



Università
per Stranieri
di Perugia

PROGRAMMA D'ESAME

Laurea Magistrale: **Relazioni Internazionali e**

Cooperazione allo Sviluppo

Insegnamento: **Approaches to Empires in modern
history of Africa: from colonialism to globalization**

Anno di corso: **I**

Semestre: **I**

Docente: **Federica Guazzini**

CFU: **3**

Carico di lavoro globale: **75 ore**

Ripartizione del carico di lavoro: **38 ore di lezione e 37
ore di studio individuale**

Lingua di insegnamento: **Inglese**

Anno Accademico 2021-2022

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

No previous skills are required, except for a suitable knowledge of modern history. Students who feel uncertain about their readiness may refresh their skills with the suggested readings that are listed in platform LOL (*Suggested Reading for Students Enrolled a.y. 2021/22*).

Language Requirement: A grasp of the English language (B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)).

LEARNING GOALS

This course aims at introducing students to history of Africa's methods and knowledge improving their learning skills, and equipping them with research tools helpful for professional specializations whether they choose to pursue development jobs or continue in research.

After completion of this programme, students should become acquainted with greater critical understanding of key historical processes of colonialism, decolonization, and the postcolonial condition. Students should be able to:

- critically review theories, approaches and scholarly debates on these topics in group discussions, learning how to carefully present arguments using an understanding of cause and consequence, change and continuity;
- connect present and past historical events and develop their own perspective in the ways the past bears upon the present;
- select, access and query bibliographic and documentary sources (digital resources included), employing them in understanding themes in modern history of Africa such as colonial encounters, citizenship, sovereignty, and the complex interplay between imperialism and modernity.

COURSE CONTENT

After a preliminary insight on the genealogy of modern African empires, with a focus on the Atlantic slave trade and its abolition, the first module of the course will explore, through a comparative survey, a series of broad themes, such as: the encounters between African societies and the world since 1800, the colonial conquest and rule, economic changes 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 then confront and question about globalization (notably the category of historical analyses of "globalized imperialism", or "imperialism without colonies").

TEACHING METHODS

Full-Time Students:

Lecture-based, with active participation in classroom discussions, along with Seminars carried out by visiting scholars and guest speakers. Class attendance is highly recommended as students not only will be encouraged to ask questions and to answer them, using the "think-pair-share" technique, but they will also be called to participate in which historical evidence is evaluated and methods are chosen.

Blended teaching, integrating lessons in presence with formative activities at distance with the available digital platforms (or just recurring to distance teaching), shall be adopted whereas the epidemiological conditions require it.

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 LOL), and to study this essential recommended text listed below.

Compensatory or dispensation measures will be provided to students with Specific Learning Disorders (SLD), as certified by the document filed with the Segreteria Studenti. Requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. For adapting the programme/assessment methods, students should set up a time to discuss with the Professor. Please, get in touch well in advance also via Commissione Disabilità e DSA.

Blended teaching, integrating lessons in presence with formative activities at distance with the available digital platforms (or just recurring to distance teaching), shall be adopted whereas the epidemiological conditions require it.

ASSESSMENT

Oral exam. Students will be asked two questions on the issues addressed in the programme. Besides the commitment shown during the whole Lab, the assessment will take into account the ability to demonstrate a reasonable critical understanding of the key features, reasons, results or changes of the main processes studied with convincing and well-supported arguments, and awareness of the broad context.

REFERENCE BOOKS

Full-Time Students

A reference bibliography and handouts will be provided on a weekly basis on the online platform LOL.

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 LOL), and to study this essential recommended text:

- John Iliffe, *Africans: The History of a Continent*, Cambridge University Press 2017 (3rd edition, pages: 131-273).

The frequency of use of platform LOL by both attending and non-attending students will be regularly checked.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

- A. G. Hopkins, *Africa, Empire and World Disorder: Selected Essays*, Routledge 2020
- Erik T. Gilbert & Jonathan T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History* (3rd edition), Pearson 2012.
- Richard J. Reid, *A history of modern Africa: 1800 to the present*, Wiley 2020 (pages 121-290).

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 discussions is not only very welcomed but recommended.

This is also a preparatory course for students willing to apply for the Inter-University Cooperation Double Degree Programme with Dalarna University (One-year Master Programme in African Studies).

Non-attending students are kindly required to contact the teacher regarding the schedule of the Seminars (federica.guazzini@unistrapg.it).