Course Outline

POGO 750: Civil Wars and Stabilization in Africa
Spring 2020

Mondays, 7:20-10:00pm
Location: ARLVM, 475

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This course will provide a survey of the most pressing security issues facing scholars and policy-makers in contemporary Africa. We will examine topics such as the causes of civil war and political violence on the continent, the rise of extremist groups such as the Islamic State and Boko Haram, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism strategies, gender-based violence, civil-military relations, and international peacekeeping and stabilization operations. The course will also consider how intensifying great power competition in Africa among states like China and Russia may impact US foreign policy interests. The course will both introduce students to major policy debates in these areas, as well as state-of-the-art scholarly research in the field.

Assignments / Grading (*subject to change)

- Participation in seminar discussion
  - 20% of final grade
- Response memo (~5 pages) on readings for one week. The student will also help to lead class discussion for that week.
  - Due dates for response memos will be determined the first week of class.
  - 20% of final grade
- Policy memo (~5 pages). Details will be provided in class.
  - due by Friday, March 6
  - 20% of final grade
- Research paper (15-20 pages, topic must be approved by instructor).
  - due by Friday, May 8
  - 40% of final grade