

Literature, Media and the Arts in Central and Eastern Africa (A005112)

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 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

group work

independent work

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Adenekan, Olorunshola

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Van Bockhaven, Vicky

LW21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Master of Science in Teaching in Languages\(main subject African Languages and Cultures\)](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Master of Arts in African Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context](#)

5

A

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

5

A

[Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Central Africa; Eastern Africa; Literature, media and arts; Politics of artistic production, reception and dissemination; Art in context; Art and the politics of memory-making.

Position of the course

The course studies arts forms and media from an interdisciplinary and contextual perspective. It takes the form of a seminar with active participation of the students.

Contents

This course will approach African art forms from a critical contextual perspective. Instead of neat genre divisions whereby art is regarded as a realm separate from the rest of society, the course aims at connecting various African art forms to each other and to the wider societal circles of context. Focusing on art production, reception, and dissemination, the course addresses the relations between aesthetics, autonomy and politics with examples from literature, film, architecture, performance, visual, material and plastic arts, focusing in particular also on popular arts and media. The case-studies relating to a wide range of themes – urbanity and representation; (colonial) memory and public debates on history; curatorial activism and artivism; art and heritage co-option in politics and conflict; new ICT and tech scenes- mainly in relation to Central and Eastern Africa.

Initial competences

Bachelor in African languages and cultures or upon approval of the lecturing team.

Final competences

1 To have acquired an advanced and academically underpinned knowledge and

understanding of literature, arts, and media in African contexts

- 2 To be able to critically interpret the relations between artist, aesthetics, and society, from African and diasporic contexts
- 3 To be able to set up a well-argued analysis of the hierarchies involved in art-production, (post-)colonial imagery, and the politics of memory in art production and dissemination.

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, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Please note: As a consequence of COVID19 possibly other didactical methods may be used in case of need.

Study material

None

References

Apart from the compulsory reading materials, no specific references

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback in class, on appointment and by e-mail

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

- A. Non-periodic, permanent evaluation (30%):
 1. Participating in 3-5 in-class assignments.
 2. Weekly compulsory reading.
 3. Participation in discussions/performance during the course meetings.
(1, 2, 3 together 10%: component 1).
 4. Each student offers at least one presentation, during one of the course meetings during which this is scheduled and acts as discussant at the same time. (20%: component 2)
- B. Periodic evaluation: paper and final discussion (70%):
 1. Each student selects a session from the program and writes a research paper about its theme (3,500 to 4,000 words, notes and references not included) (60%)
 2. During the final discussion, each student will engage with 3 out of 5 questions that were given for a take-home exam and we will discuss the paper (10%)
The periodic evaluation will be considered together (70%: component 3).

Please note:

You have to obtain a pass mark for all 3 components.

Calculation of the examination mark

See above

Except in the case of proven *force majeure* during the permanent evaluation, such as illness or other, there is no possibility for retake of the permanent evaluation

part in the second exam period: the mark the student has obtained for permanent evaluation in the first exam session is simply copied to the second exam session. The student can only be allowed to take part in the periodic exam (i.e. submitting a paper) after having obtained a pass mark for the permanent evaluation (i.e. having offered a presentation, having taken up the role of discussant, and having actively participated in the plenary debates). In order to complete the course, the student is required to obtain a pass mark for all exam partims (PE and NPE).

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance during educational activities is required.
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year is only possible for the periodic exam
- 3 Feedback can be given on appointment during office hours or by e-mail.

Extra information:

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