

## Introduction to the History of Africa (A005311)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

lecture

excursion

independent work

seminar

### Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

De Coene, Pieter

LW03

staff member

Mathys, Gillian

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme History](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences](#)

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

[Elective Set African Studies](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Culture and Society](#)

5

A

[Elective Set History](#)

5

A

### Teaching languages

English

### Keywords

African history, precolonial history, colonial history, postcolonial history, African politics, African culture.

### 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 connection 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**

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures, seminar discussion, small-group work, self-guided study activities.

### **Study material**

Type: Handbook

Name: Gilbert, Erik, and Jonathan T. Reynolds. Africa in world history. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education, 2011.

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Pages : 516

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Slides

Name: Slides for each class

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Number of Slides : 300

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

### **References**

Beside the reading materials, there are no specific references.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Feedback in class and through appointments

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment****Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

*Assessment Moment*

Written exam (100%)

*Assessment form*

Written exam in line with the intended final competences (100%).

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Date-specific: exam (100%).

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. No exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. The examination can be rescheduled

3. Alternative time for feedback

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