

Language Documentation and Description in Africa (A003810)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Contact hrs

45.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

lecture

45.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Goes, Heidi

LW21

staff member

de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

crdts

offering

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

language endangerment, language death, language revitalization, language documentation, culture documentation, language description, archiving, dissemination, Bantu, Africa

Position of the course

This course provides a broad introduction to language documentation and description, a new sub-discipline within linguistics, with special attention to the African languages. A recent international handbook is being used as guide (Boerger *et al.* 2018); during the classes the examples are taken from the experiences of the BantUGent research group.

Contents

Part 1: Theory

Lesson 1 – Language endangerment, language death and language revitalization: What?

Lesson 2 – Language and culture documentation: What?

Lesson 3 – Themes, motivations and ethical aspects

Part 2: A language and culture documentation project

Lesson 4 – Planning of a documentation project

Lesson 5 – The documentary corpus and archive

Lesson 6 – BantUGent examples of projects

Part 3: Equipment and software

Lesson 7 – Equipment

Lesson 8 – Software

Part 4: Fieldwork

Lesson 9 – Data management and elicitation

Lesson 10 – Fieldwork

Lesson 11 – BantUGent examples of fieldwork

Part 5: Post-field processing

Lesson 12 – Archiving, description, publication and dissemination

Initial competences

Secondary school.

Final competences

A good understanding of what language documentation and description in Africa entail.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture

Learning materials and price

Handbook (Boerger *et al.* 2018); own PowerPoint presentations; own equipment and software demonstrations; own audio, photos and videos; BantUGent examples.

References

Boerger, Brenda H., Sarah R. Moeller, Will Reiman & Stephen Self. 2018. *Language and Culture Documentation Manual*. <https://leanpub.com>: Leanpub.

Course content-related study coaching

Possibility to ask questions during and after class, via e-mail, and through Ufora.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodic evaluation (written exam)

Facilities for Working Students

Instead of being physically present during class, self-study of the handbook, in combination with the slides which are uploaded to Ufora following each lesson. Participate in the written exam like the regular students.