

Gender and Identity in African Literatures (A005114)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	independent work peer teaching lecture seminar
B (semester 2)	English	Gent	

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Frateur, Amber	LW21	staff member
Brinkman, Inge	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Virtual Mobility	5	B
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	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

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Gender; Identity; Novel; Short story; Text and context in Africa

Position of the course

Seminar

Contents

African literary texts in most cases are not meant as art for art's sake and do not call for a purely aesthetic evaluation. In most cases, the artistic, creative values are combined with a strong relation with the wider socio-political context in which the texts are produced.

The issue of identity has been of crucial importance for the formation of this relation. African authors/performers intensely debated the meaning of the concepts 'Africa', 'race', 'the nation', and 'ethnicity'. The choice of language has likewise been a factor in these identity formations.

Gender identity at times intersected with these debates, but in most instances has been treated as a separate issue. In this course we will make an attempt to bring these debates together. How do gender identities relate to Africa, race, the nation, ethnicity, language, and other identity categories?

In terms of case-studies the focus will be on the novel and short stories, but other genres may come in: autobiographies, historical narratives, film, etc.

Initial competences

Successfully completed the course 'Inleiding tot de literaturen van Afrika' (Introduction to African Literatures) or equivalent.

Final competences

- 1 to have acquired an advanced and academically underpinned knowledge and understanding of the relations between identity categories – in particular gender – and literary texts and contexts in Africa.
- 2 to have acquired a sophisticated insight in the theoretical and methodological debates concerning representations of identity in African literary texts and contexts, particularly from a gendered perspective.
- 3 to be able to set up a well-argued and critical analysis in coherent writing of gender and other identity categories in a novel in its context in Africa.

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

The course will take a hybrid form, with live-streaming and on campus meetings. No recordings of the meetings will be made available, unless in exceptional cases of force majeure.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Undetermined
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Oldest Usable Edition : current academic year
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Other

Name: articles
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Author : Various
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

References

Apart from the compulsory reading materials, no specific references

Course content-related study coaching

Feedback in class, on appointment and/or by e-mail

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Skills test, Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodic, permanent evaluation

1. Weekly compulsory reading.
2. Participation in discussions during the course meetings.
3. In-class assignments.
4. Each student offers a presentation.

Depending on the amount of students and technological developments, these modalities may slightly vary.

Calculation of the examination mark

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.

Facilities for Working Students

- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment