

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

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

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.

GOAL

The final aim of this course is to provide students with 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 marginalised 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/ Economic growth, demography, and the hurdles of Geography
- 3/ Ethnic diversity and the nature of African conflicts.
- 4/ Historical borders and cultural divides
- 5/ The origins of the Spanish North-African borderlands
- 6/ The African-European relations during the transatlantic slave trade
- 7/ The first scramble for Africa and the Berlin Conference (1884-5)
- 8 / The decolonization process and the Cold War
- 9/ The role of the Organisation of African Unity
- 10/ Western Sahara, the last colony of Africa
- 11/ The African Union's strategy toward regional integration and Economic Growth
- 12/ The legacy of colonialism in today's geopolitics. The case of France and the evolution of Francafrique.
- 13/ The irruption of China and Russia in the new scramble for Africa
- 14/ An overview of Africa s regions

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

This course will have interactive activities such as:

Participatory lectures

Seminaries

In-class and online workshops

Online quizzes
 Presentations (individually and in groups)
 Course projects
 Individual/ Group Tutorials
 Case studies
 Oral or writing analysis of texts and audiovisual material

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 be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

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 present and discuss conflicting ideas, thereby generating meeting forums for individuals or

social groups from different countries and cultures.

To be able to generate public opinion and build bridges with the various social sectors, allowing for the formation and dissemination of a message and culture for the benefit of humankind, conveying values based on the search for truth and common good.

To develop personal leadership focussing on communication and mediation in the context of international relations.

To be able to apply group work with common objectives, fostering the analysis and pooling of various approaches.

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.

To develop communication skills allowing for accurate written and oral expression, as well as rigorous discourse and suitable reasoning in public.

To suitably use all possible sources that make it possible to be familiar with the international reality in the historical, political, economic, legal and social spheres, in all formats, in order to organise and plan the study and analysis of the international reality.

Specific skills

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

LEARNING RESULTS

To have a comprehensive picture of ongoing political, social, and economic dynamics in Africa

To have a basic knowledge of the key historical, social, and cultural issues that have shaped contemporary Africa.

To understand how African countries relate to each other and their interaction with foreign engagement in the continent and global dynamics.

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

This course evaluation will be as follows:

- Seminary: **10%**
- Quizzes(weekly assignments): **10%**
- Attendance and participation in class **5%**
- Oral presentation+writing tasks group: **15%**
- Individual and group work and exercises: **30%**
- Final exam: Quiz (**30%**)

To grade, the student must fulfill an average grade of 5 for the final exam

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: To grade, the student must fulfill an average grade of 5 for the oral presentation, the part related to individual and group work and exercises, and the final exam. If the sum of all the evaluation tasks does not reach sufficiency (5), the student can take the extraordinary exam with all the course material. The evaluation system, in this case, will be:

- Attendance and participation in class **5%**
- Seminary: **10%**
- Quizzes(weekly assignments): **5%**
- Oral presentation+writing tasks group: **5%**
- Individual/group work and exercises: **5%**
- Final exam: **70%** (quiz 30% + written essay 40%)

PLAGIARISM: "The conduct of plagiarism, as well as the use of illegitimate means in the evaluation tests, will be sanctioned by those established in the Evaluation Regulations and the Coexistence Regulations of the university."

IN CASE OF EXEMPTION FROM CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students may request an academic dispensation at the Faculty Academic Coordination Secretariat for the coincidence of schedules, work, or personal reasons. In Academic Coordination they will indicate the procedure to follow in each case. Once the dispensation has been officially granted, the students will follow **this evaluation system**:

- Quizzes(weekly assignments): **10%**
- Individual/group work and exercises (online mode): **30%**
- Exhibition on a topic of the recorded agenda (maximum 10 minutes) with TFG briefing format (PowerPoint included) + written essay: **20%**
- Final exam (quiz) **40%**

IF YOU ARE REPEATING THE COURSE: Students repeating the course will have to fulfill the minimum requirements of the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

MEREDITH, M. The Penguin Atlas of African History 1996

ILIFFE, J. Africa, historia de un continente Akal, 2013

WILLIAMS, P.D War & Conflict in Africa Cambridge Polity Press, 2016

CARMODY, P. R. The new scramble for Africa Cambridge Polity Press 2016.

BBC (podcast) The Story of Africa www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03n4f/episodes/player

BBC (articles) The Story of Africa from an African perspective
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index.shtml>

Additional

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

McCauley, John F. The Logic of Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa Cambridge University Press. 2017

Omeje, Kenneth (Edited). Peacebuilding in Contemporary Africa: In Search of Alternative Strategies. Routledge. 2018

Carmody, Pádraig. The Rise of the BRICS in Africa: The Geopolitics of South-South Relations. Zed Books. 2013