Universidad de Navarra

International Relations in Africa (RRII)

Teaching guide 2026-27

PRESENTATION

Brief description: International Relations in Africa (IIRA) is a mandatory course for all participants of the International Relations degree program of the School of Law of the University of Navarra. This is a course for all students with an interest in Global Relations among countries and future diplomats, politicians or entrepreneurs who want to be aware about international relations (political, legal or economic). With emerging economies, unexploited development potential and growing democracies, Africa is a rising region in world politics. The International Relations in Africa (RRI) course will introduce students of the University of Navarra to the key international relations issues and challenges of the region that is strategically important to Spain and the European Union.

- **Qualification**: International Relations in Africa
- **Module**:
- **ECTS**: 6
- **Course, semester**: 3rd year, 1st semester
- **Professor**: Mukami Wangai
- **Language**: English
- **Intensive course sessions: Monday 14 September to Friday 23 October**
- **First class: Monday 14 September**
- **Room, Hours**: Mondays - 15:30-17:30 in Aula 102, Tuesdays 10:00-12:00 in Aula 102, Wednesdays 08:00-10:00 in Aula 4, Thursdays 08:00-10:00 in Aula S01, Fridays 8:00-10:00 in Aula 6.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competences)

GENERAL SKILLS

1. Development of logical reasoning.
2. Capacity for analysis and synthesis of the issues addressed.
3. To develop oral communication skills on issues related with international relations.
4. To develop teamwork capacity.
5. Initiation into basic research techniques. Develop critical writing skills in short essays.

SPECIFIC SKILLS

1. Capacity to understand basic concepts of international relations with African characteristics.
2. Explain the diversity of places, regions and locations.
3. To understand and interpret the territory from concepts, criteria and indicators for African regional geography.
4. Use the geographical information as a tool for interpreting territory.
5. To relate and synthesize cross territorial information.
6. Analyze the economic situation in Africa and its influence in the world in modern times.
7. Understanding the direction of production/operations, and foreign trade relations in Africa.
8. Skill in the use of information sources of various kinds (historical documents, literary excerpts, films, documentaries, slides, news reports, movies, etc.).
9. Study forms of political-legal organization in the economic powers.
10. Identify the different political structures in Africa (systems of government, administrative division, apparatus and other socializing formulas including party politics) and their respective legal frameworks.

PROGRAM

Cultural and political history of Africa

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1.1. Introduction

-Welcome and introductions

-Presentation and justification of the course

-Targets and expectations

1.2 What is Africa?

- regional structure

- physical geography

- human geography: languages, ethnicities, cultures, religions and beliefs

1.3. Emergence of African states

- nature and analysis of statehood

1.4. Core countries/regions

- core country analysis: historical context, economic development and political environment

- introduction to regional blocs; security and trade

Insertion of Africa into the international legal order

2.1. Foreign policies

- emergence and evolution

- effects of poverty and economic dependency

2.2. Emergence of outside intervention

2.3. Role of non-state actors

- non-governmental organizations

- rebels/guerrillas

Conflict and cooperation amongst African states

3.1 Regional organizations

- the African Union

- Economic blocs

3.2 Human rights protection

- The African human rights system (ACHPR and its protocols)

- international human rights organizations and Africa

3.3 Humanitarian intervention and peace building

3.4 Africa and international organizations

- International cooperation and development in Africa

- Role of the United Nations

Democracy in Africa

4.1 Legal systems

4.2 Systems of government

Impact of new developments in global politics

5.1 Changing position of African states

5.2 What next? Where next?

5.3 The war on terror

5.4 Emergence of China

- Eastern vs. Western influence on Africa

- impact on natural resources and development policies

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

This course will be taught in an interactive format. Students will be expected to arrive to class prepared for the topics of the day. The class schedule has assignments to prepare before class. Any student having difficulty in a particular area is expected to consult additional readings and to make an attempt to address the seminar questions. Students will be called upon to discuss the assigned readings and to present in class (individually or in groups).

The instructor views their role as an educator of International Relations in Africa for training professionals. As such, the class will not be taught with an eye on the exam. Instead, the students will be taught to develop critical economic, political and legal thinking in the area of international relations in Africa.

Within each of the areas of the program, the students will be required to carry out different practical tasks –content analysis, watch documentaries/movies, hold debates, public expositions, write some short essays etc. - that will help students to understand the contents of the course.

EVALUATION

ORDINARY ASSESSMENT

Evaluation	Value in % of each assessment
1. Participation **a)** The student meets his/her commitments, is punctual and participates in class. **b)** Individual public presentations. **c)** The student does not distract himself/herself and others with the phone, internet and other elements in class.	**10%**
2. Mid-term exam: The following will be valued: style, tone, technique, reasoning/inference, organization of ideas, understanding, correct sentence formation, critical analysis of the topic. *GROUP PRESENTATIONS – **Monday 5 and Tuesday 6 October*** ***Attendance is mandatory***	**40%**
4. **Final exam** *INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN EXAM – **Friday 23 October***	**50%**

EXTRAORDINARY ASSESSMENT

Individual assignments may be provided if a student misses the mid-term exam.

OFFICE HOURS

mwangai@external.unav.es

- Office hours: To be announced

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

CORE TEXTS

Cornelissen, Cherru F, Shaw T. (2012): *Africa and International Relations in the 21st century*. Palgrave Macmillan. Find the ebook at the Library

https://link-springer-com.ezproxy.unav.es/content/pdf/10.1057/97802303557

Murithi, Tim (ed) (2014): *Handbook of Africa's International Relations.* Routledge; 1st edition (Aug 20, 2013). Find the book at the Library

Young, Tom (ed) (2016): *Readings in the International Relations of Africa.* Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Find the ebook at the library

https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.unav.es/stable/j.ctt19dzd3j

Basic bibliography

Books

Adebajo, Adekeye: The Curse of Berlin: Africa after the Cold War: Oxford University Press, 1st edition (Jan 16, 2014)

Anda, Michael O.: International Relations in Contemporary Africa: University Press of America (Feb 9, 2000)

Ake, C. (1995): "The New World Order: A View From Africa." In Whose World Order? Uneven Globalization and the End of the Cold War (H Holm and G. Sorenson, eds.), p. 19-42. Boulder: Westview Press.

Fleck, Dieter: The Handbook of International Humanitarian Law (Third Edition).

Gambari, Ibrahim A.: Political and Comparative Dimensions of Regional Integration: The Case of ECOWAS.

Mahmood Mamdani: When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and Genocide in Rwanda.

Mazrui, Ali A: Africa's International Relations: The Diplomacy of Dependency and Change. Westview Press.

Mazrui, Ali: The Anglo-African Commonwealth: Political Friction and Cultural Fusion: Pergamon Press (1967)

Mazrui, Ali: The African Condition: A Political Diagnosis: Cambridge University Press; New edition (April 30, 1980)

Rodney, Walter: How Europe Underdeveloped Africa.

Shivji, Issa: Human Rights in Africa.

Welz, M: Africa Since Decolonisation. Cambridge University Press. (2021)

International Committee of the Red Cross: Handbook of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 13th Edition (1994).

Journal Articles

Mazrui, Ali A "Global Africa: From Abolitionists to Reparationists," African Studies Review, 37:3 (December 1994): 1-18.

Nkiwane, Tandeka C.: Africa and International Relations: Regional Lessons for a Global Discourse. International Political Science Review (2001), Vol 22, No. 3, 279-290.

Olsen, Gorm Rye: Western Europe's Relations With Africa Since the End of the Cold War, JMAS, 35:2 (1997): 299-319.

Tull, Dennis M: China's Engagement in Africa: Scope, Significance and Consequences," Journal of Modern African Studies 44:3 (September 2006): 459-479.

Links

International Center for Law and Economics

http://laweconcenter.org

World Trade Organization

http://www.wto.org/

United Nations Organization

http://www.un.org/en/

European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

http://www.ecfr.eu/

FRIDE

http://www.ecfr.eu/

ISN – International Relations and Security Network

http://www.isn.ethz.ch/

Africa sections of publications and news websites

African Business Magazine

https://african.business/

Forbes Africa

http://www.forbesafrica.com/

Financial Times

https://www.ft.com/world/africa

BBC News

http://www.bbc.com/news/world/africa

CNBC Africa

http://www.cnbcafrica.com/

CCTV Africa

http://english.cctv.com/world/Africa/

All Africa

http://allafrica.com/

East African news sources

The East African

http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/

Business Daily Africa

http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/

West African news sources

The Guardian

https://guardian.ng/

Ghanaian Chronicle

http://thechronicle.com.gh/

Southern African news sources

SABC

http://www.sabc.co.za/news

Mail & Guardian



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