



Università
per Stranieri
di Perugia

Anno Accademico 2022-2023

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**

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

No previous skills are required, except for a suitable knowledge of modern history. Students without such a background can take advantage of the suggested readings listed in platform LOL (*Suggested Reading for Students Enrolled a.y. 2022/23*).

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This Lab aims at introducing students to the history of Africa, understanding key historical processes of colonialism, decolonization, and the postcolonial condition.

By the end of the Lab, students will be able to:

- Critically assess and discuss key historical events or process, understanding the historical legacies of imperialism which continue to influence Africa today.
- Assess and use different kinds of evidence from a variety of historical sources to make a coherent argument about the African past.
- Engage with the theoretical debates, critically reviewing them in group discussions, thus strengthening critical thinking and communication skills

COURSE CONTENT

Starting with reflections on the of empire as a category of historical analysis, this Lab will examining how wide-ranging processes – the rise of African kingdoms and empires, slavery, colonial rule, decolonization – transformed the social and political lives of African people. Although main process are viewed against the backdrop of challenges from abroad — including the Atlantic slave trade and European colonial imperialism — the focus will be on the initiatives and responses of Africans and the evolution of African realities.

More broadly, the Lab will address a series of issues of the past that are particularly relevant in assessing the current dynamics of the African countries in comparative perspective, such as the character of the colonial state, ecological and economic transformations, the complex interplay between imperialism and modernity, the dynamics of imperial decline, decolonization, and the legacies of colonial imperialism.

Lectures will address these issues through an examination of general trends and individual case studies. The literature will be reviewed, and major historiographical debates will be explored (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 recommended as students will be encouraged to ask questions and to answer them, using the "think-pair-share" technique.

Non-Attending Students:

Non-attending Students are required to attend two Seminars (schedule and preliminary readings will be available on the Course online platform LOL), and to study the text listed below.

Blended teaching, integrating lessons in presence with formative activities at distance with the available digital platforms (or implementing distance teaching), shall be adopted if the epidemiological conditions will require it.

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 lecturer. Please, get in touch well in advance also via Commissione per le differenze e l'inclusione (differenze-inclusione@unistrapg.it).

ASSESSMENT

The assessment of the preparation of the student will be based on class participation and on an oral exam. Two questions will test the understanding of the topics discussed in class, and to the ability of analysing them critically.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Full-Time Students

For students regularly attending the lectures (at least 75%) a reference bibliography, materials and handouts will be provided for each topic on a weekly basis on the online platform LOL.

Non-Attending Students:

Students not attending classes are required to participate in two Seminars (schedule and preliminary readings will be available on the Course online platform LOL), and to study this textbook:

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

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).

ADDITIONAL 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 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 lecturer regarding the Seminars' schedule (federica.guazzini@unistrapg.it).