

Language, History and Identity in Central and Eastern Africa (A005111)

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 2022-2023

A (semester 1) English Gent lecture: response lecture 50.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2022-2023

Meeuwis, Michael	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Mathys, Gillian	LW03	co-lecturer
Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2022-2023

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Africa; identity; ethnicity; colonialism; decolonisation

Position of the course

This is a course at master's level and as such aims to provide an enlargement of and reflections on knowledge acquired at bachelor's level (Ghent University or elsewhere).

Contents

This course approaches ethnicity and identity formation in which language is referred to, from a post-positivist, post-essentialist and social constructivist perspective. We study ideological, sociological, and political processes of identity formation in the history and present of Africa both at the emic and metascientific levels -- i.e., the role of the colonial and postcolonial sciences in these processes. Attention is paid to colonial reinterpretations of precolonial identities as well as to postcolonial and decolonial contestations of them.

Initial competences

Required to start this MA course:

- factual knowledge: basic knowledge of African geography (countries, cities, etc.), the history of the European colonization of Africa across its subregions, the history of decolonization and of post-colonial states (regimes, names of the main leaders) in Africa, etc.
- Understanding of at least these theoretical concepts: agency, assimilationism, indirect rule, emic / etic, cultural evolutionism, colonial sciences, essentialism and primordialism, language ideologies, language policy, language planning, lingua franca, interethnic language, language for wider communication (LWC), official language.

Final competences

- 1 The student has acquired an understanding of identity and ethnicity as a process rather than a product, of concrete cases of language-related processes of ethnicity and identity formation and reformation in the history and present of Africa, and of the central role of colonialism and postcolonial contestation therein.

- 2 To critically question some conventional concepts and distinctions in mainstream historiography of Africa, such as 'group', 'ethnicity', 'identity', and 'language'.

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

Lecture: response lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

If Covid measures so require: online alternatives

Learning materials and price

Scholarly articles, will be posted on ufora

References

None apart from the compulsory reading materials

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback in class

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous 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

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodic, written exam (70%). Possibly take home. Open questions relating to a selection of the articles and, above all, to the ways these articles were discussed during the classes.

Non-periodic, permanent evaluation (30%): Each student gives at least one presentation, during one of the classes, of one the compulsory scholarly articles

Calculation of the examination mark

see above

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

1. Class attendance is mandatory as it will be included in the calculation of the final score.

2.No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus without recordings, except in case of corona measures).

3. It is not possible to take the exam at another time.

4. Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment.

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy and <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuden>.