



Università
per Stranieri
di Perugia

Anno Accademico 2016-2017

PROGRAMMA D'ESAME

Laurea Magistrale: **Relazioni internazionali e**

Cooperazione allo Sviluppo

Laboratorio: Empires in Modern History of Africa: from
Colonialism to Globalization

Percorso: **Conflitti e sicurezza, Cooperazione e
Ambiente**

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: **Italiano**

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 history of Africa's methods and knowledge, improving their learning skills. After completion of this programme, students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- acquire a sound understanding of key historical processes of colonialism, decolonization, and the postcolonial condition.

Communication skills:

- present arguments carefully (clearly and concisely) using an understanding of cause and consequence, change and continuity of historical processes.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding:

- critically review theories, approaches and scholarly debates on these topics in group discussions;
- connect present and past historical events and develop their own perspective in the ways the past bears upon the present;

Learning skills:

- 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 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 then confront and question about globalization (notably the category of historical analyses of "globalized imperialism", or "imperialism without colonies").

TEACHING METHODS & READINGS

Full-Time Students:

Lecture-based with discussions, along with Seminars carried out by visiting scholars. 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 University Press 2010 (pages 1-22, 287-294, 303-306, 312-321, 324-329, 369-393, 402-415, 433-442, 448-459).

ASSESSMENT

Mid-term review and final assessment

A mid-term review is not envisaged. The final assessment will consist of an oral exam. Students will be asked two questions on the issues addressed in the programme. The assessment will take into account their 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.

The frequency of the Course online platform Web Class' use by both attending and non-attending students will be regularly checked.

FURTHER READINGS

- Barbara Bush, *Imperialism and Postcolonialism*, Pearson Longman 2006.
- Els Bogaerts, Remco Raben (eds.), *Beyond Empire and Nation. The Decolonization of African and Asian societies, 1930s-1970s*, Brill 2012 (chapters 1-3, 10-11).
- Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History*, University of California Press 2005 (esp. "Globalization," pp. 91-112).
- Stephen Howe, *The New Imperial Histories Reader*, Routledge 2009.
- Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony*, University of California Press 2001.
- Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni, *Coloniality of Power in Postcolonial Africa Myths of Decolonization*, Codesria 2014.

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 with Dalarna University (One-year Master Programme in African Studies).

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