GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Poverty, Development and Inequality in Modern African History (A005115)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	lecture
			group work
			independent work
			peer teaching

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

Guéné, Enid	LW03	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Africa
African history
development studies
development economics
anthropology of development
histories of poverty
colonial expropriation
redistributive politics
inequality
social stratification

Position of the course

- Provide well-founded, scientific knowledge and insights about African history and the impact of this history on mentalities, global relations and contemporary African societies.
- Broaden insights in historiographic methods and scientific methodology from other disciplines that are relevant to the field of African history
- Broaden knowledge about and insight in social theories relevant to the field of African history

- Set up historical research about Africa and apply knowledge and insights regarding African history and historiography on a scientific level.
- Communicating about research methods and results with fellow student and laymen
- Develop own critical, well-funded, scientific views on Africa within a temporal, spatial and social framework

Contents

This seminar aims to introduce you to different ways of explaining why Africa is poor and what to do about it. It uses literature from several disciplines – history, economic history, economics, development studies and anthropology of development – in order to give you a sense of how diverse approaches to this topic are. The most important things to bring are curiosity and the perseverance to work through writings in unfamiliar academic idioms.

Initial competences

It is recommended that students take this class when they have completed their BAs, as it involves a large and diverse amount of specialised literature in English. But advanced BA students in their final year should also find it useful.

Final competences

1 Learn about distinctive features and changes in the history of poverty and inequality and developmental efforts to address them, in African contexts and with some comparative information from global and 'Western' history.
2 Learn about the history of poverty and inequality, of development discourse and practice in Africa.
3 Examine arguments about poverty, inequality and development from a variety of social science disciplines, including economics, anthropology, history and development studies.
4 Make connections between arguments from different disciplines and examine how they frame similar problems differently.
5 Recognise and examine different policy and political subtexts.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students read texts, submit questions on them before class, and take turns to present commentary on the texts in class. Classes revolve around student discussion.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: syllabus available in ufora
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Handouts

Name: articles available on ufora
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes

Type: Other

Name: reserved books in the library
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : No
Available in the Library : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Some lecturing, guidance for in-class discussions and the preparation of students' contributions to class, provision of background on readings.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Students are assessed on their participation in discussions, on 1 short presentation, on their short discussion papers and on the final examination. The final exam is an oral discussion on the texts read in which students' understanding and the ways in which they have managed to connect and contrast analytical frameworks are probed.

Calculation of the examination mark

70% permanent evaluation in class, 30% final oral exam.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during weekly meetings is required.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy