




5.00 credits

22.5 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Gijs Anne-Sophie ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Prerequisites	An interest in Africa, past and present; an open mind. Basic knowledge of central Africa's colonial history.
Main themes	The first part of course will consist of general overviews to help students to understand the political, economic, social, cultural and religious features and developments of Sub-Saharan Africa. The idea will be to place the continent's history in context at the crossroads between other political and cultural areas (Arabic-Muslim, European and Asian) and their various interactions with Africa. Secondly, some of the more contemporary issues that Africa is currently facing (including the demographic challenge, widespread poverty, the resurgence of ethnic conflicts and migration) will be covered through in-depth case studies.
Learning outcomes	At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to : At the end of the course, students should be able to understand the specific features of Africa's political, economic, cultural and religious history, as well as the major causes and consequences of its interactions with the rest of the world. They should be able to discuss specific issues covered in the course in a critical and in-depth manner, demonstrating an ability to summarise and make an argument.
Evaluation methods	The oral examination will be based on the material covered in the course and may include the presentation of an individual piece of work based on complementary reading, iconographic documents, recordings or images.
Teaching methods	The materials used by the teacher will include extracts from scientific literature, as well as visual and audio sources (maps, photographs, diagrams, films, documentaries). Students will be provided with a detailed course plan and a corpus of documents, as well as additional bibliographical references to allow them to expand their horizons.
Content	<p>The first part of course will consist of general overviews to help students to understand the political, economic, social, cultural and religious features and developments of Sub-Saharan Africa. The idea will be to place the continent's history in context at the crossroads between other political and cultural areas (Arabic-Muslim, European and Asian) and their various interactions with Africa. Secondly, some of the more contemporary issues that Africa is currently facing (including the demographic challenge, widespread poverty, the resurgence of ethnic conflicts and migration) will be covered through in-depth case studies.</p> <p>At the end of the course, students should be able to understand the specific features of Africa's political, economic, cultural and religious history, as well as the major causes and consequences of its interactions with the rest of the world. They should be able to discuss specific issues covered in the course in a critical and in-depth manner, demonstrating an ability to summarise and make an argument.</p> <p>a) The aim of the module on politics will be to go back through history in order to understand the traditional structure of African societies, the conditions under which the first medieval kingdoms and empires emerged and the impact of Muslim advances, then the first infiltrations by Europeans (slave traders) into the established structures. We will then study the phenomenon of European colonisation (political causes and consequences) and identify the types of systems used, how they were legitimised and how power was exercised, and the reasons for decolonisation. Finally, we will seek to understand the evolution of African states since they became independent by studying the features and elements of the existing regimes (motivations for cronyism and authoritarianism, the issue of democracy in Africa).</p> <p>Throughout this long progression, we will be continually faced with the concepts of border(s), ethnic group(s), identity/identities, diversity, hierarchy, war and conflict, resistance and legitimisation.</p> <p>b) The aim of the module on economics will be to describe the traditional African economy (agriculture, farming, trade) and then place Africa in context in the world economy (gold trade, slave trade, colonial exploitation), identifying the impacts of these trades both for Africa and for the other entities involved. Africa's economic development since the end of colonisation and the "development cooperation" systems particularly with the European Union will then be questioned from the point of view of the challenges they pose for modern societies.</p> <p>c) There will then be a final module on religion and social and cultural phenomena (animism, Islam, Christian missions, syncretism and new religions, witchcraft, rurality/urbanity, art and culture, women in Africa).</p> <p>d) Each year, there will be a more in-depth examination of one case study in order to develop students' critical thinking on a sensitive issue (slavery, history and memory, African diaspora, migration, ethnic conflicts, demographic pressure, health and social welfare etc.).</p>
Inline resources	The PowerPoints from the classes, the bibliography and practical information are all available and can be downloaded from the course Moodle platform.

Faculty or entity in charge	EHAC
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Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Anthropology	ANTR2M	5		
Master [120] in History	HIST2M	5		
Master [60] in History	HIST2M1	5		
Master [120] in Population and Development Studies	SPED2M	5		