

Geopolitics of Africa and the Middle East

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024)

Review date: 21-04-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: HIDALGO TRENADO, MANUEL

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 2

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

There are no prerequisites for this class

OBJECTIVES

- To know the most important geopolitical and geostrategic elements and themes affecting Africa and the Middle East.
- To interrelate and understand synoptically the different geopolitical and geostrategic elements and phenomena specific to Africa and the Middle East.
- To locate and relate geopolitical and geostrategic regional dynamics of Africa and the Middle East with the global geopolitical structure.
- To link theoretical analysis to the historical processes, socio-economic structures, and geopolitical challenges prevalent in Africa and the Middle East.
- To understand, use and rigorously apply the main theoretical frameworks formulated recently to explain the structure and functioning of regional geopolitics in the context of Africa and the Middle East.
- To analyze the economic power of major countries along with alliances, initiatives and ongoing rivalries at the regional level.
- To understand and analyze the major conflicts, risks and threats in Africa and the Middle East related to international security.
- To understand and analyze the geo-economic and political consequences of globalization and regionalization in Africa and the Middle East and their geostrategic implications.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

PART I: AFRICA

1. Introduction to the geopolitics of sub-Saharan Africa
2. Geography, borders and identities
3. The weight of colonialism
4. Africa in the New International Order

PART II: MENA

5. The geopolitical significance and main characteristics of the MENA region
6. The MENA region as a fault: origins and development of the main geopolitical conflicts
7. The MENA region and the new global order. Geopolitical alliances and rivalries

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Learning Activities

- Theoretical classes
- Theoretical and practical classes
- Tutorials
- Group work
- Student's individual work
- Tests and final examinations

Teaching Methodology

This course consists of lectures and a number of activities which will be carried out by the students. In general, classes are designed in a manner to promote students' active participation and critical thinking. Therefore, it is essential that they come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that particular session. It is highly recommended to keep up-to-date about ongoing events about geopolitics of Africa and the Middle East.

Tutorials will be carried out through the procedures established by the university.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Final paper: 30%.

Exercises, presentations, debates, tests, etc.: 60%

Participation: 10%

Extraordinary call:

The grade will be based on an individual original research essay on a topic agreed upon with the Professors of the course.

% end-of-term-examination: 30

% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 70

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barr, James Line in the sand: Britain, France and the struggle that shaped the Middle East, Simon & Schuster, 2012
- Carmody, Pádraig The New Scramble for Africa, Polity Press, 2016
- Ghattas, Kim Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the Forty-Year Rivalry That Unraveled Culture, Religion, and Collective Memory in the Middle East, Henry Holt, 2020
- Hugon, Philippe African Geopolitics, Markus Wiener Publishers, 2015
- Iliffe, John Africans, The History of a continent, Cambridge University Press, 2017
- Kornegay, Francis; Mthembu, Philani): Africa and the World. Navigating Shifting Geopolitics, Johannesburg, Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, 2020
- Mcevedy, Colin The Penguin Atlas of African History, Penguin Books, 1996
- Routledge Handbook of Middle East Politics, Routledge, 2020
- Taylor Ian; Williams, Paul): Africa in International Politics. External involvement on the continent, Taylor & Francis Group, 2004
- Yom, Sean Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa Development, Democracy, and Dictatorship, Routledge, 2019

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hitti, Philip History of the Arabs, Nueva York, Palgrave MacMillan, 2002
- QASSEM, N. Hezbollah. The Story from Within, London, Saqi Books, 2010
- Stewart, Dona J. The Middle East Today, Political, Geographical and Cultural Perspectives, Routledge, 2009

BASIC ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- . European Neighborhood Policy and MENA Region: https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/european-neighbourhood-policy-enp_en
- . African Union: <https://au.int/>
- . The League of Arab States: <http://www.lasportal.org/en/aboutlas/Pages/HistoricalOverView.aspx>