GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Afrikaans: Linguistics and Literature (A005792)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2027-2028

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2027-2028

T'Sjoen, Yves	LW07	lecturer-in-charge
Colleman, Timothy	LW06	co-lecturer
Vitackova, Martina	LW07	staff member

Offered in the following programmes in 2027-2028	**crdts**	**offering**
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - French)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Elective Set African Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Afrikaans, linguistics, literature, South-Africa, Namibia, history, postcolonial literature, historical linguistics, multilingualism, comparison Dutch-Afrikaans

Position of the course

The course offers an introduction to Afrikaans, the linguistics of Afrikaans, and Afrikaans literature in their social and multilingual context.

Contents

1. Origins and evolution of Afrikaans, against the background of the history of South Africa and Namibia.
2. Sociolinguistic and language-political aspects of present day South Africa as a multilingual nation, with special attention for the status of Afrikaans.
3. Present-day variations in Afrikaans: relationship between Standard Afrikaans and other varieties
4. Language acquisition: overview of elementary grammar and vocabulary of Afrikaans, and the differences from Dutch.
5. Overview of the development of the Afrikaans literature from the nineteenth century to the present day.
6. Discussion of authors and themes in Afrikaans literature, with special attention for the relations between the Dutch-speaking and African/Afrikaans (South African) literature.

Initial competences

Elementary knowledge of linguistic, literary and historical concepts. A sound

knowledge of present-day Dutch grammar.

Final competences

1 To have knowledge of the development of Afrikaans and Afrikaans literature.
2 To have insight into the (historical-) social context in which Afrikaans came into existence and in which Afrikaans literature functions.
3 To have insight into the complex cultural and social context of South Africa as a multilingual nation, and into the ways in which this is reflected in Afrikaans literature.
4 To have knowledge of the main lexical and grammatical contrasts between Dutch and Afrikaans.
5 To be able to follow and understand oral presentations in Afrikaans and to read and understand texts written in Afrikaans.
6 To be able to understand texts in Afrikaans and translate into Dutch; to be able to translate (simple) Dutch sentences into idiomatic Afrikaans.
7 To be able to recognize and analyse Afrikaans grammatical and lexical phenomena.

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures on Afrikaans linguistics and Afrikaans literature, plus a seminar on language acquisition. Additional language exercises are provided online.
This course assumes that students will practice responsible use of generative artificial intelligence (AI). What this means in practical terms will be explained during lectures.
There are no class recordings provided.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Grammar of Afrikaans
Indicative price: € 26
Optional: yes
Author : Annelies Verdoolaege en Jacques Van Keymeulen
Oldest Usable Edition : All older editions are perfectly useful
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not
Additional information: Grammatical handbook as an extra source for the language classes

Type: Handbook

Name: Baie Afrikaans: Een handboek voor Nederlandstaligen
Indicative price: € 40
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Pages : 205
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Type: Syllabus

Name: History of Afrikaans literature in South Africa
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

Grammatica van het Afrikaans, Annelies Verdoolaege en Jacques Van Keymeulen, Gent, Academia Press, 2013.
Baie Afrikaans: Een handboek voor Nederlandstaligen, Sen Joostens, Suléne Pilon en Lieve De Wachter, Owl Press, 2024.
Een geschiedenis van de Afrikaanse literatuur in Zuid-Afrika. Yves T'Sjoen, Gent, Woolf, 2024 (pdf-file)

Course content-related study coaching

Collective and individual guidance

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

See Calculation of the examination mark

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam (linguistics & language acquisition): 50%
Oral exam (literature and reflection report conference): 50%
There are separate exams for the evaluation of the two main components of the course: (i) linguistics and language acquisition and (ii) literature.
Passing the entire course is only possible if the student passes both parts of the exam separately (Afrikaans linguistics and language acquisition + Afrikaans literature). Students who fail one of these two components of the exam, can maximally obtain 9/20 as their final score. The same applies for students who do not take part in one of the two exams.
Students attend the conference "Inter-Breyten. Breytenbach in Context" (26-27 November 2026)

Facilities for Working Students

Accommodations:
1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours
Extra information:
For all classes concerning language acquisition of Afrikaans, student attendance is highly desirable