



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

ADS
ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SUPPORT

African Insights

Short Learning Programme

African Insights introduces you to the intellectual traditions and debates in Africa.

All you need in order to complete African Insights is what every student at a university already has: a thirst for new learning and an open mind. African Insights introduces you to some of the key concepts in Africanisation and decolonisation – captured in key texts written by Africans in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

COURSE OVERVIEW

African Insights consists of 8 units aimed to help you develop an appreciation of Africa's many and rich inheritances. Completion of African Insights will enable you to:

- Have an informed appreciation of the role of Africa in the world and of its inheritances.
- Have a foundational understanding of key historical and political concepts in African studies.
- Be able to link the South African experience to the greater African experience.
- Have confronted and responded to the voices of women and the LGBTIQ community in Africa in ways that reflect an understanding and appreciation of South Africa's democracy and the Bill of Rights enshrined in the South African Constitution.
- Have a foundational understanding of epistemology/African epistemology.

UNIT OVERVIEW

Unit 1 – Africa: A Continent in Flux

Once you have completed this unit, it will be clear to you that: 'Africa' and 'African' are both concepts (or ideas), and realities; Africa's diverse languages, cultures, and identities are in constant flux; and, people on the continent transform African spaces in multiple ways, carving out places of belonging and inventing new forms of organization.

Unit 2 – The Question of Language

This unit explores the question of language by considering the following key questions: do African texts have to use an African indigenous language to be considered African? Can an African writer use English, French, Portuguese, or any other colonial language and still be considered African?

Unit 3 – The South African Inheritance

This unit introduces you to the South African inheritance which stems from the Freedom Charter and the South African constitution. The unit also covers South African Art as an expression of human rights and whether or not South Africans have fully benefited from the Freedom Charter and the Constitution, which is their inheritance.

Unit 4 – LGBTIQ+ Rights

This unit considers the rights, or lack thereof, of the LGBTIQ+ community in the South African context and the African continent at large and the role of the constitution in ensuring that the rights of every citizen are upheld.

Unit 5 – African Women and Their Rights

The unit develops an appreciation for African women and their contributions to various inheritances of the African continent.

Unit 6 – Slavery and Diaspora

In this unit, students will be exposed to different forms of slavery and the influence of slavery on the African heritage.

Unit 7 – Forms of Exile

This unit considers different forms of exile that are not only physical. This unit is a continuation of Unit 6.

Unit 8 – African Renaissance

Lastly, this unit attempts to pave a way forward by asking the question: where to from here?

WHAT WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE UPON COMPLETION?

A digital certificate will be issued on successful completion which may be viewed and shared with third parties or possible employers through the UJ Digital Certificate platform. Note: For currently-registered UJ students, this achievement will also reflect on the top of your academic transcript.

COST

African Insights has no cost implications for students.

CLASSES OR TUTORIALS

The online nature of the programme means that students are not required to attend any lectures or tutorials. Rather, students are expected to read all the texts they are exposed to, answer multiple choice questions (MCQs), and participate in the online discussions. As a result, African Insights does not clash with existing academic schedules of students.

ASSESSMENTS

All assessments are in the form of multiple choice questions (MCQs). An overall mark of 50% is required to pass the programme.

APPLICATION AND ACADEMIC ENQUIRIES

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