



Università
per Stranieri
di Perugia

Academic Year 2015-2016

COURSEWORK

Master Degree : **Relazioni internazionali e
Cooperazione allo Sviluppo**

Lab: **Approaches to Empires in Modern History of
Africa: From Colonialism to Globalization
(SPS/13)**

Semester: **I**

Professor: **Federica Guazzini**

CFU: **3**

Overall workload: **75 hours**

Distribution of workload: **20 hours of lectures, and
55 hours of study**

Working Language: English

PREREQUISITES

No previous skills are required, except for a basic knowledge of the English language and of modern history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims at introducing students to African Studies and particularly to the question of colonialism, the process of decolonization, and the postcolonial conditions by reviewing theories, approaches and scholarly debates. It will examine the impact of Western expansion overseas, analyzing the resistance and local responses and patterns of interaction (colonial encounters).

COURSE CONTENT

After a preliminary insight on the genealogy of modern empires, with a focus on slavery, the first module of the course will explore through a comparative survey a series of broad themes, such as: the main causes of the European overseas expansion, the colonial State, the economic and ecological transformations, and the complex interplay between imperialism and modernity (addressing a number of issues, i.e.: knowledge, culture, military & security, society and gender).

The second module will engage with the dynamics of imperial declines, covering the patterns of decolonization, and the legacies of Empire (Nationalism, the State, the postcolonial narratives). Students will confront and question about globalization (esp. the category of historical analyses of "globalized imperialism", or "imperialism without colonies"), thus they will be challenged to develop their own perspective in the ways the past bears upon the present.

TEACHING METHODS & READINGS

Full-Time Students:

Lecture-based with discussions. A reference bibliography and handouts will be provided on a weekly basis on the Course online platform *Webclass*.

Non-Attending Students:

Non-attending Students are required to take part in two Seminars (schedule and preliminary readings will be available on the Course online platform *Webclass*) and to study this essential recommended text:

- Anne Burbank, Frederick Cooper. *Empires in World History. Power and the Politics of Difference*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2010 (pages 1-22, 287-294, 303-306, 312-321, 324-329, 369-393, 402-415, 433-442, 448-459).

ASSESSMENT

For Full-time Students and Non-Attending Students:
Oral exam.

FURTHER READINGS

- Barbara Bush, *Imperialism and Postcolonialism*, New York, Pearson Longman, 2006.
- Els Bogaerts, Remco Raben (eds.), *Beyond Empire and Nation. The Decolonization of African and Asian societies, 1930s-1970s*, Leiden, Brill, 2012 (chapters 1-3, 10-11).
- Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2005 (esp. "Globalization," pp. 91-112).
- Stephen Howe, *The New Imperial Histories Reader*, London, Routledge, 2009.
- Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2001.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Class attendance is required for Full-Time Students, who are invited to join the class in the first week of the Course. Active participation in class discussion is very welcomed.