

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 3623 Contemporary Africa

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition and HIST 1123 Civilizations of the World to 1500 or HIST 1133 Civilizations of the World since 1500

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of postcolonial Africa with emphasis on the sociocultural, political, and economic transformations since the end of colonial rule.

B. Additional Information

This course represents an effort by the History Department to broaden the course offerings in the history of the non-western world. The course will examine the major themes of postcolonial African history including but not limited to: decolonization, patterns of post-colonial rule/governance, the Cold War in Africa, and the crises confronting post-Cold War Africa.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the decolonization process in Africa.
2. Illustrate the colonial legacies in postcolonial Africa.
3. Describe the challenges of nation building in postcolonial Africa.
4. Explain the major transformations that have taken place in the postcolonial period.
5. Describe and evaluate the causes of political instabilities that have plagued postcolonial Africa.
6. Interpret the effect of global politics including the Cold War and the war on terrorism on postcolonial Africa.
7. Demonstrate the effect of globalization on Africa.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will utilize a variety of sources, including monographs, articles, primary documents, and video to formulate interpretations of important themes and events in contemporary African history.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will demonstrate an awareness of the challenges facing postcolonial African states. Through research projects, students will illustrate how post-colonial African nations have contended with the legacies of colonial rule and evolving global politics.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Through research projects, students will illustrate how post-colonial African nations have contended with the legacies of colonial rule and evolving global politics. Students will also present their research in class as a way to improve their oral

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Overview of Africa: Land and Peoples of Africa, Pre-colonial Africa, and Colonial Africa
- B. African Independence and Colonial Legacies
- C. African Integration: Pan-Africanism, OAU and the AU, and Regional Cooperation
- D. Africa in World Affairs: The Cold War, Non-aligned Movement, UN, World Bank and IMF
- E. Political Systems and Choices: One-party and Multi-party Systems, African Socialism, and Political Corruption
- F. Political Instability and the Military Incursions in Politics
- G. Ethnicity and Frontier Disputes
- H. South Africa: Transforming State and Society
- I. Social, Environmental, and Population Policies, and AIDS in Africa
- J. Women in Africa: Women in Economy, Women in Politics, Women and Social Issues
- K. Political Economy and Reform: Africa and the World Economy, Economic Decline and Structural Adjustment
- L. Africa in the New World Order: End of the Cold War, Africa in the New Era of Democratization & Globalization