Introduction to the History of Africa (A005311)

Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Course Specifications

Course

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Van Bockhaven, Vicky
LW21 lecturer-in-charge

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 2) English excursion 7.5 h
lecture 20.0 h
seminar: coached exercises 10.0 h
guided self-study 7.5 h

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (China Track)) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China (UGent Track)) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan) 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in History 5 A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy 5 A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures 5 A
Exchange Programme History 5 A
Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies 5 A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity 5 A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies 5 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords

Position of the course
This course provides students with an understanding of the main themes and directions in the history of Africa as currently understood, and introduces them to both the longer-term development and current debates in the study of African history. The course combines broad overview and case studies so as to make students sensitive to the diversity and variation within and among African societies.

Contents
The course will cover pre-colonial political formations in Africa, both states/empires and stateless societies, and the reasons for the relative rarity of the former in Africa. It will
also consider the legacies of the slave trade. It examines the political dynamics of conquest, resistance and accommodation, and the economic, political, cultural and religious ramifications of colonisation. In the post-colonial period, it examines political violence and war, poverty and famine, dictatorship and democracy and the general crises of African states, as well as popular culture and social and religious movements.

Initial competences
As per requirements for inscription into the BA programmes of which the course forms part.

Final competences
1. To understand the main historical developments in Africa, including political, economic and cultural structures, institutions and interactions.
2. To be capable of reflecting critically on the African past.
3. To be able to apply the knowledge of the past to gain insight into contemporary African societies.
4. To be able to deal creatively and critically with different viewpoints and interpretations in the historiography of Africa.
5. To gain an appreciation of the diversity within and between African cultures and societies.
6. To begin to be able to read academic literature independently and critically; to be able to follow the structure of arguments, assess them and make connections between different ones.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Guided self-study, excursion, lecture, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods
Lectures, seminar discussion, small-group work, self-guided study activities.

Learning materials and price
The textbook used is Richard Reid, A history of modern Africa: 1800 to the present. In addition, scholarly articles and books, some to be provided on the Minerva study site, some to be consulted in library.

References
as per previous point.

Course content-related study coaching
Feedback in class

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Participation, report

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
Assessment Moment
Non-periodical: continuous assessment (50%) and periodical: exam (50%)
Assessment form
Continuous assessment (50%) by means of participation in class and writing a book review.
Written exam in line with the intended final competences (50%).

Calculation of the examination mark
non-date-specific: continuous assessment (50%); date-specific: exam (50%).

(Approved)
Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled
3. No alternative time for feedback

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy