

İSTANBUL TİCARET ÜNİVERSİTESİ
SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ
AFRICAN STUDIES MA PROGRAM
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ULI503- THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This course introduces graduate students to important theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of international relations. The course surveys both mainstream and critical approaches to the subject, examining how these theories conceptualize ‘the international’ as a field of study. The course explicitly relates IR to cognate disciplines, reflects critically on the conceptual frameworks and modes of analysis used by IR theories, and studies the co-constitutive relationship between the theory and practice of international relations. We will study major theoretical paradigms, including Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism. We will discuss intellectual history as well as cutting-edge contributions to the field.

AIR 503- INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

This course provides a general introduction to the study of contemporary African politics. The course is divided into three main parts. First, it will study Africa’s pre-colonial history and political system. Later, it will examine the socio-political environment of contemporary Africa. In the third part, it will explore the foreign policies and relations of African countries with the rest of the world. Here the concept of post-colonialism will be critically discussed.

AIR507 EARLY AND MODERN AFRICAN HISTORY

The course is an introduction to the history of Africa. It will focus mainly on a number of common themes in the cultural and historical development of African societies. The state formation, the expansion of Islam in the region, the consequences of slave trade, colonial conquest, resistance, and finally the independence will be studied in detail.

AIR509 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN AFRICA

The course will situate the broader study of Africa more specifically within the discipline of Political Science. This means that we are not simply interested in learning historical facts about African politics and government. We are also interested in a range of academic theories designed to explain patterns of African politics, and the variations between and within African states that occur along a number of dimensions. The goal will be to understand this body of literature and to think about new research questions generated from a careful examination of empirical puzzles that appear at all levels of African politics.

SBE513- ACADEMIC RESEARCH METHODS AND ETHICS

This course aims to provide in-depth knowledge of research methodology. Accordingly, it trains students so that they can set up a research question, make a literature review about this same question and formulate a research plan. Later, students will understand correct ways to refer and cite from scientific literature. Student of this course will learn how to prepare a dissertation or thesis in their research fields.

AIR512- FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS

This course aims at introducing students to the most important frameworks of analysis in the study of foreign policy. It covers the literature, research topics, and current issues in the area of foreign policy analysis. The course intends to answer the main question “Why do states do what they do in international politics?” The definition of foreign policy, external and internal sources of foreign policy, the role of government in foreign policy appear as the main themes on which the course focuses.

AIR 514 COLONIALISM AND POST-COLONIAL CRITIQUE

Colonialism, an experience of the past, has a newer version: so-called post-colonialism. Post colonialism can be defined as economic, military or political power of strong states over weaker ones. It represents the aftermath of Western colonialism. The course explores different types of colonialism and post-colonialism. It will focus on the exploitation of the colonized people and their land. Accordingly, ideologies of colonialism, imperialism and post-colonialism will be discussed. Popular movements of resistance against different types of colonialism in different countries will be studied from a comparative perspective.

AIR515- WORLD POLITICS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

One of the main themes in international relations is the causes and consequences of various conflicts. The course explores contemporary international conflicts and tries to understand why states fight one another. It addresses the main question “can conflict be resolved?” A variety of methods and techniques for resolving these conflicts will be analyzed. For doing this, the course will focus on themes such as conflict resolution, conflict management, conflict transformation, peace-building and conflict prevention.

AIR516- SEMINAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

The course examines and explores the politics and international relations of the states in the most contentious region in the world: The Middle East. What explains the perpetual political stasis that has characterized today’s Middle East? In order to give an answer to this main question the authoritarian regimes, internal conflicts, popular uprisings against repressive governments and finally war-like

general atmosphere of the region will be studied. The Arab Spring, the ever-lasting crises in Syria and Iraq, Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be analyzed in detail.

AIR 517- AFRICAN ECONOMICS

The course examines the economic problems confronting sub-Saharan Africa countries. The main question the course addressing is “how to accelerate sustainable growth and reduce poverty?” In regional level the similarities and differences between African countries will be studied in detail from a comparative perspective. In international level, the course will explore Africa's relationship with the rest of the world, focusing on trade, aid and economic cooperation.

AIR518 - AFRICA IN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

This course aims at analyzing international relations of African countries. It is an introduction course to the processes of international politics and foreign policy in the region. African foreign policy in the precolonial and colonial periods, African international relations after the independence in 1960, African international politics during the Cold War and finally actual situation of foreign policy in today's Africa will be studied chronologically.

AIR 519 - AFRICA IN THE OTTOMAN HISTORY

The Ottoman Empire's first contact with Africa was realized with the conquest of Egypt in the 16th century. Since then Ottoman rulers tried to conquer the region in accordance with their expansionist strategies and they have achieved -partially- this aim. This course explores the Ottoman rule in the North Africa. The Ottoman Empire's expansionist efforts in the region, the Ottoman participation in the Conference of Berlin, the intention of the Ottoman rulers to conquer colonies in the region and diplomatic negotiations conducted will be studied in detail.