# History and Institutions of Africa

## Prof. Beatrice Nicolini

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is to offer the indispensable key instruments to face successfully professional careers. Trough presentations of selected case studies, it will be analyzed the interrelations in Africa between politics, use/misuse of the power, national, transnational, and international conflicts, migrations, peace mediation processes, and African traditions and cultures. The methodology is based on the acquisition of scientific-academic approach of reading and/or re-reading sources within historical-institutional processes.

# *COURSE CONTENT*

I Term

Methodological introduction

Reflections on African history sources

Tools of research (Jstor, Jstor Texts, Proquest), Refworks bibliography

Discussion groups on themes about the compulsory texts.

II Term

Enslavement and Slave Trade

The role of religions in the African continent

Colonial transformations 1918-1950

Independent Africa, 1950-1980

Regional and transnational dimensions of armed conflicts

The migratory fluxes throughout Africa

Peace mediation processes

***READING LIST***

Compulsory preliminary texts to be studied during the first Semester of the Academic Year:

R. Collins, *Africa. A Short History*, M. Wiener, Princeton, USA, 2014, Isbn: 9781558763739.

M. Fumagalli, *Contemporary Ethiopia. State composition and human environment,* EDUCatt,Milano, 2022, Isbn: 9788893359191.

# *TEACHING METHOD*

3 hours lessons per week. Lessons in class, individual readings, focus groups. Swahili Language and Culture, (40 hours) Seminar on the Horn of Africa (10 hours) will be part of the course.

# *ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA*

Students attending the course: midterm exam divided in two: a) single or group written paper of 10-12 pages as an academic essay where the Library staff will intervene to teach the research methodology and the use of Dabase and Refworks; b) single or group oral, (also video) presentation. The final evaluation will be composed of 50% for the written paper and of 50% for the oral presentation. Research methodology skills and public speaking will be objects of evaluation.

Students who do not attend the course: oral exam, study the two compulsory books, plus: P. Lovejoy, *Storia della Schiavitù in Africa*, Bompiani, Milano, 2015, Isbn: 9788830100480.

Oral exam will verify the comprehension of the main books course issues, as well as clear and exhaustive answers to questions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

No prerequisites are requested. To reach the above described aims is necessary an active and positive participation and a constant curiosity.

*Contacts*

Students are welcomed to contact Prof. Beatrice Nicolini on Wednesdays Dipartimento di Storia Moderna e Contemporanea, Gregorianum II floor from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.; please write email advices: beatrice.nicolini@unicatt.it

Further information: http://www.unicatt.it/unicattolica/docenti/index.html