



Online Academic Summer School 2020
SOAS University of London

Understanding Africa
Course Handbook

Mode of Attendance: Full-time, Online

Duration: 2 weeks

SOAS Accredited: This course is worth 15 UK credits

Programme Description

This course provides participants with an overall understanding of the history, politics and culture of Africa. With a diverse range of sessions, from History, Pan-Africanism and Politics to Languages, Migration, and Music, the course gives an in-depth knowledge of the main academic areas of study regarding Africa. The course comprises a combination of lectures and interactive workshops, as well as museum visits and social events. This is a great opportunity given the prominence that Africa as a continent has gained over the past few years and the vision of Africa Rising, a continent with many job and investment opportunities. Also, within the Arts, we have seen an incredible rise of the presence of African artists in the international art circles which has been extremely stimulating and refreshing for an understanding of arts and cultures.

Programme Schedule and Topics:

- Pre-colonial Africa and its Kingdoms
- The Colonial period
- The Independences and Postcolonial Africa
- Africa in the World: International Trade and relations
- Overview of main Pan-African political institutions
- Governance and Development in Africa
- Religion in Africa
- Contemporary Art in Africa
- African languages and cultures (with an African country case study)
- Migration and African Diaspora
- Music in Africa

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, this course will:

- Provide a broad coverage and an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Africa
- Provide students with the key information and debates connected to the historical, political, economic and cultural evolution of Africa

Assessment

Each course is assessed by two online assessments ('e-tivities'*) comprising of 30%, the remaining 70% is formed of a 2,500 word essay. The e-tivities provide formative and summative feedback to students as a means of monitoring their progress and encouraging areas in which they can improve. On successful completion of the assessments, students will receive a transcript confirming the credit awarded. Students that do not require credit are strongly encouraged to take part in the e-tivities, but are not required to complete the assessments.

* An 'e-tivity' is a framework for online, active and interactive learning following a format that states clearly to the students its 'Purpose'; the 'Task' at hand; the contribution or 'Response' type; and the 'Outcome' (Salmon, G. (2002) *E-tivities: The Key to Active Online Learning*, New York and London: Routledge Falmer.)

Course Convenor

Dr Seraphin Kamdem

Introductory Readings and Sources

- Badejo, D., 2007. *The African Union*. New York: Chelsea House
- Cooper, F., 2007. *Africa Since 1940; The Past of the Present*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Cornelissen, S., Cheru, F. and Shaw, T., eds. 2011. *Africa and International Relations in the 21st Century*. Oxford: Palgrave Macmillan
- Davidson, B. 1989. *Modern Africa: A social and political history* (2nd ed.). London: Longman
- Fardon, R. and Furniss, G. eds. 1994. *African Languages, Development and the State*. London: Routledge
- Murithi, T., 2013. *Handbook of Africa's international relations*. New York: Routledge
- Nugent, P., 2004. *Africa since independence: a comparative history*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan
- Thomson, A., 2004. *An Introduction to African Politics* (2nd ed.), London: Routledge.
- Reid, R., 2012. *History of Modern Africa, 1800 to the Present*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Webb, Vic and Kembo-Sure, eds. 2000. *African Voices*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Web resources

- [BBC World – Africa](#)
- [Facts about countries in Africa](#)
- [Languages of Africa](#)
- [All Africa Global Media](#)
- [IRIN – Humanitarian news and analysis](#)

