

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Interpreting conflict in post-colonial Africa
Status: Definitive
Code: **6114HIST** (122245)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Christopher Vaughan	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 35
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 165

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Online	2
Workshop	33

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	2000 word essay	50	
Essay	AS2	2500 word essay	50	

Aims

1. To encourage students to think historically about conflict in post-colonial Africa, paying attention to continuity and change over time
2. To encourage students to construct multi-causal analyses of African conflicts
3. To think about local, national, regional and global dimensions to so-called 'civil wars' in Africa

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Construct satisfying historical analyses of particular African conflicts
- 2 Critically assess broad theoretical and comparative frameworks for understanding African conflicts more generally
- 3 Understand the linkages between local, national, regional and global conflict dynamics

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2000 word Essay	2	3
2500 word Essay	1	3

Outline Syllabus

Key concepts in African warfare (Ethnicity, 'Greed'/Resources, The state in Africa; Global politics)

Wars of decolonisation and liberation (Mau Mau, Sudan, Angola, Mozambique)

Warfare and mass violence since the end of the Cold War (Rwanda, Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia)

Learning Activities

Workshops

Notes

The global media has frequently interpreted the many conflicts of post-colonial Africa as 'tribal' violence. These crude stereotypes are themselves the products of a deep and continuing history of representations of Africa as the 'primitive other' in western culture. This course takes us beyond the stereotypes to examine in detail the historical, political and economic basis for episodes of mass violence and warfare in Africa from the 1950s onwards. We will draw connections between the local, state-level, regional and global factors which have fed into these conflicts. We will use the work of political scientists, anthropologists, economists as well as that of historians, in order to gain comparative and theoretical insight into the causes and character of post-colonial conflict. Our understanding of state and society in post-colonial Africa will be challenged throughout.