legacy, the rise of African nationalism and the emergence of independent Africa. It will also address many of the difficulties of the post-colonial legacy. Finally, the course turns to the place of Sub-Saharan Africa in Washington's national security policy and potential outcomes for the future.

Course Required Textbooks:

Harbeson, John W. and Donald Rothchild, eds. *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2017. Kindle version

Herbst, Jeffrey. *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000. Kindle version

Reno, William. *Warfare in Independent Africa*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2011. Kindle version

Taylor, William A. *Contemporary Security Issues in Africa*. Praeger Security International. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2019. Hardback and Kindle Versions Available.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Objectives: As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Comprehend the key transnational and regional security issues affecting Africa and the international community.
2. Analyze the changing role that nations in Africa play in influencing international security.

3. Analyze and articulate the dynamics resulting in the increasing importance of Africa as a strategic priority in American national interests.

Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Participation in the Discussion Board	20%	Weekly when there are no written assignment.
First Essay	20%	**Due Week Two Sunday at 09:00 P.M. Central Standard Time**. (6 - 8 Pages)
Midterm PowerPoint Presentation	20%	**Due Week Five Sunday at 09:00 P.M. Central Standard Time**. (10 - 15 Slides)
Final Essay	40%	**Due Week Eight Wednesday at midnight Central Std. Time.** The topics for the final exam will be available in BlackBoard on Monday of Lesson 6. (12 - 15 Pages)

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100 %
B = 80 – 89 %
C = 70 – 79 %
D = 60 – 69 %
F = 59 % and below.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1:   Setting the Context for Security in Africa

Before analyzing the various security issues in Africa today, one must begin by understanding the

general context for security in Africa. Africa is a large continent composed of over fifty countries and nearly one billion people. In addition, Africa has a cultural diversity that is unmatched anywhere in the world. Africa also has a historical legacy of colonialism. More recently, Africa has emerged as a region of strategic importance for the United States. All of these factors influence security issues in Africa.

Lesson 2: **Weak and Failing States**

A fundamental security issue in Africa is the prevalence of weak and failing states. Year after year, the majority of the weakest states in the world are located on the African continent. The twelve most common measures of weak and failing states are demographic pressures, large numbers of refugees, high levels of group grievances, human flight, uneven development, economic decline, lack of state legitimacy, inadequate public services, human rights abuses, lack of security or security apparatus oversight, high levels of factions, and external intervention. By these measures, many African countries are either weak or failing.

Lesson 3: **Ethnic Conflict and Civil Wars**

Warfare has had a constant presence in Africa. Much of this fact stems from ethnic conflict between rival groups. Not only is there significant cultural diversity in Africa, but the colonial legacy also left Africa with political boundaries that did not match the cultural affinities actually represented by the people in those states. The result has been largely artificial states that attempt to combine diverse and sometimes antagonistic groups into one population. Such a situation has led to significant ethnic conflict and repeated civil wars.

Lesson 4: **Natural Resources and Environmental Security**

Africa has a plethora of natural resources and a diverse range of environments. Africa has significant oil, gold, silver, copper, diamonds, iron, and uranium, just to name a few. Africa also has multiple environments such as tropical rain forests, woodland savannas, deserts, and coastal forests. Unfortunately, Africa has not been able to maximize the benefits from such abundant resources, leading many analysts conclude that Africa evidences a "natural resource curse."

Lesson 5: **Terrorism**

Terrorism in Africa is not a new phenomenon. For instance, in 1998 terrorists bombed the U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, al Qaeda has operated in Africa for much of the past decade. As a result, Africa has become a critical location in U.S. counterterrorism efforts against al Qaeda. More recently, new forms of terrorism in Africa have emerged. Al Shabaab in Somalia and Boko Haram in Nigeria have become the predominant African terrorist threats to the United States.

Lesson 6: **Piracy and Maritime Security**

Piracy off the coast of Africa has increased significantly over the past two decades. It has resulted in the overall degradation of maritime security in the region. Since significant commercial shipping routinely transits through major trade routes just off the coast of Africa, countering piracy and ensuring maritime security there has become an important priority for African nations, the United States and the international community.

Lesson 7: **Food Security**

No understanding of security issues in Africa is complete without an appreciation of food security in the region. Food security impacts Africa like no other continent in the world. Many of the most food insecure countries in the world are located in Africa. Chad, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Angola all

suffer from chronic food shortages. The irony in many cases is that African agriculture is often quite robust. Other structural factors such as politics, failed government policies, insufficient storage facilities, and inadequate transportation networks all have a detrimental impact on food security in Africa.

Lesson 8:   **Assessment**

This week is set aside for students to complete a 12-15 page essay assignment. The purpose of this assignment is to measure student mastery of the course objectives.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

Aapengnuo, Clement Mweyang, "Misinterpreting Ethnic Conflicts in Africa," *Joint Forces Quarterly*, issue 58, 3rd quarter 2010, National Defense University Press.

Annan, Nancy "Violent Conflicts and Civil Strife in West Africa: Causes, Challenges, and Prospects," *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development* vol. 3, no. 1, January 28, 2014.

Aryeetey, Ernest, "Can Nigeria Fail?" *Brookings Institution*, April 8, 2010.

Bellamy, William M., "U.S. Security Engagement in Africa," *Africa Security Brief*, no. 1, June 2009.

C-SPAN, "Piracy on the African Coast," C-SPAN video, February 12, 2009.

Cilliers, Jakkie "Future (Im)perfect? Mapping Conflict, Violence, and Extremism in Africa," *Institute for Security Studies*, Paper 287, October 16, 2015.

Dagne, Ted, "Africa and the War on Terrorism," *Congressional Research Service*, CRS Report for Congress, January 17, 2002.

Englebert, Pierre and James Ron, "Primary Commodities and War: Congo-Brazzaville's Ambivalent Resource Curse," *Comparative Politics*, vol. 37, no. 1 (Oct. 2004), 61-81.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Regional Overview of Food Insecurity," 2015.

Forest, James J.F., and Jennifer Giroux, "Terrorism and Political Violence in Africa: Contemporary Trends in a Shifting Terrain," *Perspectives on Terrorism*, vol. 5, no. 3-4 (September 2011), 5-17.

Gaiha, Raghav, "Does the Right to Food Matter?" *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 38, no. 40 (October 2003), 4269-4276.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, "Improving Food Security in West and Central Africa," *IFRCRCS* video, July 6, 2009.

Harbeson, John W., "Constructing Political and Economic Order" in John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2017), Kindle version.

Herbst, Jeffrey, *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000), Kindle version.

Jones, Russell, "IHS Jane's, West African Piracy in Focus," *YouTube* video, November 8, 2011.

Jones, Sam, "Sub-Saharan Africa and the 'Resource Curse': Limitations of Conventional Wisdom," *Danish Institute for International Studies*, DIIS Working Paper, vol. 2008, no. 14.

Joscelyn, Thomas "Terrorism in Africa: The Imminent Threat to the United States," *Long War Journal*, April 29, 2015.

Kerr, Rachel Bezner, "Food Security in Northern Malawi: Gender, Kinship Relations and Entitlements in Historical Context," *Journal of Southern African Studies*, vol. 31, no. 1 (March 2005), 53-74.

Kimenyi, Mwangi S., "A Regional Approach to Managing Africa's Food Shocks," *Brookings Institution*, August 23, 2011.

Kimenyi, Mwangi S., "Favorite or Prodigal Son? U.S.-Africa Policy under Obama," *Brookings Institution*, July 6, 2011.

Kishi, Roudabeh "Resource-Related Conflict in Africa," Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), November 19, 2014.

Knopf, Kate Almquist "South Sudan: Options in Crisis," U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, September 21, 2016.

Kwaja, Chris, "Nigeria's Pernicious Drivers of Ethno-Religious Conflict," *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*, Africa Security Brief, no. 14, July 2011.

Leff, Jonah, "Pastoralists at War: Violence and Security in the Kenya-Sudan-Uganda Border Region," *International Journal of Conflict and Violence*, vol. 3, no. 2 (2009), 188-203.

Luft, Gal and Anne Korin, "Terrorism Goes to Sea," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 83, no. 6 (Nov/Dec 2004).

Lyman, Princeton N., "The War on Terrorism in Africa," in John Harbeson, ed., *Africa in World Politics: Reforming Political Order*, 4th ed., (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2009).

Mwangi, Oscar, "Hydropolitics, Ecocide and Human Security in Lesotho," *Journal of Southern African Studies*, vol. 33, no. 1 (March 2001), 3-17.

Orogun, Paul, "Blood Diamonds and Africa's Armed Conflicts in the Post-Cold War Era," *World Affairs*, vol. 166, no. 3 (winter 2004), 151-61.

Paarlberg, Robert, "The Global Food Fight," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 79, no. 3 (May/June 2000), 24-38.

PBS, "Jeffrey Gettleman on the Prospects for Peace and Stability in East Africa," *PBS* video.

PBS, "Liberia's Oil, Diamond Resources Are Both Blessing and Curse," *PBS News Hour*, October 31, 2011.

Ploch, Lauren, "Africa Command: U.S. Strategic Interests and the Role of the U.S. Military in Africa," *Congressional Research Service*, CRS Report for Congress, July 22, 2011.

Reinl, James, "Africa: Front-line in Battle against Terrorism" *Voice of Russia (London)* radio interview, April 18, 2012.

Reno, William, *Warfare in Independent Africa* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011), Kindle edition.

Ross, Michael L., "Blood Barrels: Why Oil Wealth Fuels Conflict," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 87, no. 3

(May/June 2008), 2-8.

Ross, Michael L., "What Do We Know about Natural Resources and Civil Wars?" *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 41, no. 3 (May 2004), 337-56.

Shanker, Thom and Eric Schmitt, "Three Terrorist Groups in Africa Pose Threat to U.S., American Commander Says," *New York Times*, September 14, 2011.

Starr, Stephen "Maritime Piracy on the Rise in West Africa," Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, April 28, 2014.

Taylor, William A. *Contemporary Security Issues in Africa*. Praeger Security International. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2019.

"The Failed States Index, 2019," *The Fund for Peace,* July/August 2019.

Traub, James, "In the Beginning, There Was Somalia," *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2010.

Tutton, Mark, "Can Africa Break its Resource Curse," *CNN*, August 23, 2010.

U.S. Army Africa, *The Promise of AFRICOM* Video, DoD Special Report.

U.S. Department of State, "Chapter 2: Africa Overview," in *Country Reports on Terrorism (2016)*.

Vreÿ, Francois, "Bad Order at Sea: From the Gulf of Aden to the Gulf of Guinea," *African Security Review*, vol. 18, no. 3, Institute for Security Studies.

Williams, Paul D., "State Failure in Africa: Causes, Consequences and Responses".

Young, Crawford, "The Heritage of Colonialism" in John W. Harbeson and Donald Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Constructing Political and Economic Order* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2017), Kindle version.

Communication

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disability
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

Student absence for religious holidays
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.