CPS 433: POLITICS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CONFLICT

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Course description

In this coursework students will learn about theories of regional integration (both classical and modern) that are useful in the study of regional cooperation, and how they apply in analyses of integration among states, both at the sub regional and at the regional levels.

The coursework will further introduce students to important sub-regional and regional bodies (the Regional Economic Communities – RECs) in the continent with particular reference to Eastern Africa context.

Moreover, an analyses of how regional integration has over the years helped in resolution of various conflicts at state and sub-regional levels, while using some specific case studies will be underscored.

The details on conflict studies, resolution, transformation, management and various theories of conflict are however beyond the scope of this particular coursework.

The specific objectives of this course can therefore be stated as follows:

- To understand the definitions, terminologies and main concepts, processes and characteristics of regional cooperation/integration and their applications.
- To analyse different classical theories of regional integration focusing on efforts of cooperation at sub-regional and regional levels.
- To analyse different modern theories of regional integration focusing specifically at efforts toward cooperation at the sub-regional and at the regional levels.
- To introduce students to the Role of Regional Organisations in Conflict Prevention and Resolution while focusing on the sub-regional and regional integration bodies – the RECS (e.g. the EAC, IGAD, COMESA, ECOWAS and finally the AU as the continental regional body).

To achieve the above objectives, the coursework will be divided into 4 main parts in the entire semester as below.

Course Outline

1 Introductions

Definitions of the terms cooperation, integration and conflict according to different authors (Begin by providing definition of cooperation and integrate the UN clause).

Introduce students to key terminologies in the study of regional integration (Amalgamation, spill-over etc.)
The characteristics of integration

Tabular presentation

2. Classical Theories of Integration.

Functionalism and Neo-functionalism (3).

Introduce students to the persuasive origins of these theories and how they transit to modern theories.

3. Modern theories of Regional Integration (4 modern theories)

Institutionalism (three strands), neo-liberalism, liberal inter-governmentalism and new regionalism

Comparing the conditions where these theories emerged (by then) with the conditions in East Africa states today: a discussion

4. Sub-regional Integration bodies (the RECs)

East Africa Community and Its evolution, members, structures, functions and politics: Earlier EAC and present EAC, its role in economic and political integration,

Incentives and obstacles in East Africa Community

IGAD: from IGADD to IGAD: the past and present roles in early warning & conflict resolution

COMESA and ECOWAS

The AU and its transformation from OAU – from non-interference to non-indifference