



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
 - Nation Building and Wars.
 - 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).
- Resource Curse: Natural Resources and Development Policies
- 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