

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations
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Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science
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Faculty/School:	Communication Science
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Course:	TODAY'S WORLD VI: AFRICA
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Type:	Compulsory
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ECTS credits:	6
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Year:	3
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Code:	7036
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Teaching period:	Sixth semester
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Area:	Geopolitics and Today's World
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Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations
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Teaching type:	Classroom-based
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Language:	English
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Total number of student study hours:	150
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Teaching staff	E-mail
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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with a knowledge of the history and the socio-cultural key aspects that make up the diversity of African societies and the complexity of the interaction among its various regional areas. The purpose is to introduce students to the main issues of public and academic debate regarding the current situation in Africa, basing these issues on their cultural and historical context. The analysis of the present challenges and conflicts is the starting point for identifying new players and transformations as well as elements of continuity with the role played by the people of Africa in world history before the colonial partition. There will be a special emphasis on the interaction of Africa with the rest of the world, researching international factors that have influenced the political trajectories of Africa. Of course, the focus will be set also on the role of Africans as political actors in the overall framework of international relations.

This course focuses on the increasing role of Africa's position in contemporary geopolitical and economic affairs and the challenges facing the continent in its effort for interacting with non-African agendas as an active global player. The analysis of the present challenges and conflicts is the starting point for identifying new players and transformations as well as elements of continuity with the role played by the people of Africa in world history before the colonial partition. Students will also learn about the crucial role that slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism have played in configuring the current political, economic, and social African landscape. There will be a special emphasis on the interaction of Africa with the rest of the world, researching international factors that have influenced the political trajectories of Africa. Of course, the focus will be set also on the role of Africans as political actors in the overall framework of international relations.

GOAL

The specific aims of the subject are:

The final aim of this course is to provide students the necessary tools to identify actors and dynamics in African policies so they can engage successfully in the assessment of current events. Students will be able to master the main issues and debates within African politics from an ethical and critical perspective. In their pursuit of truth, they will be able to go beyond the clichés of all signs that have nurtured an image of the African continent marginalized from the flow of ideas, goods, and events that have shaped the global game. This course is not designed as a study of individual countries but will give the students an overview of the amazing cultural, political and social diversity of the various areas of the continent, opposing common stereotypes that tend to portray Africa as a whole.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

The knowledge acquired from the subjects studied in the first and second year of this degree related to International Relations, Geopolitics, and International Law shall allow students to enter the field and connect the political, social reality and conflicts in African countries within the global scenario of political and economical interactions.

COURSE SYLLABUS

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- 1/ Africa and its role in the international game (INTRODUCTION)
- 2/ The African union and it's regional integration
- 3/ Geographical and cultural border's
- 4/ Artificial border's and territorial disputes: The western Sahara case
- 5/ Ethnicity and conflict
- 6/ The geopolitics of religion
- 7/ The first encounter of Europe and sub-Saharan Africa
- 8/ The transatlantic slave trade
- 9/ The European partition and the shaping of the African border's
- 10 / The path towards independence and the cold war
- 11/ The post-cold war game and the Rwandan genocide

12/ Chinese and U.S competition

13/ Africa's Spanish neighbor

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

This course will have numerous interactive activities that are mandatory to pass:

Participatory lectures

Seminaries

In-class and online workshops

Online quizzes

Presentations (individually and in groups)

Course projects

Tutorials

Case studies

Oral or writing analysis of texts and audiovisual material

AVISO: "Las actividades formativas, así como la distribución de los tiempos de trabajo, pueden verse modificadas y adaptadas en función de los distintos escenarios establecidos siguiendo las indicaciones de las autoridades sanitarias".

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
60 hours	90 hours

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to consider and creatively respond to the essential questions as to the whys and wherefores, and the consequences of human, social, political and economic events of global society.

To acquire the ability to present and discuss conflicting ideas, thereby generating meeting forums for individuals or social groups from different countries and cultures.

To understand and analyse the international reality from the standpoint of respect and protecting democracy, human rights, cultural diversity and the values of equality, justice and solidarity. To be able to take part in discussions on current affairs, based on knowledge of international relations and an analysis of today's world.

Specific skills

To understand and analyse decision-making in foreign policy in the main African states.

LEARNING RESULTS

Develops an extensive knowledge and understanding of the history, politics, economics, and social complexity of contemporary Africa.

Issues opinions founded on major existing debates regarding the study of Africa.

Develops the appropriate methodology and skills to address research projects.

Analyzes from a critical perspective the influence of the popular media over the most potent images of Africa's suffering today, fostering the myth that Africa is a hopeless "dark" continent, peripheral to the International Relations theory.

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

This courses evaluation will be as follows:

Oral presentation: 10%

Weekly assignments: 30%

Quizzes: 10%

Final project: 25%

Final exam: 25% (Test+essay)

ORAL PRESENTATION. At the beginning of the course, students will choose a country. For the first assignment, they will have to deliver an oral brief related to their country. The briefing may deal with any topic but it must be approved by the instructor. The briefing will be submit recorded (10 minutes approx.) in an online format.

Weekly assignments: every week, you will have short assignments such as online discussions, workshops, or short writing tasks.

FINAL PROJECT. All students will participate in a group assignment focusing on an African region. Using your knowledge and brief from the ORAL PRESENTATION you will be put in a team of the region to which your country belongs to. Your team's task will be to prepare an assessment of the regional challenges for regional integration of their area. Every two weeks your team will have to complete a checkpoint paper, in which you are to write a short summary of what your team has been doing and their advances in the final project. Only one checkpoint paper

should be turned in per group. Every student will be evaluated individually in this collaborative task.

Quizzes: At the end of every topic you will have to answer a quiz on key facts and basic concepts that you will have to draw from the readings, lectures, and class debates. It will be a multiple-choice quiz + map-quiz.

The students who cannot attend class for proven reasons will complete the weekly assignments using the given materials provided in the lesson, quizzes, and oral presentation of their chosen country. Despite not being able to assist in the checkpoint sessions or the final project, students are still expected to contribute to the project with their research and communicate with their team members. If students need help they will be offered tutorials and can communicate with the professor.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

For every section of the course, you will have available on the web (Aula Virtual) the basic readings in pdf and online format that you are expected to read to master the basic concepts and key facts of the topic.

MCEVEDY, C.: "The Penguin Atlas of African History", Revised Edition, 1996

ILIFFE, J.: "África, historia de un continente". Akal, 2013.

MEREDITH, M.: "The Fortunes of Africa. A 5.000-Year History of Wealth, Greed and Endeavour", Simon&Schuster.

READER, J.: "Africa. A Biography of the Continent". Penguin Books.

TAYLOR I. y WILLIAMS P.: "Africa in International Politics. External involvement on the continent". Nueva York, Taylor & Francis Group, 2004.

BURGOS, B.: "Culturas africanas y desarrollo. Intentos africanos de renovación". Madrid, Fundación Sur, 2007.

MEREDITH, M.: "The First Dance of Freedom. Black Africa in the Post-war Era". Harper & Row, New York, 1984.

KELLER, E.J y ROTHCHILD, D.: "Africa in the New International Order. Rethinking State Sovereignty and Regional Security". Boulder Publishers

Additional

GONZÁLEZ CALVO, G.: "África: otra mirada sobre un continente olvidado". Madrid, Manos Unidas, 1999.

ALDEN, C.: "China en África". Barcelona, Intermón Oxfam, 2008.

DE WAAL, A.: "Famine Crimes: Politics and the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa ", Oxford, 1997.

PADAYACHEE, V.: "The Political Economy of Africa", London, Routledge, 2010.

CHABAL, P. y DELOZ: "Africa Works: Disorder as Political Instrument". Oxford, 1999.

GRINKER, R.: "Perspectives on Africa: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation". London, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010

MOSELY, W.: "Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial African Issues", Guilford, McGraw Hill.

CHIPMAN, J.: "French Power in Africa", Wiley-Blackwell, 1989.

ROTHCHILD, D.: "Managing Ethnic Conflict in Africa: Pressures and Incentives for Cooperation", 1997.

HUGH T.: "The slave trade. The history of the Atlantic slave trade, 1440-1870", Phoenix, 2006.

DAVIDSON, B.: "La historia empezó en África". Barcelona, Ed. Garriga, 1963.

DE LAS CASAS, B.: "Brevísima relación de la destrucción de África". Salamanca, Ed. San Esteban, 1989.

BURGIS, T.: "The looting machine. Warlords, tycoons, smugglers, and the systematic theft of Africa's wealth". Londres, William Collins, 2015.

WILLIAMS P.D.: "War & Conflict in Africa". Cambridge, Polity Press, 2011.