

Geopolitics of Sub-Saharan Africa

Strategic competition, African agency and resource management (e-learning)

Jun 2nd, 2025 - Jun 6th, 2025

14:00h – 18:00h



Application deadline: 30th of May 2025
<https://www.ubi.pt/Curso/1370>

The Geopolitics of Sub-Saharan Africa course uses the Geopolitics analysis tool – space as a theater of operations – to understand Sub-Saharan Africa today. With a multidisciplinary approach, the course covers key issues of geopolitical activity in the region, presented by specialists in the subjects.

General objectives:

- Identify key geopolitical issues in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Reflect on key dimensions of geopolitical action, namely those related to domestic and international politics, the environment, issues of war and peace, and multilateral security organizations.
- Highlight relevant cases of Portuguese-speaking African Countries.
- Understand the processes in a regional way, involving several States, about dynamics in the South Atlantic, Gulf of Guinea, and Horn of Africa.

Duration: 20h (+130h autonomous work + 12h tutorials for the 6 ECTS).

Tuition Fee: 50€ (25€ for students and staff of the institutions involved in the scientific committee and Portuguese public entities).

Value of the scholarship: 400€

Scholarships: 27

6 ECTS awarded by FCSH/UBI (optional, upon the positive evaluation of an essay with 6000 words),

Programme:

1) Strategic competition, African agency and resource management

- Shifting Power in the Red Sea: Local Agency in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape – Federico Donelli, University of Trieste, Italy
- Conflicts and Critical Resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo – Dr. Mursel Bayram, Head of the Department of African Studies, Ankara Social Sciences University, Turkey
- African agency for investors and geopolitics – Fernando Jorge Cardoso, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, Portugal
- Weak States and Spheres of Great Power Competition – Hanna Kassab, East Carolina University, USA

2) Portuguese-speaking African countries (50 Years of PALOP independence)

- The metamorphosis of the Portuguese speaking countries political systems – Francisco Leandro, University of Macau, China
- São Tomé e Príncipe and China's XXI Century Maritime Silk Road – Vasco Becker-Weinberg, Nova School of Law, Portugal
- Structural Challenges of Economic Structures in the CPLP – Manuel Ennes Ferreira, ISEG, Portugal
- Mozambique at 50: reflections on state formation, democracy and the role of natural resources – Roberta Holanda Maschietto, Institute of Public Policy and International Relations (IPPRI) of the São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil

3) General theme

- Political Transition in the Horn of Africa: Experience for Ethiopia and Sudan since 2018 – Dr. Bayuligne Zemedagegnehu Bahru, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- The New agenda for peace in an era of great power competition: challenges to the African security architecture – Juliana de Paula Bigatão Puig, Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), Brazil

Requirements: Secondary education.

Requirements to apply for the scholarship:

- Age over 18 years old;
- To be resident in the Portuguese territory;
- 80% of assiduity;
- Approval on an essay (6 ECTS);
- Submit the application and all the documentation by the established date;
- Selected in rank order.

Requested in the application:

- Curriculum Vitae + Proof of student or employee of the institutions involved in the scientific committee and Portuguese public entities.

Scientific Committee:

- Alberto Neves Marinheiro (IDN), Lisbon, Portugal
- Aleksí Ylönen (CEI-Iscte/IUL), Lisbon, Portugal
- Mürsel Bayram – Department of African Studies at the Institute for Area Studies at the Social Sciences of Ankara University, Turkey
- Francisco Leandro – Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Macau, China
- Isabel Ferreira Nunes (IDN), Lisbon, Portugal
- Gilberto Oliveira – Institute of International Relations and Defense (IRID) of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil
- Ricardo Sousa (FCSH/UBI), Covilhã and OBSERVARE/UAL, Lisbon, Portugal
- Yoannes Tekalign Beza, Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia