

THE MWALIMU NYERERE MEMORIAL ACADEMY



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES

DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL STUDIES Second year, 1st Semester [2013/2014]

COURSE TITLE - SST 06102: POLITICS, STATE AND POWER

COURSE OUTLINE

Course instructor: Mr. Martin F. O

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i. Course objectives.

- i) To enable students understand the history, nature, organization and working of political systems.
- ii) To provide students with a historical and theoretical perspective on the problems of development especially those which are politically oriented.
- iii) To equip students with the tools and leadership skills necessary to deal with and solve problems of economic, social and political development.
- iv) To nurture the analytical ability and understanding of specific problems pertaining to economic, social and political development of Tanzania.

ii. Course evaluation.

1. Coursework.

- Seminar presentation -----	10%
- Attendance and participation -----	05%
- Take - home assignment -----	15%
- <u>Class Test -----</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	45%

2. Semester/final examination -----

Grand total..... 100%

iii. Teaching and learning methods.

Lectures, discussions, group works, seminars and private study.

iv. Contact hours: Monday 12:00 - 14:00 Hours { Attendance to lectures }
Wednesday 17:00 - 18:00 Hours { is mandatory }

v. Course contents.

1. State and the society.

- 1:1. Definition of the state.
- 1:2. The genesis of the state.
- 1:3. Theories for the origin of the state.
 - 1:3:1. Social contract theory.
 - 1:3:2. Historical theory.
 - 1:3.3. Divine origin theory.
- 1.3. Classical and contemporary states in perspective.
- 1:4. Functions of the state.

2. The government: Its legality and legitimacy.

- 3:1. Definition of the government.
- 3:2. Classification/forms of governments.
 - 3:2:1. Traditional classification.
 - Monarchy
 - Tyranny
 - Aristocracy
 - 3:2:2. Modern classification.
 - Democratic/ Authoritarian.
 - Parliamentary/ Presidential.
 - Unitary/ Federal.
- 3:3. Organs of Government.
 - 3:3:1. Legislature.
 - 3:3:2. Executive.
 - 3:3:3. Judiciary.
- 3.4. The three organs: How do they inter-relate in performing government functions?
 - Separation of powers, checks and balances

3. Political power in society.

- 2:1. Power defined.
- 2:2. Dimensions of power (what constitutes power in the society?)
- 2:3. Sources of power.
- 3.4. Usefulness of power.
- 1:5. Power and authority.
 - 2:5:1. The Weberian conception and typology of authority.

4. Democracy and state power.

- 4:1. The meaning of democracy
- 4:2. A Historical analysis: - from Athenian to liberal democracy.
- 4:3. Types of democracy.
 - 4:3:1. Direct democracy.
 - 4:3:2. Indirect/representative democracy.
- 4:4. Principles of democracy.
- 4:5. Democracy and development
 - 4:5:1. Compatibility and incompatibility of democracy with development.
 - Does democracy promote or hinder development?
- 4:6. The Tanzanian experience of democracy.

5. Elections, electoral systems and processes.

6:1. Understanding election

6:2. Constituencies.

6:2:1. Meaning

6:2:2. Types.

- Single-Member Constituency.

- Multi-Member Constituency.

6:3. Electoral system

6:4. Types of electoral systems.

6:4:1. Plurality Majority Systems (First Past The Post).

6:4:2. Proportional Representation (PR-system).

6:5. African experience with elections and electoral democracy.

6:5:1 Electoral systems and political/ ethnic conflicts in Africa.

vi. Course readings.

Relevant required and recommended readings will be provided by the instructor in the course of the program accordingly. However, students will be required to search for additional readings on their own from other sources i.e. libraries, bookshops and internet.

REFERENCES.

Appadorai, A (1968), *The State of Politics*, Oxford University Press, Oxford

Christoff Hartmann, (2000), “*The Strengths and Weaknesses of Existing Electoral Modals as Instruments for Managing Ethnic Conflicts*” A Conference Paper.

Claude Ake, (1991), “*Rethinking African Democracy.*” Journal of Democracy, vol 2, no.1.

Claude Ake, (1993), “*The Unique Case of African Democracy.*” International Affairs, no. 69.

Heywood , A. (2000), *Key Concepts in Politics*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York.

Heywood, A. (2000), *Politics*, Palgrave Foundation, New York

IDEA, (1997), *The International Handbook of Electoral System Design*.

Kafaltiya, A. B. (2003), *Democracy and Election Laws*, Deep and Deep Publications Ltd, New Delhi.

Lindberg, S (2006), *Democracy and Elections in Africa*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Maryland

Nnoli O, (1990), *Introduction to Politics*. Longman Group Ltd, Essex.

Pierre, S. and Peters, G. B,(2000), *Governance, Politics and the State*, Macmillan Press Ltd, London.

Tordoff, W. (1975), *Government and Politics in Tanzania*, East African Publications, Nairobi.