

## Research Seminar: History of Africa (A004049)

**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 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English

Gent

seminar

independent work

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

De Coene, Pieter

LW03

staff member

Guéné, Enid

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Becker, Felicitas Maria

LW03

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

[Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities \(main subject History\)](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme History](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

English, Dutch

**Keywords**

Africa, History, Historiography

**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 laypersons
- Develop own critical, well-funded, scientific views on Africa within a temporal, spatial and social framework

**Contents**

The course provides an overview of core themes in the history of Africa, including colonialism, ethnicity and the problems of post-colonial politics.

Beyond that, its content is shaped by the interests of the students participating. Students will be expected to formulate their own prospective research topics, and to present them to the class.

The teacher provides input, readings and guidance for the presentations.

Potential topics are endless; they include anything connected to the modern and contemporary history of Africa.

**Initial competences**

Students are familiar with historiography and have a basic understanding of non-western or world history

**Final competences**

1 Students know and understand the important evolutions, movements and schools in African

historiography, including the most recent debates

- 2 Students are able to independently set up an historical inquiry, select and apply the most relevant research methods from various disciplines, and to position their point of view and arguments in the scientific field.
- 3 Students are capable of communicating their research methods and results to their fellow students and laymen (written and spoken). Students are receptive to cooperation with experts in their own or related fields of study
- 4 Students adopt a critical attitude towards their own thinking, environment and contemporary international relations on the one hand, and towards past and current issues regarding power, the economy and culture in African states and societies on the other hand.

#### **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**

Seminar, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Weekly meetings during which teaching material is discussed in group. Classes revolve around student participation. Deelname is verplicht.

#### **Learning materials and price**

Teaching material will be provided through the library and minerva. There is no course handbook, but John Iliffe's *Africans: the history of a continent* can serve as an introduction to those who are new to African history.

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive teaching  
Feedback after each phase of the learning process (Minerva or face-to-face during office hours)  
Follow up of research activities students

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Participation, Assignment

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

Participation, Assignment

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Assignment

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

A positioning paper (preparation for MA thesis) and participation in seminars. The positioning paper can only be submitted in the first exam period. Student who fail this course, will have to hand in a different paper (about a subject that is not related to their Master's Dissertation) in the second exam period.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Non-periodical assessment (50%) periodical assessment (50%)

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Student attendance during educational activities 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

