

Roxbury Community College  
Social Sciences Course Outcomes

**SSI 178: Modern African History**

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assessment Tools</b>
<p><b>In this general, survey modern African history course, starting at 1500 C.E., students will be able to:</b></p> <p><b>Geographical factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Understand and discuss the size of Africa and the infrastructural and economic development challenges it poses for its inhabitants.</li> <li>➤ Understand and discuss the historical significance of the arbitrariness of regions of Africa such as sub-Saharan Africa, or North, South, Central, East, and West Africa.</li> <li>➤ Understand and explain the historical significance of the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference, at which Africa was partitioned among the European powers.</li> <li>➤ Understand and explain the historical significance of the repartitioning of Africa before and after World Wars I and II.</li> </ul> <p><b>Political Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Explain the historical significance of Africa being the last continent to be colonized by European powers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Utilize a variety of instructional and learning strategies including, but not limited to: lectures, use of audio-visual media such as PowerPoint, slides, films/videos, and whenever necessary, the Internet.</li> <li>➤ Organize student debate and discussion groups on key political, economic, and cultural variables regarding Africa's underdevelopment.</li> <li>➤ Work with students to analyze the causal and relational relationship of certain variables such as European colonialism and imperialism to Africa's underdevelopment, and the resulting state of poverty and political violence in Africa.</li> <li>➤ Utilize primary and secondary sources for students to investigate some of the causes of Africa's current stage of development, to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and make a formal presentation in class.</li> <li>➤ To develop critical thinking and analytical skills, students will read and analyze at least six various professional research journal articles on African history, economics, and politics.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Students must demonstrate:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mastery and comprehension of material from the assigned textbook(s) and academic research journals by performance on tests/exams at a level of at least 80%.</li> <li>➤ Critical thinking and problem-skills through active participation in class discussions, debates, and group projects, and submission of written reports;</li> <li>➤ Mastery and comprehension, at a level of 85%, of overall course materials by performance on tests and exams.</li> <li>➤ Analytical and critical thinking skills in reading and interpreting historical, primary and secondary sources, dealing with particular historical periods and/or events.</li> <li>➤ Ability to raise a historical research question, state hypotheses, and a plan for carrying out the research.</li> <li>➤ Ability to produce an historical research paper of ten-fifteen (10-15) pages.</li> <li>➤ Plan, carry out a research project, and present a research report to the class.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Understand and explain the global, socio-political context in which the European powers launched their colonization project in Africa.</li><li>➤ Explain the historical significance of the impact of European colonialism and imperialism on political development in the African state.</li><li>➤ Understand and discuss the political theory of “failed state” and the resulting political violence in Africa.</li><li>➤ Explain the challenges the democracy project faces in Africa.</li></ul> <p><b>Socio-economic Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Understand and discuss the global economic conditions that made Africa the supplier of free labor, through the slave trade, and mineral wealth, which helped to develop Europe and the United States of America, while Africa itself was being systematically underdeveloped.</li><li>➤ Explain how Africa became the market for European and American industrial products, while its industrialization was arrested.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Working in groups of 3-5 members, the students will investigate an African historical, economic, or political problem and present a research paper on the problem to the class.</li><li>➤ The students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and historical research skills, using the group projects.</li></ul>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Understand and discuss how Africa's underdevelopment has resulted in grinding poverty for Africa, such that 600 million Africans are among the poorest in the world, and that 300 million Africans live on less than US\$1 per day.</li><li>➤ Explain the fall of Africa's per capita real income by as much as 2.2 percent per year in the decade of the 1980s.</li><li>➤ Explain the fall of Africa's agricultural output and export from the 1960s through the 1980s, thus making it dependent on food aid and food importation to feed its poor and starving millions</li></ul> |  |  |
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