University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Political Mythology of the African Great Lakes Region - Political Tales of Diversity and Identity, PG_00179116		
Field of study	Criminology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	e-learning
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish polish
Semester of study	1	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Wioleta Gierszewska	
	Teachers	dr Wioleta Gierszewska	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 30.0

eNauczanie source addresses:

Moodle ID: 12954 Mitologia polityczna regionu Wielkich Jezior Afrykańskich - polityczne opowieści o różnorodności i tożsamości
https://mdl.ug.edu.pl/course/view.php?id=12954

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

To explain the basic concepts of political myths and the historical changes in the sphere of politics in the Sub-Saharan Africa region and especially the African Great Lakes region. To explain to students the diversity and distinctiveness of the African Great Lakes region.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
		Knowledge: - the student has basic knowledge of political mythology, diversity, identity, political changes in Central and Eastern Africa. Skills: - is able to analyze the history of the region and current political events, sees political myths in them; - is able to correctly interpret and explain political behavior; - is able to actively participate in public discourse and explain and describe the formation of political myths, culture and political thought in the Central and Eastern African region; - is aware of the relationships between politics and historical, economic, social and cultural phenomena and processes, and has the ability to evaluate them. Social competences (attitudes) - recognizes and respects differences in points of view, determined by different political, cultural and social positions; - has the need to further supplement, expand and improve acquired knowledge and skills; - has the ability to think analytically; - should develop sensitivity to the role and significance of political changes in the Central and Eastern African region; - the knowledge and skills acquired will enable independent and team participation in the process of further research on the role of political myths in politics and the impact of politics on the development of the African Great Lakes region.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents	**Program content** Characteristics, diversity of the African Great Lakes region The essence of political myth, its place and role in the political culture of societies The formation of political culture in the countries of the Central and Eastern African region Founding myths, myths of the beginning. Political mythology in the pre-colonial period The colonial period The palette of political mythology of post-colonialism The influence of beliefs and religion on the political mythology of the African Great Lakes region The concept of freedom as a material of political myth The myth of democracy - different perspectives Ethnic identity in the political mythology of the region Religion. Belief system The West in the political myth of Central and Eastern Africa. The contemporary image of the region's mythology Conflicts. The problem of human rights violations in the region The influence of raw material deposits on security Migration policy. The problem of refugees Prospects for the development of the African Great Lakes region
Prerequisites and co-requisites	

Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	attendance at classes	70.0%	15.0%
	preparation for classes	51.0%	85.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	A. Siewierska-Chmaj, Myths in Politics. Functions and Mechanisms of Actualization, Warsaw 2016 J. Bar, Burundi. State and Society (from Colonialism to the Present), Krakow 2021 J. Bar, After Genocide. State and Society in Rwanda 1994-2012, Krakow 2013 K. Trzciński, Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Perspective of West African Political Thought, Warsaw 2013 M. Tymowski, States of Pre-Colonial Africa, Wrocław: Leopoldinum 1999 R. Kłosowicz, Contexts of Dysfunctionality of Sub-Saharan African States, Krakow 2017	
	Supplementary literature	R. Lemarchand, Myth - Making and the Rationality of Mass Murder: Rwanda, Bosnia and Cambodia in Comparative Perspective, Leeds African Studies Bulletin, 66 (2004), 31-43. R. Lemarchand, Ethnicity as myth: The view from the Central Africa. Occasional Paper, Center of African Studies, University of Copenhagen, May 1999.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	There isn't		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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