



HIST 254 Modern African History

Course Description:

Modern African History focuses on the history of Sub-Saharan Africa from approximately the eighteenth century to the present. Because of the complexity and size of the African continent, the course does not attempt to provide a comprehensive history of each country, people, and region. Rather, it is organized chronologically and thematically, examining questions of race, gender, ethnicity, violence, environment, disease, and nationalism in the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial contexts. The course is divided into three sections. Phase one begins by looking at Africa before colonization, emphasizing the diversity and range of African cultures, peoples, languages, societies, and religions in the pre-colonial era. We will examine several important international historical developments, including the impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on Africa and its peoples. Following the abolition of the slave trade internationally, the course evaluates the shift to legitimate trade with the African continent. Topics discussed include the commodities and resources traded by African groups as well as the presence of missionaries and explorers and their influence in different regions of Africa. This shift preceded the movement away from European spheres of influence to formal colonization in the 1880s, which comprises the course's second phase. During that time, European powers such as Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium created formal colonies with direct and indirect forms of administration. Rather than exclusively focusing on the European perspective, however, this section emphasizes the impact of colonialism on various African societies. We will ask how Africans responded to colonialism and how the colonies' contributions to major world events such as the First and Second World Wars. During the third and final phase, the course looks at the decolonization process and independence movements across Sub-Saharan Africa while considering the legacy of colonialism. This final portion also explores the contemporary economic, social, and political history of Africa from 1960 to the present.

Credit: 4

If you can't find the subjects or topics you are interested in, or you want detailed course syllabus, you can contact our Advisor for more information.