COURSE DETAIL

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science History Anthropology African Studies
UCEAP Course Number 138
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title HISTORY AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA
UCEAP Transcript Title HIST&POL CONTMP AFR
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

The course focuses on the fundamental issues of the political and social history of contemporary Africa. Emphasis is placed on the colonial period, decolonization paths, and the processes and dynamics involved in independent state formation. Using an appropriate methodological apparatus, the course highlights the formation of the main political systems on the African continent, and especially the relationship with international politics and the political and developmental crises of the last decades. The course addresses the evolution of African political systems from the last phases of the pre-colonial period up through the contemporary period. Particular attention is placed on sub-Saharan Africa. The first part of the course focuses on Africa's history in the 19th and 20th centuries. The first part discusses topics including the end of the slave trade, the development of international trade, the colonial penetration, and the scramble for Africa by European powers; the main characteristics of the various colonial administrations and the impact of colonial domination on African societies; the decolonization process in the changing international context after World War II; the independences of African states, the nation-state, and the different policies and ideologies of the independent governments; the debate on the heritage of the colonial State; and the crises of the African State and economic development policies. The second part focuses on Africa's political systems and discusses topics including the political and economic reforms of the 1980s and 1990s; democracy, the fight against poverty, and conflicts in post-cold war Africa; the challenges of the third millennium; and recent and current events. The course includes weekly lectures and in class discussions of pertinent issues related to the topics presented. A special introductory section is devoted to the use of internet in the study of African history and its political systems. Slides and maps are also included. Assessment is based on a final oral examination.

Language(s) of Instruction
Italian

Host Institution Course Number
86976

Host Institution Course Title STORIA E SISTEMI POLITICI DELL'AFRICA CONTEMPORANEA
Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus SCIENZE POLITICHE E SOCIALI
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Scienze Politiche, Sociali e Internazionali
Course Last Reviewed

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