



Università  
per Stranieri  
di Perugia

**Anno Accademico 2021-2022**

## **PROGRAMMA D'ESAME**

Laurea Magistrale: **Studi Internazionali per la**

**Sostenibilità e la Sicurezza Sociale**

Insegnamento: **Africa and Globalization**

Anno di corso: **II**

Semestre: **I**

Docente: **Federica Guazzini**

SSD: **SPS/13**

CFU: **9**

Carico di lavoro globale: **225 ore**

Ripartizione del carico di lavoro: **60 ore di lezione e 165 ore di studio individuale**

Lingua di insegnamento: **Inglese**

## **PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**

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No prior knowledge of history or Africa is required. Students who feel uncertain about their readiness may refresh their skills with the suggested readings that are listed in platform LOL (*Suggested Readings 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)). Students may avail themselves, where appropriate, of the Language Tutoring Service.

## **LEARNING GOALS**

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This course aims at introducing students to history of Africa's methods and knowledge improving their learning skills, giving close attention to critical debates and current issues, and equipping them with critical analytical tools with which to understand Africa's place in world history and in the contemporary world.

After completion of this programme, students should become acquainted with critical understanding of key historical concepts, recognizing significant themes, and identifying the process that shape Africa's political, economic, and social history, whose effects are still felt in the present.

Students should be able to:

- gain a solid overview of the main events, developments and trends in the history of Africa in the last two centuries;
- discuss and critically apply broader historical concepts, explore cutting-edge issues and debates, placing contemporary issues in historical context properly;
- understand the peculiarities of the "many Africas" and many realities within Africa while identifying larger overlaying trends and the driving forces behind those trends;
- express ideas clearly through oral presentations and seminar discussions regarding key trends and projections related to societal, economic, and governance issues for Africa and comment on what all this tells us about the drivers that will determine the continent's future.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

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The course spans two units.

**The first unit** - *Africa: from Independent States to the end of the Cold War* - provides a comparative framework of the history of Sub-Saharan Africa from the late nineteenth century onwards. It will analyse the impact of colonialism at an institutional, economic and social level, and deal with the decolonization process. It will then look at the growing pains of nation-building, tracing the transformation in decisive areas such as institutional change and the politics of development. It will also deal with economic reforms - taking stock of the international aid system - and their impact on the social systems. Inequality between Africa and the rest of the world, and inequality within African societies will be addressed, correcting outdated perceptions of a continent too often relegated to the margins of world history.

**The second unit**– '*Sub-Saharan Africa and Globalization*'– will review a selection of central themes related to African States in the contemporary globalised world. The selected themes reflect key areas of academic and public debate. Topics to be covered will include the process of democratization, the question of citizenship, identity and ethnicity in Africa, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies. Contemporary social issue such as healthcare and social policies, and the reasons for African mobility will be then addressed. The expectations of development will be highlighted debating the narratives from the "hopeless continent" to the "Africa rising", and assessing the ongoing disruptions caused by climate change. Analysing Africa's new position in the world will mean exploring regional institutions, and the role leading powers are playing on the economic landscape of the African continent.

## **TEACHING METODHS**

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### Full-Time Students:

Lecture-based, with active participation in classroom discussions, along with Seminars carried out by guest speakers. Class attendance is highly recommended as students not only will be encouraged to ask questions and to answer them, 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 the essential recommended text (see 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.

## **ASSESSMENT**

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Oral exam. Students will be asked two questions on the issues addressed in the programme. Besides the active participation shown during the course, 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.

## **READINGS**

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### 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:

- Paul Nugent, *Africa since independence*, Palgrave Macmillan 2012.

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS**

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- Erik T. Gilbert and Jonathan T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History*, Pearson 2012 (3rd edition).
- Toyin Falola and Kenneth Kalu, *Africa and Globalization. Challenges of Governance and Creativity*, Palgrave Macmillan 2018.
- Goran Hyden, *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*, Cambridge University Press 2013 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).
- George Kaly Kieh (ed. By), *Contemporary Issues in African Society. Historical Analysis and Perspective*, Palgrave Macmillan 2018.
- Richard J. Reid, *A history of modern Africa: 1800 to the present*, Wiley 2020 (pages 121-380).
- Wale Adebawo (ed. by), *The Political Economy of Everyday Life in Africa. Beyond the Margins*, James Currey 2017.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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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.

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