This is an introductory level Political Science course, conducted as a seminar. It leverages theories of democratization and theories of political violence to re-examine basic assumptions about nation building and citizenship in Africa. Case studies of practical efforts at pre- and post-electoral conflict resolution focus on the challenges of advancing democracy and ending deadly violence. We turn to Afrobarometer’s national public attitude surveys on democracy and governance for reliable measures of the social, political, and economic atmosphere in Africa. Selected readings and videos shed light on the role and handling of women’s issues. A social media toolkit facilitates the task of following Nigeria’s 2015 Presidential election campaign and its post-election activities at the grassroots level. Videoconferences with scholars and practitioners address real-world applications of theories and action plans. Students become country election specialist and present weekly briefings to the seminar.

**Course Requirements**

Much of our class time is spent reviewing election updates, examining country profiles, and relating theory to practice. In addition to the required books, supplemental documents and course-related links are hosted on TRUNK: [http://trunk.tufts.edu](http://trunk.tufts.edu). Students are expected to keep current with the postings located in the AFRICA NEWS folder on the Resources page.

**Assignments**

Election Issues Briefing (20%) – September 24
Country Political Risk Analysis (20%) – October 15
Afrobarometer briefing (20%) – November 12
5 Year Country Plan (40%) – December 10

*Papers more than one week late will be penalized.*

**Required Books**

Jendayi E. Frazer & E. Gyimah-Boadi, eds., *Preventing Electoral Violence in Africa*
Edmond J. Keller, *Identity, Citizenship, and Political Conflict in Africa*
Stephan Lindberg, *Democracy and Elections in Africa*

**Course Related Videos**

*An African Election,* Jarreth Merz & Kevin Merz
*Hopes on the Horizon,* Parts I & II – Terry Kay Rockefeller & Onyekachi Wambu

**Course Related Websites**

Prezi – Mitigating Electoral Violence in Africa
**Other Course Related Websites**

Afrobarometer  
http://www.afrobarometer.org  
An African-led series of national public attitude surveys on democracy and governance in Africa

Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)  
http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/iiag/  
An annual statistical assessment of the quality of governance in every African country

EISA – Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa  
http://www.eisa.org.za  
Program areas include Balloting & Electoral Services; Governance Institutions & Processes; and Elections & Political Processes.

NDI – National Democratic Institute for International Affairs  
https://www.ndi.org  
A nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world.

I. **ELECTIONS IN AFRICA: IS GHANA THE MODEL OF SUCCESS?**

**September 10**  
View Video: Jarreth Merz, *An African Election*

Visit NDI website to review the African Elections Calendar 2015. Students select their country specialty for the semester.

II. **THE PROBLEM OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE**

**September 17**  

Jendayi Frazer & E. Gyimah-Boadi, *Preventing Electoral Violence in Africa*  
Ch. 1: Jendayi Frazer – Introduction, pp. 15-22  
Ch. 6: A Closer Look at Electoral Successes: Ghana – Editors’ introduction and “Keynote Address” by John Dramani Mahama, Vice President of Ghana, pp. 77-85 (top)  
**APPENDIX A:** Key Findings and Recommendations from the Conference on Preventing Electoral Violence and Instituting Good Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa, pp. 99-103

View Video: *Hopes on the Horizon, Part I*
III. MITIGATION AND PREVENTION OF ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

September 24:

Election Issues Briefing due

Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Frazer & Gyimah-Boadi, Preventing Electoral Violence
Ch. 2: Joyprada Swain – Understanding Electoral Violence, pp. 23-34
Ch. 3: E. Gyimah-Boadi – Abating Exclusion, Enhancing Inclusion, Institutionalizing Conflict Prevention, and Democratic Governance in Africa, pp. 35-42
Ch. 4: Frazer – Enhancing the Conflict Prevention Role of Elections in Africa, pp. 43-60
Ch. 5: D.K. Osei – Diplomacy’s Role in Mitigating Electoral Violence, pp. 61-75
Ch. 7: Frazer, Daron Christopher, Juli Digate, Joyprada Swain – Conclusion, pp. 91-97

View Video: Hopes on the Horizon, Part II

IV. INTRODUCTION TO AFROBAROMETER

October 1
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class


Session with Tisch Research Librarian, Connie Reik

V. THE CAUSAL EFFECTS OF ELECTIONS

October 8:
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Steffan Lindberg, Democracy and Elections in Africa
Ch. 1 – Introduction, pp. 1-3
Ch. 2 – On Democracy and Elections, pp. 22 (bottom)-27; OPERATIONALIZING DEMOCRATIC QUALITIES OF ELECTIONS, pp. 34-45 (top)
Ch. 3 – Elections in Africa Over Time, pp. 52-54 (top); and conclusion, pp. 69-70

October 15:
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Country Political Risk Analysis due

Lindberg, Democracy and Elections in Africa
Ch. 4 – The Self-Reinforcing Power of Elections, pp. 71-75 (top); and conclusion, pp. 96-98
Ch. 5 – The Causal Effects of Elections, pp. 99-116 (top)
Ch. 6 – Democracy by Elections, pp. 140-141
Ch. 7 – Comparative Perspectives and Reflections
October 22:  
*Columbus Day (University Holiday). No Classes.*

VI.  
**GHANA REVISITED**

**October 29:**
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Frazer & Gyimah-Boadi, *Preventing Electoral Violence*
Ch. 6:  Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, “Keynote Address, Conference Opening Ceremonies,” pp. 85-89


Interview with Ransford Gyampo, by Lucas Issacharoff & Daniel Scher, University of Ghana, Accra, 1 January 2010. Innovations for Successful Societies project, Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, Princeton University.


VII.  
**POSTCOLONIAL CITIZENSHIP**

**November 5**
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class


VII.  
**POLITICAL IDENTITY, CITIZENSHIP AND CONFLICT**

**November 12**
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

*AfroBarometer Briefing Due*

Edmond J. Keller, *Identity, Citizenship and Political Conflict in Africa*
PART I. Citizenship and Political Conflict in Contemporary Africa
Ch. 1 – Identity, Citizenship and Nation-building in Africa
Ch. 2 – Theoretical and Formal-Legal Dimensions of the Concept of Citizenship in Africa
Ch. 3 – Toward an Analytical Framework of Identity and Citizenship in Africa
**November 19**
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Keller, *Identity, Identity, Citizenship and Political Conflict*
Ch. 4 – Nigeria: Indigeneity and Citizenship
Ch. 5 – Ethiopia: The Politics of Late Nation-building and the National Question

**November 12:** Veteran’s Day (No Classes)

**IX.** POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

**December 3**
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Keller, *Identity, Identity, Citizenship and Political Conflict*
Ch. 6 – Côte d’Ivoire: Ivoirité and Citizenship
Ch. 7 – Kenya: Citizenship, Land, and Ethnic Cleansing

**December 10:**
*(19-23 November 2014, Professor Robinson will be attending the annual meeting of the African Studies Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.)*

**X.** DESIGNING ELECTION PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD

**November 24**
Election round-up: Present Country Briefings in class

Keller, *Identity, Identity, Citizenship and Political Conflict*
Ch. 8 – Rwanda: Exclusionary Nationalism, Democracy and Genocide
Summary and Conclusions: Identity, Citizenship, and Social Conflict


**November 26:** No Classes
**November 27:** Thanksgiving
**November 28:** No Classes (University Holiday)

**XI.** AFRICAN ELECTIONS ROUNDTABLE

**December 4:**
*Final Assignment Due*

*Students present their Action Plans in class*

**VIDEOCONFERENCES**
*Dates T.B.A.*