

Code: SPS/13**Credits: 8****Matter: History and Institutions of Africa****Main language of instruction: Italian****Other language of instruction: English**

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

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Introduction

1. Objective of the course :

The course of History and Institutions of Africa analyses core historical, political and geographical issues of contemporary Africa. To that end using a multidisciplinary approach, the course will search to establish a general picture, although synthetic, on geopolitics, socio-economics and demography of African continent. With particular attention to so called African "Short Century": from end of the Second World War to abolition of the Apartheid. Further on the course will focus on principal regions and state actors that characterize the continent. Thus paying particular attention to lack of democratization process, the impact of globalization and new international actors in the area and bilateral and multilateral relations that exist between southern and northern shores of Mediterranean.

The course of History and Institutions of Africa has the following formative objectives:

1. To introduce students to understanding of African context, principal historical events, geographical characteristics and their core problems.
2. Provide a solid knowledge on main authors of the historical, political and economic context of the countries that are subject of the analysis-
3. To provide essential instruments that help to understand current evolution dynamics of Africa and challenges that Africa needs to confront in XXI Century.
4. To develop the capacity of students to interpret in critical manner and evolutionary perspective the political, economic and social relations of the area in examination

Objectives

2. Course Structure:

The course has been programmed with the audio-video lessons that make up, together with a slide and downloadable texts, study materials available on the platform. Self-evaluation tests of

asynchronous type are added , which accompany the pre-recorded lessons and require students to ascertain both the knowledge and the degree of acquired knowledge of the contents of each of the lessons. Interactive teaching is carried out within each "virtual class" and includes e-tivity aimed at applying the knowledge acquired in the theoretical lessons. In particular, the monographic Course of History and Institutions of Africa includes 8 credits with a total study load of about 208 hours divided as follows:

- about 165 hours for the visualization and the study of the videotaped material (about 23 hours of video-registered materials of theory) as well as downloadable texts and summary slides;
- about 35 hours of Interactive Didactics for the elaboration and delivery of 9 e-tivity as well as for participation.

The course is organized in eight modules, in line with the topics addressed within the teaching materials provided on the platform. In particular:

1. The first module - General Introduction
Three video registered lectures of theory – 18 hours, 1st week(Historic reference: population, languages and religions, institutions, society and development)
2. 2nd Module – From Slavery to Independence
Three video registered lectures of theory – 18 hours, 2nd week(slavery in Africa, European colonialism, decolonization and independence)
3. 3rd Module-Globalization in Africa
Three video registered lectures of theory - 18 hours, 3rd week(Democratic transition, Africa of 3rd Millennium, Ni Hao; Chinese advent)
4. 4th Module- The Rainbow Nation: South Africa
Three video registered lectures of theory – 18 hours, 4th week (Apartheid, resistance to Apartheid and democratic transition, new South Africa)
5. 5th Module – Western Africa
Three video registered lectures of theory – 20 hours, 5th week (Colonization of Western Africa, Independence, Nigeria; Giant of Africa)
6. 6th Module – Region of Great Lakes
Three video registered lectures of theory – 20 hours, 6th week(Tutsi and Hutu in Ruanda, Democratic Republic of Kongo; Kinshasa, Kenya)
7. 7th Module- Maghreb and Euro-Mediterranean dialogue
Three video registered lectures of theory – 18 hours, 7th week(Immigration in Euro-Mediterranean space, globalization and Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, Union for Mediterranean – why it did not work)
8. 8th Module – Bilateral Relations between Italy and Libya
Three video registered lectures of theory – 18 hours, 8th week(Italian colonization of Libya to revolution of colonels, relations between Rome and Tripoli in third Millennium, Treaty of Italian-Libyan friendship)

Competencies:

To introduce to students understanding of the African context and its principal problems, to provide the instruments that will help to understand the evolutive dynamics of Africa, and challenges that need to be confronted in XXI century.

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course the student will acquire the fundamental concepts and competences to understand and interpret in critical manner crucial historical events that determined contemporary institutional and political picture of Africa. To that end students will develop a solid knowledge on principal authors of the historical, political, economic context of the analysed states, as well as evolution of interstate relations from antiquity to modern age.

1. Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

Through the course contents, the student will be able to critically analyze scenarios and political national and international dynamics of African context.

2. Autonomy of judgment

At the end of the course the student will be able, thanks to the acquired analytical skills and abilities to interpret in a critical way and in evolutionary perspective the political, economic, social relations of the examined geographical area.

3. Communication skills

At the end of the course the student will be able to express with clarity and chronological linearity the most relevant political and historical events in Africa, knowing how to connect them in order to reconstruct the principal tendencies characterizing African area, as well as contemporary political and economic position of the examined countries

4. Learning skills

The student at the end of the course will acquire theoretical and methodological skills, that can be applied to different work context that have connection to foreign countries, in particular to African region.

Syllabus

3. Programme of the course:

Subject 1. General Introduction

Subject 2. From slavery to Independence

Subject 3. Globalization in Africa

Subject 4. The Rainbow Nation: South Africa

Subject 5. Western Africa

Subject 6. Region of Great Lakes

Subject 7. Maghreb and Euro-Mediterranean dialogue

Subject 8. Bilateral Relations between Italy and Libya

Evaluation system and criteria

The assessment takes place through a test, written or oral, aimed at ascertaining the analytical skills of the acquired concepts and through a series of activities and exercises (e-tivity) carried out in the virtual classes during the course.

In this way the expected learning outcomes outlined above are evaluated. Moreover, the evaluation of e-tivity carried out during the course of the course, is aimed in particular at verifying understanding and self-learning skills.

The examination can be done according to two methods provided by the University: written or oral (the latter only at the University seat in Rome).

The written test is organized as follows: 4 multiple choice questions and 3 open questions.

The oral exam consists of an interview to ascertain the student's level of preparation, his ability to argue and connect the various topics of the course and his ability to use the correct terminology of the discipline.

At the end of the evaluation, oral or written, the student's participation in online activities, the passing of self-assessment tests and participation in e-tivity are taken into consideration.

Bibliography and resources

4. Materials to consult:

The study materials prepared by the teacher and present on the Unicusano platform consist of teaching modules, video-lessons, summary slides, self-assessment tests, beyond self-assessment tests there is documentation made available for the conduct of e-tivity. These educational materials are enough for the optimal passing of the exam. At the end of each module a selected bibliography is indicated for those wishing to deepen the themes present in the study materials provided on the platform.

5. Recommended bibliography:

- Calchi Novati G., Valsecchi P. (2016), Africa la storia ritrovata. Dalle prime forme politiche agli stati nazionali,
- Carbone G. (2012), Gli stati, la politica, i conflitti, Il Mulino.
- Coquery-Vidrovitch C. (2012), Breve Storia dell'Africa, Il Mulino
- Cresti F., Cricco M. (2015), Storia della Libia contemporanea, Carocci.
- Reader J., (2001), Africa: a biography of continent, Vintage.