

*Peace and Conflict Studies*

*Department of Political Science and International Studies,*

*College of Social & Management Sciences,*

SECOND SEMESTER, 2017/2018 ACADEMIC SESSION

SYLLABUS

**PCS 412:** CONTEMPORARY WARS IN WEST AFRICA

[2 UNITS]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Lecture Time:* | Tuesday s, 1:00 – 3:00pm |
| *Lecture Venue:* |  |
| *Course Lecturer:* | Ariyo S. Aboyade |
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COURSE OVERVIEW

The expectation that the end of the Cold War would usher in an era of relative peace and harmony across regions of the world has failed to materialise as the world has been thrown into the constant nightmare of widespread violence of horrific proportions. The West African sub-region has not been immune from this development given the occurrence and re-occurrence of a number of inter and intra-state wars that have challenged peace and security in the region. This course, thus, examines a history of contemporary wars in West Africa, such as the inter-state war involving Mali and Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal and civil wars in Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and the role of ECOWAS, extra African powers and the international community, as third parties in the wars. It employs the tools of history and peace and conflict resolution in the analysis of the wars from causes to resolution.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The course is designed to familiarise students with the history of contemporary wars in West Africa, their causes, pattern and trends and resolution. It highlights the impact of the inter and intra state wars on regional peace and security since the 1970s, the role of extra African powers in the conflicts and the interventions of regional and international organisations in the wars as mediators.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

It is expected that at the end of the course students should be able to:

* Identify and discuss contemporary wars in West Africa
* understand patterns and trends noticeable in the outbreaks and resolutions of the wars
* Understand the implications of the wars for regional peace and security
* Explain how the conflicts were resolved

COURSE DELIVERY/ TEACHING METHOD

The course will be delivered through class lecture method that encourages students participation by way of listening, keeping abreast on topic presentation by course tutor, ask questions and contribute personal comments. Class discussion through seminar presentations and audio-visual reviews will equally be adopted in the presentation of some outlined topics. Overall, the course is expected to be very engaging and participatory.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRAND RULES

Attendance at lectures is COMPULSORY. Hence, students are expected to attend classes regularly, punctually and to participate in class discussions and activities. Students must be seated at least 5 minutes before lecture commences. Listening and taking note at lectures is imperative to keep abreast on important points raised during lectures and class discussions. Students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to discussion in class. Aside class attendance, students are expected to read widely on their own so as to be able to participate in robust debates and exchange of ideas during class lectures and seminars. Absence from lecture must be communicated to the course tutor before lectures. Overall, students are expected to have at least 70 percent attendance of classes before they can sit for the examination.

*Written Assignments*. Written assignments provide students with the opportunity to reflect on subject matters and creatively present their original views, analysis and critical opinions. As an exercise, it measures students’ depth of understanding and perception of issues and affairs. It is, therefore, an important form of assessment in this course. Act of **plagiarism**[[1]](#footnote-1) will be punished with outright loss of mark or rejection of the assignment. Students are responsible for understanding acceptable standards, policies on academic integrity and proper use of sources. There are no excuses for failure to uphold academic integrity. To support your learning about academic citation rules, please visit the internet for the APA 6th Edition citation format as well as tips to avoid plagiarism.

COURSE ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Students assessment for this course include Continuous Assessment (CA) totalling 40%, the breakdown of which is indicated in the table below, and an End of Semester Examination totalling 60%, to make a sum total of 100% for each participating student.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Score (%)** |
| 1 | Mid-Semester Test | 10 |
| 2 | Assignment / Group Work / Seminar | 20 |
| 3 | Lecture Attendance + Participation in/contribution to Class discussion  | 10 |
| 4 | End of Semester Examination | 60 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **100** |

COURSE OUTLINE

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| --- | --- |
| **Week 1** | Introduction: Overview of the West African Geography and Conflicts |
| **Week 2** | ECOWAS and West African Wars since the 1970s |
| **Week 3** | Agacher Strip War (Mali and Burkina Faso), 1974 – 75, 1985 |
| **Week 4** | Senegal Casamance Conflict, 1982 – 2014 |
| **Week 5** | Mauritania-Senegal Border War, 1989 – 1991 |
| **Week 6** | Liberian Civil Wars, 1989 – 1997, 1999 – 2003 |
| **Week 7**  | *Mid-Semester Test* |
| **Week 8** | Sierra Leonean Civil War, 1991 – 2002  |
| **Week 9** | Guinea-Bissau Civil War, 1998 – 1999 |
| **Week 10** | Cote d’Ivoire, 2002 – 2004, 2010 – 2011 |
| **Week 11** | Northern Mali Conflict, 2012 – 2015 |
| **Week 12** | *Class Discussion: West African Wars* |
| **Week 13** | *Revision* |

SUGGESTED READINGS

Reid, R. J. (2012). *A History of Modern Africa: 1800 to the Present.* 2nd Ed. West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Francis, D. J. (2005) ‘Introduction’, D. J. Francis (ed.) *Civil Militias: African Intractable Security Menace?* Aldershot: Ashgate.

Van De Walle, N. (2001). *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Sesay, A. (2003). *Civil Wars, Child Soldiers and Post Conflict Peace Building in West Africa*. Ibadan: College Press & Publishers.

Sesay, A. (2009). *Post-War Regimes and State Reconstruction in Liberia and Sierra Leone*. Dakar: Codesria.

1. PLAGIARISM is presenting someone's words or ideas as if they were your own, especially by copying verbatim from books or the internet. It is, therefore, the theft of someone else’s ideas and work. It involves the incorporation of facts, ideas or specific language that is not common knowledge, taken from another source, and is not properly cited. Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, the theft is the same. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)