



MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module title	Code
Africa and Asia Encounters: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives	

Teacher(s)	Unit
Co-ordinating: Dr. Karina Simonson	Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
1st cycle	1/1	Optional

Mode of implementation	Period of instruction	Language(s) of instruction
Lectures	1 semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: none	Additional requirements (if any): none

Module volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Independent study hours
5	133	32	101

Aim of module: competences developed by the study programme		
<p>The course offers a basic introduction to major debates in the contemporary study of Africa, mostly focusing specifically on historical and contemporary ties between Africa and Asia, aiming to situate these debates within their historical, social and cultural contexts. The approach of this course is necessarily interdisciplinary and selective, but reflects key areas of relations of Asian communities in the context of the African continent. Competences developed include general (critical thinking, intercultural awareness, working both independently and in a team), as well as subject-specific (understanding of culture and society of the area studied, applying knowledge and understanding of the area).</p>		
Learning outcomes of the module	Study methods	Assessment methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students would demonstrate knowledge about the principal cultural and social features of the contemporary African states and be able to situate African cultural and social processes in their regional and international context. - Would be capable to delineate the most important traits of historical and modern cultural and social ties with Asia across the region, as well as peculiarities of the position of the Asian minorities inside the countries. - Learn to work independently in a manner of self-directed and self-managed learning; demonstrate initiative both in learning and studying and in time management; and develop critical reflection upon the scope and limitations of what has been ascertained and understood. - Will develop an understanding of and commitment to cultural diversity. - Will be able to critically engage with the area studied from several disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, including cultural anthropology, art history, cultural studies, history, philosophy, religious studies etc. 	<p>Lecturing and demonstration (multimedia), active study methods (guest lecturers, group discussions, simulations).</p>	<p>Assignment</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be able to undertake an interdisciplinary examination of key areas of debates on contemporary Africa, including identity politics (ethnicity and religion); gender roles and feminism; media representation; and the struggles over decolonisation of education and memory institutions. - Would be able to compare among themselves different African Asian communities, and identify their peculiarities in historical and contemporary relations with the host African state. - Read and use materials both incisively and with sensitivity, to compare and contrast ideas and concepts found within different disciplinary surroundings. - Will develop an in-depth understanding of the culture and society of the area studied by integrating knowledge from several disciplines and interdisciplinary approaches. - Will deepen library and internet research skills, proficiency in reading and analysis of texts both in Lithuanian and foreign languages and ability to analyse visual and aural material as a medium for understanding another culture. 	<p>Research methods (search for information, literature analysis, preparation of the essay).</p>	<p>Music video or advertising analysis</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be able to gather and systematically prepare information through individual and collective efforts: find, evaluate and present data about the selected historical, social or cultural phenomenon related to the course. - Would be introduced to the many disciplinary, thematic, practical and ethical issues involved in researching Africa. While course readings focus on African examples, students will be encouraged to consider how the methods devised in other fields of their learning may be applied in the circumstances of studying Africa. - Will learn to synthesise information, adopt critical appraisals and develop a reasoned argument based on such appraisals. - Work creatively, flexibly and adaptively with others and meet deadlines. - Will develop further to communicate ideas with clarity, coherence and persuasiveness, and analyse issues in the light of evidence and argument. 	<p>Research methods (search for information, critical thinking, preparation and multimedia presentation, teamwork).</p>	<p>Creative group project + individual reflection piece</p>

Topics	Contact hours							Independent study time and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	*Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Practice	Total contact hours	Independent work	Assignments
1. Introduction	2						2		
2. Historical ties between Africa and Asia (pre-colonial and colonial period)	2						2	4	Raposo, Arase, Cornelissen 2017, p. 26-31, 33-42

3. China's engagement in Africa: Win-win development, or new colonialism?	1		*1				2	4	Hessler 2015, https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/learning-to-speak-lingerie
4. India in Africa: Long history of connections and changing geographies of power	2						2	4	Hawley 2008, p. 117-141.
5. Japan, South Korea and North Korea's engagement with Africa	2						2	4	Raposo, Arase, Cornelissen 2017, p. 112-124.
6. Other Asian states' connections with Africa (Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Turkey)	1		*1				2	4	Yacobi 2016, p. 19-35
7. Case study: South Africa as the most multicultural African country (Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, Jewish communities)	2						2	4	Boshoff, p. 29-44.
8. "Chocolate cities": Histories, dreams and realities of Africans in Asia	1		*1				2	4	Cornelissen, Mine 2018, p. 231-243.
9. Connections through religions (Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism)	2						2	4	Levtzion, Pouwels 2000, p. 1-15.
10. Media representation: "Hungry kids and tribal wars" (West-Africa, Asia-Africa perspectives) (Guest lecturer)	2						2	4	Wainaina 2005, (online – 5 min read); Mutsvauro 2018, p. 97-107, 452-456
11. Rethinking race, racism and colourism in Africa and Asia	2						2	4	Castillo 2020, p. 310–332.
12. Gender roles and feminism (Guest lecturer)	2						2	4	Decker, Baderoon 2018, p. 246-261.
13. The politics of fashion and beauty (skin bleaching, hairstyles, clothes etc)	1		*1				2	4	Allman 2004, p. 166-182.
14. Kung Fu films and Nollywood: Understanding Afro-Asian relations through film and music	2						2	4	Jedlowski, Thomas 2017, p. 63-78
15. Interrogating images of Asia in contemporary African visual arts and literature	2						2	4	Dahir 2018, https://qz.com/africa/1343155/michael-soi-china-loves-africa-paintings-question-chinas-influence-in-africa/
16. Creative project group presentations	2						2	4	
Preparation for the essay and the exam								41	
Total	28		4				32	101	

*Times of the seminars can change to accommodate the course and students' needs. The changes will be announced in advance.

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Assessment time	Assessment criteria
- Music video or advertising analysis (2 pages)	20	During semester	Students will have to provide a written analysis of visual or video source chosen from the list provided by the lecturer or chosen individually but approved by the lecturer. <i>The assessment is based on the following criteria:</i> - consistency of the argument / structure of assignment; - depth of analysis; - critical thinking.
- Assignment (2 pages)	30	During semester	Students will have to submit one (a OR b) chosen assignment: a. Expert advice (briefing note) to a journalist (audio/video/written) b. School lecture plan on race and racism.

<p>- Creative group project + individual reflection piece (1000 words)</p>	<p>50</p>	<p>During examination period</p>	<p><i>The assessment is based on the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consistency of the argument; - demonstration of literature knowledge / quality of data; - critical thinking; - depth of analysis. <p>Students will have to create a group project (max. 4 students) that tackles a particular academic question in a creative and engaging way. This can take many forms: it can be the result of a mini-ethnographic project, or an assemblage of images or it can result from an installation of a flipchart in your student accommodation with an image or a question that you ask passers-by to engage with. It can also be a photographic or a video-based project. Alternatively, it can be an oral history project, where you can dig into your family or friends' oral history.</p> <p>The evaluation of the creative group project is done through a 1000-word reflection piece that is marked individually. In it you reflect on and engage with the themes presented through a discussion of academic literature.</p> <p><i>The assessment is based on the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - choice of the research question; - consistency of the argument / structure of assignment; - quality of literature / sources / data; - depth of analysis; - academic literacy.
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or a web link
Compulsory reading list				
Ed. Pedro Amakasu Raposo, David Arase, Scarlett Cornelissen	2017	<i>Routledge Handbook of Africa-Asia Relations</i>		Routledge
David H. Shinn, Joshua Eisenman	2012	<i>China and Africa: A Century of Engagement</i>		University of Pennsylvania Press
Peter Hessler	2015	<i>Learning to Speak Lingerie: Chinese Merchants and the Inroads of Globalization</i>		<i>New Yorker</i> , August 10-17 https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/10/learning-to-speak-lingerie
Ed. John C. Hawley	2008	<i>India in Africa, Africa in India: Indian Ocean Cosmopolitanisms</i>		Indiana University Press
Priscilla Boshoff	2011	<i>Bollywood Nights: Indian Youth and the Creation of Diasporic Identity in South Africa</i>	Vol. 26	<i>TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies</i>
Ed. Scarlett Cornelissen, Yoichi Mine	2018	<i>Migration and Agency in a Globalizing World: Afro-Asian Encounters</i>		Palgrave Macmillan
Binyavanga Wainaina	2005	<i>How to Write About Africa</i>	Nr. 92	<i>Granta: The View from Africa</i>
Alessandro Jedlowski, Michael W. Thomas	2017	<i>Representing 'otherness' in African popular media: Chinese Characters in Ethiopian Video-Films</i>	Nr. 29 (1)	<i>Journal of African Cultural Studies</i>
Ed. Jean Marie Allman	2004	<i>Fashioning Africa: Power and the Politics of Dress</i>		Indiana University Press
Roberto Castillo	2020	<i>"Race" and "racism" in contemporary Africa-China</i>	Vol. 21, No. 3	<i>Inter-Asia Cultural Studies</i>

		<i>relations research: approaches, controversies and reflections</i>		
Zimitri Erasmus	2017	<i>Race Otherwise – Forging a New Humanism for South Africa</i>		Wits University Press
Ed. Nehemia Levtzion, Randall L. Pouwels	2000	<i>The History of Islam in Africa</i>		Ohio University Press
Haim Yacobi	2016	<i>Israel and Africa – A Genealogy of Moral Geography</i>		Routledge
Alicia C. Decker, Gabeba Baderoon	2018	<i>African Feminisms: Cartographies for the Twenty-First Century</i>		Duke University Press
Ed. Bruce Mutsaers	2018	<i>The Palgrave Handbook of Media and Communication Research in Africa</i>		Palgrave Macmillan
Shubo Li	2017	<i>Mediatized China-Africa Relations: How Media Discourses Negotiate the Shifting of Global Order</i>		Palgrave Macmillan
Abdi Latif Dahir	2018	<i>A Kenyan painter's art questions China's deepening reach in Africa</i>		<i>Quartz Africa</i> , July 29, https://qz.com/africa/1343155/michael-soi-china-loves-africa-paintings-question-chinas-influence-in-africa/
Additional reading list				
Maura Cullen	2008	<i>35 Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say: Surprising Things We Say That Widen the Diversity Gap</i>		Morgan James Publishing
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	2015	<i>We Should All Be Feminists</i>		Anchor Books
Ed. Shihan Silva Jayasuriya, Jean-Pierre Angenot	2008	<i>Uncovering the History of Africans in Asia</i>		Brill
Meeta Jha	2015	<i>The Global Beauty Industry: Colorism, Racism, and the National Body</i>		Routledge
Ed. Elias Kifon Bongmba	2012	<i>The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to African Religions</i>		John Wiley & Sons
Karin Barber	2018	<i>A History of African Popular Culture</i>		Cambridge University Press