

African Politics  
Political Science/African American & African Studies 4250  
Fall 2018  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
11:10am-12:30pm  
Lazenby Hall 002  
<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/43146>

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introductory survey of Sub-Saharan African politics from the pre-colonial period to the contemporary era. We will examine the common themes, issues, and trends that shape politics and development across forty-nine countries. The goals of the course are for you to gain an understanding of how context shapes political behavior, in general, and how historical and political forces have influenced African politics, in particular. You will also learn how social science methodologies are used to understand political processes.

The material for this course is organized around the following broad themes: pre-colonial and colonial legacies, democratization, ethnic politics, violent conflict, economic development, and contemporary political issues. While the course is not designed as a study of individual countries, in exploring the themes and trends that dominate politics across Africa, you will learn quite a bit about a variety of countries on the continent.

This course fulfills a Social Science General Education (GE) requirement in the study of Organizations and Politics. The expected learning outcomes for this GE are:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

This course also fulfills the Diversity General Education requirement in Global Studies. The expected learning outcomes for this GE are:

1. Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attend and participate in class.**

This course will rely largely on material discussed in lecture. Class attendance is thus expected and will improve your performance on exams and assignments. Students will maximize the course's benefits by asking questions during lecture and contributing to in-class discussions and activities. While attendance will be recorded, attendance does not constitute part of your grade.

2. **Read the assigned materials.**

The course schedule details course reading assignments day-by-day. Students are expected to have read the assigned material *before* class. Each day before class, you will take a short quiz on the assigned reading via the course website.

3. **Complete required assignments and take scheduled exams on time.**

All exams must be taken when scheduled and assignments must be turned in on time, with exceptions made only for the following excused absences:

- Documented University sanctioned event
- Documented death in the family
- Observation of a religious holiday
- Illness or injury that prevent attendance

If an exam is missed due to an *excused* absence, a make-up exam will be scheduled online in consultation with the professor. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process and to provide documentation of an excused absence for a missed exam. Exams missed due to an *unexcused* absence will receive a grade of 0 and cannot be made up. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized a letter grade for each 24-hour period they are turned in after the due date and time.

# ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

## 1. Map Quiz – 5%

A map quiz will be administered in class on **Thursday 8/30**. Students will be given a blank map of Africa and will be expected to write in the name of a random sample of countries. A list of the 49 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and a current map are provided at the end of this syllabus. There are a number of online African map quizzes that you can use to practice, including this one from *The Washington Post* at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/world/do-you-know-africa/>.

## 2. Reading Quizzes– 10%

Before every class you must complete an online reading quiz via the course website. The quiz will ask a few basic questions about the readings for that day (main argument, key facts, results, conclusions, etc.) that will be easily answered if you have done the reading for class ahead of time. The quiz will open at the end of the previous class and close five minutes before the class for which the reading is assigned. You will have 10 minutes to complete the online quiz, and you will only have one chance to do so, but you may complete the quiz at anytime between classes. Your lowest five quiz scores will be dropped, and your overall quiz grade will be an average of the remaining quizzes. Because the five lowest scores are dropped, there will be no make-ups for missed quizzes, even for excused absences.

## 3. Country Case Studies (Paper and Presentation) – 25%

Students will be randomly assigned to eight groups, each group will be assigned an African country, and each member of the group will be responsible for applying a different topic from the course to that country. An outline of key facts about your case study will be due on **Tuesday, October 9**. Groups will present their research to the class in Weeks 13-15, and your slides will be due by noon the day before your presentation. A 1500-2000 word paper will be due on **Tuesday, December 4** by 12 midnight. While group members are expected to work together on their presentations, and extra credit will be awarded for the best overall group, students will be evaluated individually on both the paper and the presentation. Group and country assignments will be posted on the course website and a comprehensive description of the assignment will be distributed in Week 2.

## 4. Exams – 60%

All exams will be taken online through the Carmen course website. Exam I (**September 27**) will draw from assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions through Week 6. The exam will be a mixture of short answer questions (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or identification questions) and a short essay. Exam II (**November 13**) will draw from assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions during Weeks 7-11, and will take the same format as Exam I. The Final Exam (**December 10**) will be comprehensive, with specific applications of the course topics to the eight countries covered in depth by course readings and student presentations. The final exam will have the same format as the midterm exams, but the content will require students to consolidate knowledge

and topics from across the entire semester and use case-specific knowledge.

All three exams will be taken online through the course's Carmen website, and are thus open book. However, you may not discuss the exam with anyone else. **We will use Proctorio for exam proctoring, so you must take the online exams on a computer with the Google Chrome web browser and a webcam.** You will be asked to show your BuckID at the beginning of the exam and Proctorio will monitor your exam using video and audio. Recordings will only be used to confirm that the correct student is taking the exam. The exam will open at 8am on the exam day and must be completed by midnight on the same day. You will have 80 minutes to complete each exam, and you will only have one chance to do so, but you may complete the exam at anytime on the exam day. We will not meet in class on exam days. A make-up exam will only be permissible if associated with an excused absence (see above).

Letter grades correspond to the following percentages:

A: 93-100	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 60-66
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	E: 0-60
B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	

## COURSE MATERIALS

The following books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore and are on reserve in Thompson Library:

Dowden, Richard. 2009. *Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power in Africa*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (Ebook available through the university library).

All other readings will be available through the Carmen course site:

<https://osu.instructure.com/courses/43146>.

## COURSE POLICIES

### **Distractions:**

Please arrive on time and do not leave before the end of class. I prefer that you do not use your laptop or cell phones during class time. If you must use your laptop to take notes, please sit in the back of the class and refrain from checking email and browsing the internet.

**Email Policy:** Please include "4250: African Politics" in the subject line of any email to your professor or teaching assistant. We will typically respond to your email within one

business day. Please do not email to ask questions that can be easily answered by referencing the syllabus or Carmen course site (we will not respond to such emails).

**Re-grade Policy:** Every effort will be made to grade papers and exams fairly; however, mistakes sometimes occur. If you have a concern about your grade, write a description of the mistake as you see it and send it to your instructor within one week of receiving your exam or paper grade. Please note that the entire exam/paper will be regarded, and it is therefore possible that your grade could go up or down.

**Academic and Personal Integrity:** Suspected academic misconduct will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct, as required by Faculty Rule 3335-5-487. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>).

**Accessible Learning:** The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, please register with Student Life Disability Services (SLDS). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

**Mental Health:** As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273- TALK or at [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

# COURSE SCHEDULE

## WEEK 1: STUDYING AFRICAN STATES AND SOCIETIES

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**Tuesday 8/21** Course Introduction

**Thursday 8/23** Perspectives on Africa

Dowden: Chapter 1.

Wainaina, Binyavanga. 2005. "How to Write About Africa," *Granta*, 92.

Seay, Laura. 2012. "How Not to Write About Africa," *Foreign Policy*, April 25.

Martin, Courtney. 2016. "The Reductive Seduction of Other People's Problems." *The Development Set*, January 11.

## WEEK 2: PRE-COLONIAL POLITICS

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**Tuesday 8/28** Precolonial Africa & Early European Encounters

Herbst: Chapter 2 & Chapter 3 (pp. 58-80 only).

Boahen, A. Adu. 1987. "The Eve of the Colonial Conquest and Occupation" in *African Perspectives on Colonialism*. New York, NY: Diasporic Press. pp. 1-26.

**Thursday 8/30** Map Quiz

Dowden: Read the chapter on your assigned country (see wks. 13-15 for chapters).

### **Map Quiz**

The map quiz will be administered at the beginning of class. Students will be given a blank map of Africa and will be expected to write in the name of the country for a random sample of 20 countries.

### **Case Study Research Project**

Country groups will meet and group members will choose topic assignments. Each group should also submit 5 potential pop quiz questions based on the Dowden chapter assigned to the class for their specific country. Questions should be submitted via Carmen with all present group members' names included.

## WEEK 3: COLONIALISM AND INDEPENDENCE

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**Tuesday 9/4** Colonial Policies and Practices

Herbst: Chapter 3, pp. 81-96.

Kiwanuka, M. Semakula. 1970. "Colonial Policies and Administrations in Africa: The Myths of the Contrasts." *African Historical Studies* 3 (2): 295-315.

Mamdani, Mahmood. 1996. "Decentralized Despotism," pp. 37-61 in *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

#### **Thursday 9/6** Independence

Dowden: Chapter 4.

Schmidt, Elizabeth. 2005. "Top Down or Bottom Up? Nationalist Mobilization Reconsidered, with Special Reference to Guinea." *American Historical Review* 110 (4): 975-1014.

### WEEK 4: POST-COLONIAL CHALLENGES

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#### **Tuesday 9/11** Colonial Borders

Herbst: Chapter 4, pp. 97-112 and 126-136.

Jackson, Robert and Carl Rosberg. 1982. "Why Africa's Weak States Persist," *World Politics* 35(1): 1-24.

#### **Thursday 9/13** Geography

Herbst: Chapter 5.

Herbst: Chapter 9.

### WEEK 5: POLITICAL SYSTEMS

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#### **Tuesday 9/18** Authoritarianism & "Big Man" Politics

Dowden: Chapter 3.

Nyong'o, Peter Anyang'. 1992. "Africa: The Failure of One-Party Rule." *Journal of Democracy* 3(1): 90-96.

Bratton, Michael and Nicholas van de Walle. 1997. "Neopatrimonial Rule in Africa," Chapter 2, pp. 61-82, in *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Fitzgerald, Mary Anne. September 8, 1997. "Obituary: Mobutu Sese Seko," *The Independent*. London, UK.

#### **Thursday 9/20** Democratic Transitions & Practices

Ake, Claude. 1991. "Rethinking African Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 2(1): 32-44.

Bratton, Michael and Nicholas van de Walle. 1997. "Africa's Divergent Transitions, 1990-1994," Chapter 3, pp. 97-122, in *Democratic Experiments in Africa: Regime Transitions in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

## WEEK 6: CLIENTELISM

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### Tuesday 9/25 Patronage Politics

Wantchekon, Leonard. 2003. "Clientelism and Voting Behavior," *World Politics* 55(3): 399-422.

Arriola, Leonardo. 2009. "Patronage and Political Stability in Africa," *Comparative Political Studies* 42(10): 1339-1362.

### Thursday 9/27 Exam I

#### **Exam I**

Exam I will cover material from Weeks 1–6.

Log on to the Carmen course page anytime between 8am and 12 midnight to complete the exam (the exam must be completed by 12 midnight). You may only take the exam once and you must complete the exam within 80 minutes. You may use your notes, course slides, and readings, but you may not discuss the exam with anyone else: doing so is considered academic misconduct.

## WEEK 7: ETHNIC POLITICS

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### Tuesday 10/2 Origins of Ethnic Identities

Ekeh, Peter. 1975. "Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa: A Theoretical Statement," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* January: pp. 91-112.

Bates, Robert. 1983. "Modernization, Ethnic Competition and the Rationality of Politics," Chapter 9, pp. 152-166, in Donald Rothchild and Victor A. Olorunsola, eds., *State versus Ethnic Claims: African Policy Dilemmas*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Posner, Daniel. 2003. "The Colonial Origins of Ethnic Cleavages: The Case of Linguistic Divisions in Zambia." *Comparative Politics* 35(2): 127-146.

### Thursday 10/4 Implications of Ethnic Differences

Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529-545.

Kimenyi, Mwangi S. 2006. "Ethnicity, Governance and the Provision of Public Goods." *Journal of African Economies* 15: 62-99.



## WEEK 8: COUNTRY CASE STUDY RESEARCH

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**Tuesday 10/9** Independent Research (NO CLASS)

**CASE STUDY “FACT SHEET” DUE:**

A brief outline of facts, characteristics, events, or issues relevant to your country and your research topic are due no later than 12:30pm on **Tuesday, October 9**. Outlines must be turned in via the course website. Your outline should be less than 1 page long and include your country, topic, and brief summaries (may be narrative or list format) outlining key information about your topic in your country. This will count as your reading quiz for the day.

**Thursday 10/11** FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)

## WEEK 9: POLITICAL VIOLENCE

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**Tuesday 10/16** Civil War

Berkeley, Bill. 2001. “The Rebel,” Chapter 1, pp. 21-61, in *The Graves Are Not Yet Full: Race, Tribe, and Power in the Heart of Africa*. New York: Basic Books.

Collier, Paul. 2007. “The Conflict Trap,” Chapter 2, pp. 17-37, in *The Bottom Billion*. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Thursday 10/18** Terrorism

Dowd, Caitriona and Clionadh Raleigh. 2013. “The Myth of Global Islamic Terrorism and Local Conflict in Mali and The Sahel” *African Affairs* 112 (448): 498-509.

Thomas, Jakana. 2014. “Rewarding Bad Behavior: How Governments Respond to Terrorism in Civil War” *American Journal of Political Science* 58 (4): 804-818.

## WEEK 10: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Tuesday 10/23** Causes of Underdevelopment

Dowden: Chapter 10

Collier, Paul and Jan Willem Gunning. 1999. “Why Has Africa Grown Slowly?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13: 3-22.

Sachs, Jeffrey D., Andrew D. Mellinger, and John L. Gallup. 2001. “The geography of poverty and wealth.” *Scientific American* 284 (3): 70-75.

**Thursday 10/25** Foreign Aid & Investment

Dowden: Chapter 17

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. "The Development Challenge." *Foreign Affairs* 84(2): 78-90.

Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. Chapter 4 in *Dead Aid*. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux Press. pp. 48–68.

Brautigam, Deborah. 2010. "Africa's Eastern Promise: What the West Can Learn from Chinese Investment in Africa." *Foreign Affairs* 89(1):

## WEEK 11: POLITICS OF MORALITY

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### Tuesday 10/30 Religion and Politics

Newell, Jonathan. 1995. "A Moment of Truth'? The Church and Political Change in Malawi, 1992." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 33 (2): 243-262.

Villalón, Leonardo. 2010. "From Argument to Negotiation: Constructing Democracy in African Muslim Contexts." *Comparative Politics* 42 (4): 375-393.

McClendon, Gwenyth and Rachel Beatty Riedl. 2015. "Religion as a Stimulant of Political Participation: Evidence from an Experiment in Nairobi, Kenya." *Journal of Politics* 77 (4).

### Thursday 11/1 Politics of Sexuality

Tamale, Sylvia. 2003. "Out of the Closet: Unveiling Sexuality Discourses in Uganda," *Feminist Africa* 2: 42-49.

Coly, Ayo A. 2013. "Homophobic Africa?" *African Studies Review*, 56(2): 21–30.

Allen, Elizabeth Palchik. 2014. "Unintended Consequences: How Clumsy Foreign Advocates Unwittingly Helped Uganda's Anti-Gay Bill Become Law," *Foreign Policy*, February 26.

Grossman, Guy. 2015. "Renewalist Christianity and the Political Saliency of LGBTs: Theory and Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa." *Journal of Politics* 77 (2): 337-351.

## WEEK 12: MIGRATION AND PROTEST

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### Tuesday 11/6 Urbanization and Migration

Gugler, Josef. 2002. "The Son of the Hawk Does Not Remain Abroad: The Urban-Rural Connection in Africa." *African Studies Review* 45 (1): 21-41.

Adida, Claire L. 2011. "Too Close for Comfort? Immigrant Exclusion in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies* 44 (10): 1370-1396.

Dionne, Kim Yi, Kris Inman, and Gabriella Montinola. 2014. "Another Resource Curse? The Impact of Remittances on Political Participation." Afrobarometer Working Paper No. 145.

## Thursday 11/8 Protest and Contentious Politics

Honwana, Alcinda. 2013. "Youth, Waithood, and Protest Movements in Africa." Lugard Lecture, International African Institute.

Branch, Adam and Zachariah Mamphilly. 2015. *Africa Uprising: Popular Protest and Political Change*. London, UK: Zed Books. pp. 1-10 and 67-85.

## WEEK 13: EXAM II & STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

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### Tuesday 11/13 Exam II

#### **Exam II**

Exam II will cover material from Weeks 7–12.

Log on to the Carmen course page anytime between 8am and 12 midnight to complete the exam (the exam must be completed by 12 midnight). You may only take the exam once and you must complete the exam within 80 minutes. You may use your notes, course slides, and readings, but you may not discuss the exam with anyone else: doing so is considered academic misconduct.

### Thursday 11/15 Nigeria & Angola

Dowden: Chapter 16, Nigeria

Dowden: Chapter 8, Angola

#### **Presentation Slides**

Presenters must submit their slides in PDF format to Carmen by 12 noon the day before their presentation.

## WEEK 14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

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### Tuesday 11/20 Somalia & South Sudan

Dowden: Chapter 5, Somalia

Dowden: Chapter 7, South Sudan

#### **Presentation Slides**

Presenters must submit their slides in PDF format to Carmen by 12 noon the day before their presentation.

### Thursday 11/22 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

## WEEK 15: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

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**Tuesday 11/27** Dem. Rep. of Congo & South Africa

Dowden: Chapter 13, DRC

Dowden: Chapter 14, South Africa

**Presentation Slides**

Presenters must submit their slides in PDF format to Carmen by 12 noon the day before their presentation.

**Thursday 11/29** Uganda & Kenya

Dowden: Chapter 2, Uganda

Dowden: Chapter 15, Kenya

**Presentation Slides**

Presenters must submit their slides in PDF format to Carmen by 12 noon the day before their presentation.

## WEEK 16: COURSE WRAP UP

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**Tuesday 12/4** The Future of Africa

Dowden: Chapter 18 & Epilogue

Miguel, Edward. 2008. "Is it Africa's Turn?" *Boston Review* May/June: 7-12.

**CASE STUDY PAPER DUE:**

Country case study papers are due by midnight on

**Tuesday 12/4**. Papers must be turned in via the course website.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam will cover material from the entire semester, with applications to the eight countries covered by your classmates. The final exam must be completed on the university determined exam day, **Monday, December 10.**

Log on to the Carmen course page anytime between 8am and 12 midnight to complete the exam (the exam must be completed by 12 midnight). Our classroom will be available to you during the university determined exam time slot from 12:00-1:45. You may only take the exam once and you must complete the exam within 105 minutes. You may use your notes, course slides, and readings, but you may not discuss the exam with anyone else: doing so is considered academic misconduct.

## COUNTRIES OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola	Gabon	Nigeria
Benin	Gambia	Rwanda
Botswana	Ghana	São Tomé & Príncipe*
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea-Bassau	Seychelles*
Cameroon	Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde*	Kenya	Somalia
Central African Republic	Lesotho	South Africa
Chad	Liberia	South Sudan
Comoros*	Madagascar*	Sudan
Congo (Republic of)	Malawi	Swaziland
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	Mali	Tanzania
Djibouti	Mauritania	Togo
Equatorial Guinea	Mauritius*	Uganda
Eritrea	Mozambique	Zambia
Ethiopia	Namibia	Zimbabwe
	Niger	

\*Island countries.

# POLITICAL MAP OF AFRICA



Produced by the Cartographic Research Lab  
University of Alabama