



TEACHING GUIDE

Subject: Regional Studies: **Africa in the 21st Century: Postcolonialism and Modernity**

DATOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Title	Diploma in Humanities and Global Challenges
Academic Year	2023-24
Credit	6 ECTS
Course Type	Elective
Department	International Relations Department
Instruction Language	English

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

"Welcome to Africa in the 21st Century: Postcolonialism and Modernity' This course explores Africa's diverse landscape, covering historical, developmental, social, economic, and cultural aspects. Through lectures, discussions, and debates, students will grasp the continent's evolution, societal dynamics, and economic challenges in five units. This course aims to equip students with tools for informed discussions on Africa's past, present, and future.

The first unit introduces objectives, expectations, aims, and importance. The second explores historical perspectives, followed by a focus on the contemporary era in the third unit. The fourth unit explores Economic Development and Sustainable Growth in Africa, concluding (the fifth unit) with a discussion of Africa through humanities—arts, music, literature, etc. I am excited to explore this fascinating continent together!"

CONTENTS AND STRUCTURE

UNIT 1: Why Study Africa

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentation and Justification of the course
- Targets and Expectations

Africa Demography

- Physical Geography
- Human Geography
- Regional Structure
- Resources, Human Capital, and Prospects.

UNIT 2: Studying Africa Through History

- Slavery and Slave Trade
 - Wars and Nation Building.
 - Institutions: Colonial/ Post-Colonial
 - Imperialism in Africa
 - Countries Case Study
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UNIT 3: Studying Africa in the Contemporary Era

- Political Systems: Post Independence
- Foreign Policies
- Conflicts and Cooperation among African States
- Regional and International Organizations
- International Cooperation and Development in Africa
- Africa's International Allies

UNIT 4: Economic Development and Sustainable Growth in Africa

- Trade: WTO, AFCFTA, AGOA (US-Africa preferential trade agreement).
- Natural Resources and Development Policies: Resource Curse?
- Industrialization (Special Economic Zones (Sez); Diversification of Economies)
- Entrepreneurship in Africa (Fintech Solutions and Insurance)
- SDGs Indicators
- Climate and Renewable Energy

UNIT 5: Studying Africa Through Humanities

- Africa Rising: Pessimism and Optimism
 - Literatures, Art, Music
 - Gastronomy, Travel & Tourism
 - African Myths, Legends, and Taboos
 - Families and Communities: Culture and Ethnic beliefs
 - Migration and Diaspora
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METHODOLOGY

This course is designed to offer a dynamic learning experience, blending in-class instruction with debates, comprehensive readings, engaging simulations, and structured essay writing. Regular attendance and proactive participation are integral to the course structure. Additionally, students are expected to undertake substantial out-of-class work, which is vital for thorough course preparation and meaningful participation. This outside work includes a range of activities, detailed in class sessions and on the Moodle platform. Key components of this independent study involve compulsory readings to deepen subject understanding, individual study of course material, the completion and submission of practical exercises in class, and the diligent preparation of a comprehensive final project, encapsulating the course's learnings.

EVALUATION AND GRADING CRITERIA		
Evaluation activities	Evaluation Criteria	Percentage
Attendance	The assessment of students' attendance will be based on the percentage of actual attendance in relation to the total possible attendance. Any reasons for missing a class must be communicated (with justification) to the teacher at least 24 hours in advance.	5%
Participation	Students are expected to engage consistently in class by posing logical questions related to lecture and reading materials. Actively participating in scheduled exercises and assignments, demonstrating genuine interest in the course content, and maintaining a respectful attitude are essential. The course values active and thoughtful participation, and the willingness to contribute to debates in a reasoned manner.	10%
Debate	In group, students will be assessed based on the rationality of their arguments, supported by credible references, as they debate in favour of or against the chosen theme. Comprehensive instructions for the evaluation process will be provided both in the classroom and on the Moodle platform.	20%
Simulation with Europe Group	Students will be assessed based on active participation, logical and rational contribution and a brief essay. Detailed guidelines will be given in class and in Moodle.	20%
Exam	The assimilation of knowledge obtained through both in-person and remote learning activities will be evaluated.	45%
Total		100%

- Incurring in a serious academic misconduct, such as **plagiarism** of previously published material or **cheating** in exam or other assessed activity, **will mean that you will not be able to pass the subject in the ordinary exam.**
- Student **tutorials** with the teacher are an **essential part of the development of the course.** Students may attend them at any time, within the timetable established at the beginning of the course.
- The **non-face-to-face activities** that require the delivery of a work/assignment etc. **will be submitted** by the students through **Moodle**, always in PDF format.
- In order to take the final exam, students **must not have missed more than one third of the classes without justification.** If this requirement is not met, the student may lose the right to the ordinary and extraordinary exams (*art. 93.1 of the Reglamento General*). Failure to attend the first hour of a double class means having missed the whole session, regardless of whether or not the student attends the second hour.

STUDENT WORK (in hours)		
IN THE CLASSROOM	OUT OF THE CLASSROOM	TOTAL
60	90	150

Note: Find list of readings in Appendix section (*Mandatory reading in bold*)

Appendix

LIST OF READINGS BY UNITS

Unit 1: Readings (Mandatory reading in bold):

1. **10 Reasons to Keep Your Eyes on Africa in 2019**, *Nordic Africa Institute*, Available at: <https://nai.uu.se/news-and-events/news/2018-12-21-10-reasons-to-keep-your-eyes-on-africa-in-2019.html>
 2. Brooks, David (2014) **The Real Africa**, *NY Times* (May 8, 2014). Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/09/opinion/brooks-the-real-africa.html>
 3. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie- **The Danger of a single story**
 4. **Eastwood, R. & M. Lipton, 2011. Demographic transition in sub-Saharan Africa: How big will the economic dividend be? *Population Studies: A Journal of Demography*, 65(1), 9-35.**
 5. Falola, Toyin (2003) *The power of African cultures*, The University of Rochester Press, Rochester, **it's a book.**
 6. Guengant, J. P., & May, J. F. (2013). African demography. *Global Journal of Emerging Market Economies*, 5(3), 215-267. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0974910113505792>
 7. Karl, T. L. (1997). *The paradox of plenty: Oil booms and petro-states* (Vol. 26). Univ of California Press.
 8. Sachs, J. D., & Warner, A. (1995). Natural resource abundance and economic growth.
 9. Wainaina, Binyavanga, *How to Write About Africa*, Granta 92: *The View from Africa*.
 10. What Africa Experts are Watching in 2013. Available [here](#)
 11. Every map you've ever seen of Africa is right. Available [here](#)
 12. What's the real size of Africa? How Western States Used maps to downplay size of continent. Available [here](#)
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Unit 2: Readings (Mandatory reading in bold):

1. **Mamdani, Mahmood (1996) "Indirect Rule, Civil Society and Ethnicity. The African Dilemma" in *Social Justice*, vol. 23, n° 1/2, 1996, pp.145-150.**
 2. Ade Ajayi and Oloruntimehin (2008) *West-Africa in the Anti-slave Trade Era*. In: Flint, John E., (ed.) (2008). *The Cambridge History of Africa*. Volume 5, from c. 1790 to c. 1870, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
 3. Ajayi, J. F. Ade (ed.) (1989) *General History of Africa Volume VI. Africa in the Nineteenth Century until the 1880s*, UNESCO and Heinemann, Paris y Oxford. It's a book and available [here](#).
 4. **Athow, B., & Blanton, R. G. (2002). Colonial Style and Colonial Legacies: Trade Patterns in British and French Africa. *Journal Of Third World Studies*, 19(2), 219-241.**
 5. Ball, S. J. (1983). Imperialism, Social Control and The Colonial Curriculum in Africa. *Journal Of Curriculum Studies*, 15(3), 237-263.
 6. Bush, B. (2002). *Imperialism, Race and Resistance: Africa and Britain, 1919-1945*. Routledge.
 7. **Manning, P. (2018). Slavery and Slave Trade in West Africa, 1450-1930. *The History of African Development*, 1-17**
 8. Micheals, Marguerite, *Retreat from Africa*, *Foreign Affairs* 1992. Available at: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/1993-02-01/retreat-africa>.
 9. **North, D. C. (1991). Institutions. *Journal Of Economic Perspectives*, 5(1), 97-112.**
 10. Rathbone, R. (1978). World War I And Africa: Introduction. *The Journal of African History*, 19(1), 1–9. Doi:10.1017/S0021853700015917
 11. Reid, Richard *the Second World War in: A History of Modern Africa- 1800-Present*, 2ND Edition, Wiley Blackwell Publications (2012), it's a book and available [here](#)
 12. Rodney Walter, *How Africa Developed Before the Coming of the Europeans- Up to the Fifteenth Century in How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Black Class Press (1974). (Chapter 2 of the book)
 13. Rodney Walter, *Colonialism as a system for under developing Africa- Up to the Fifteenth Century in How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Black Class Press (1974). (Chapter 6 of the book)
 14. Schmidt, E. (2013). *Foreign Intervention in Africa: From the Cold War to The War On Terror* (No. 7). Cambridge University Press.
 15. Desmet, K., Ortuño-Ortín, I., & Wacziarg, R. (2017). Culture, Ethnicity, And Diversity. *American Economic Review*, 107(9), 2479-2513.
 16. **Sylla, N. S. (2021). Fighting Monetary Colonialism in Francophone Africa: Samir Amin's Contribution. *Review Of African Political Economy*, 48(167), 32-49.**
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Unit 3: Readings (Mandatory reading in bold):

1. Ajú, M. M., & Ylönen, A. (2022). The Middle East and Eastern Africa Intersected: Discussing Contemporary Connections. *Cadernos De Estudos Africanos*, (43), 13-39.
2. Atif, M., & Akbar, M. (2019). Brics And African Region Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities. *Global Political Review*, 4(4), 59-69.
3. Carmody, P. (2013). *The Rise Of The Brics In Africa: The Geopolitics Of South-South Relations*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
4. Clapham, Christopher (1996) *Africa and the International System. The Politics of State Survival*, Cambridge University Press
5. Daniele Fattibene (2023). Europe–Africa Relations In A Multi-Crisis World: Turning The Page After Covid-19, The Eu-Au Summit And The War Against Ukraine
6. Habiyaemye, A., & Oğuzlu, T. (2014). Engagement With Africa: Making Sense of Turkey’s Approach in The Context Of Growing East-West Rivalry. *Uluslararası İlişkiler Dergisi*, 11(41), 65-85.
7. **Heidhues, F., & Obare, G. A. (2011). Lessons From Structural Adjustment Programmes And Their Effects In Africa. *Quarterly Journal Of International Agriculture*, 50(892-2016-65193), 55-64.**
8. **Jackson, R. H., & Rosberg, C. G. (1985). Democracy In Tropical Africa: Democracy Versus Autocracy In African Politics. *Journal Of International Affairs*, 38(2), 293–305. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24356915>**
9. Joseph, R. (1991). Africa: The Rebirth of Political Freedom. *J. Democracy*, 2, 11.
10. Lancaster, C. (1991). Democracy in Africa. *Foreign Policy*, (85), 148-165.
11. **Leshoele, M. (2023). AfCFTA and Regional Integration in Africa: Is African Union Government A Dream Deferred Or Denied?. *Journal Of Contemporary African Studies*, 41(4), 393-407.**
12. Magliveras, K. D., & Naldi, G. J. (2002). The African Union—A New Dawn For Africa?. *International & Comparative Law Quarterly*, 51(2), 415-425.
13. Mathieu Droin And Tina Dolbaia (2023). Russia Is Still Progressing In Africa. What’s The Limit? <https://www.csis.org/analysis/russia-still-progressing-africa-whats-limit>
14. Niger Coup: Is France To Blame For Instability In West Africa? Available [here](#)
15. Reid, Richard, *Unsafe Foundations: Challenges and Independence, IN: A History of Modern Africa- 1800-Present*, 2ND Edition, Wiley Blackwell Publications (2012)
16. **Robert Bociaga (2023). Unlocking Africa’s Economic Resurgence: Can the Middle East’s Investments Hold The Key? <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2357896/business-economy>**
17. **Rodrik, D. (1990). How Should Structural Adjustment Programs Be Designed?. *World Development*, 18(7), 933-947. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750x\(90\)90077-B](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750x(90)90077-B)**
18. Shaw, T. African Agency? Africa, South Africa And The Brics. *Int Polit* 52, 255–268 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1057/Ip.2014.48>
19. Tadesse, B., & Fayissa, B. (2008). The Impact Of African Growth And Opportunity Act (Agoa) On Us Imports From Sub-Saharan Africa (Ssa). *Journal Of International Development: The Journal Of The Development Studies Association*, 20(7), 920-941.
20. Thandika Mkandawire and Charles Soludo, *Our Continent, Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment*. Dakar/Trenton, NJ: CODESRIA / African World Publications, 1999.
21. **The White House (2023). Fact Sheet: Accelerating The U.S. – Africa Partnership After The 2022 U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/12/13/fact-sheet-accelerating-the-u-s-africa-partnership-after-the-2022-u-s-africa-leaders-summit/>**
22. Africa’s Regional and Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Frameworks: A Summary. Available [Here](#)

Unit 4: Readings (Mandatory reading in bold):

1. AFDB 2023. African Economic Outlook 2023 – Highlights. Available [here](#)
 2. African-Economic Zones Outlook. Africa Economic Zones Organization. Available [here](#)
 3. Francesco Bassetti (2023). “Can renewables put a spark in Africa’s clean energy future? In *Foresight*. Available [here](#)
 4. House-Soremekun, Bessie and Falola, Toyin (2011) *Globalization and Sustainable Development in Africa*, University of Rochester Press.
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5. Maino, M. R., Massara, M. A., Saiz, H. P., Sharma, P., & Sy, M. A. N. (2019). FinTech in sub-Saharan African countries: A game changer? International Monetary Fund.
 6. Mungai, E. M., Ndiritu, S. W., & Da Silva, I. (2022). **Unlocking climate finance potential and policy barriers—A case of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Sub-Saharan Africa. Resources, Environment and Sustainability, 7, 100043.**
 7. Tom Collins (2022). **“Do Special Economic Zones Work in Africa? In African Business. Available [here](#)**
 8. UNCTAD 2021. “Handbook on special economic zones in Africa (Overview) Available [here](#)
 9. Whitfield, L., Therkildsen, O., Buur, L., & Kjar, A. M. (2015). The Politics of African Industrial Policy: A Comparative Perspective. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ Press.
 10. World Bank (2000) Can Africa Claim the 21st Century? Washington, DC: World Bank, 2000.
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Unit 5: Readings (Mandatory reading in bold):

1. Bräutigam, D., & Xiaoyang, T. (2011). African Shenzhen: China's special economic zones in Africa. The Journal of Modern African Studies, 49(1), 27-54.
 2. D’Alessandro, C., & Zulu, L. C. (2017). **From the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Africa in the post-2015 development agenda. A geographical perspective. African Geographical Review, 36(1), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19376812.2016.1253490>**
 3. **Dasent, K. (2023). TikTok: Globalization and the Social Identification of Afrobeats. In African Media Space and Globalization (pp. 287-302). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.**
 4. Krings, M., & Simmert, T. (2020). African Popular Culture Enters the Global Mainstream. Current History, 119(817), 182-187.
 5. Krista Johnson (2023). “It matters how we define the African Diaspora”. In Council on Foreign Relations. Available [here](#)
 6. **Nothias, T. (2014). ‘Rising’, ‘hopeful’, ‘new’: visualizing Africa in the age of globalization. Visual Communication, 13(3), 323–339. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1470357214530063>**
 7. Olaleye, O. A., & Osuagwu, D. C. (2020). Fela Anikulapo Afrobeats Music as A Driving Force for Social Transformation. Journal of Women in Technical Education and Employment (JOWITED), 1(1), 144-152.
 8. **Rodríguez-Pose, A., Bartalucci, F., Frick, S. A., Santos-Paulino, A. U., & Bolwijn, R. (2022). The challenge of developing special economic zones in Africa: Evidence and lessons learnt. Regional Science Policy & Practice, 14(2), 456-481.**
 9. UNCTAD 2021. “The Creative Economy Takes Center Stage. Available [here](#)
 10. UNSDG 2023 Unlocking Africa’s full potential for SDG acceleration. Available [here](#)
 11. Usua, N.J., Ijah, I.N.R. (2023). African Cinema and the Global Movie Industry: A Survey of the Depth of Nollywood’s Niche in the Age of Globalization and Digitalization. In: Akpan, U.S. (eds) African Media Space and Globalization. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-35060-3_5
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