

HI177-30 A History of Africa from 1800

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Daniel Branch

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module offers an introduction to the modern social and political history of sub-Saharan Africa. The course spans the nineteenth-century precolonial period, colonial rule, and the postcolonial period. We begin by discussing the idea of 'Africa', before examining political authority in the nineteenth century; African trade and commerce after the ending of the slave trade; the establishment of colonial rule and the effects of colonialism on African societies; the growth of anti-colonialism and African nationalisms; decolonisation and the formation of postcolonial states; democratisation and 'development' in Africa.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This 30 CATS first-year option module is an introduction to the modern social and political history of sub-Saharan Africa. The course takes a chronological approach, covering three broad periods: the nineteenth-century precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial eras. Starting with a discussion of the idea of 'Africa', students will familiarise themselves with the changing nature of African trade and commerce after the ending of the slave trade; with the character and development of political authority in the nineteenth century; with the establishment of colonial rule through treaty and conquest; with the effects of colonialism on colonised African societies; with the growth of anti-

colonial sentiments and the emergence of nationalisms; and with the impact of decolonisation and the formation of postcolonial states. The final lectures and seminars will explore the nature of postcolonial African states, and include discussion of issues such as the Rwandan genocide and 'development' in Africa.

Weekly lectures will provide a chronological framework. Seminars elaborate the themes from the lectures, but concentrate on regional case studies and debates within the historiography.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1

1. No Class/Introduction week
2. Introduction: Chronology and Themes
3. Slavery and Slaving in Africa
4. State, Society and Trade in C19th East Africa
5. Jihad in the West African Savannah
6. Reading Week
7. Social and Political Change in C19th Southern Africa
8. From Slavery to 'Legitimate Commerce' in West Africa
9. The 'Scramble' for Africa
10. The Colonial State and Ethnicity

Term 2

11. Colonialism and the 'Civilising Mission'
12. Peasants or Proletarians? 1890s-1940s
13. The New Colonialism, 1945-1960
14. The Rise of African Nationalism, 1940s-1960s
15. South Africa, 1890-1960

1. Reading Week
2. Challenges after Independence, 1957-1975
3. Soldiers and the State, 1960-1980
4. The ANC and the End of Apartheid, 1960-1994
5. From Debt to Democratization, 1980-2000

Term 3

21. Rwanda and the Great Congo War, 1994-2004
22. Africa Since 1994
23. New African voices: Film/Documentary Screening and Discussion

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Gain a broad understanding of key themes within African history and Africa's position within

global historical trends.

- Identify interdisciplinary approaches to and historiographical debates on the period since 1800, with particular emphasis on anthropology and political science.
- Identify and engage with a range of relevant primary materials, including online resources, particularly exploring questions related to the use of oral history and oral tradition.
- Gain interpersonal and communication skills through seminar group work and discussions
- Devise well-defined essay topics, collect relevant data from a variety of sources and present results in an effective fashion.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Interdisciplinary

Students will read material from anthropology, political science, and sociology

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	258 hours (86%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and

prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A4

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000-word piece of introductory writing (essay plan or assignment of tutor's choice)	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Seminar participation/presentation	10%		No
Seminar participation			
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
2000 word essay or equivalent	30%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3000-word essay or equivalent	50%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written comments and oral feedback will be provided for non-assessed assignments.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 1 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 1 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 1 of UHIA-Q302 Undergraduate History (Part-Time)
- Year 1 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 1 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy

This module is Option list G for:

- Year 1 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics