

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 2023-2024

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

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

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

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	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
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

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Gender; Identity; Novel; 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, but other genres may come in: autobiographies, short stories, 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

Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Learning materials and price

Selected compulsory reading. Course material will be provided in pdf on the course site.

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

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Assignment

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

Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Skills test, Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodic, permanent evaluation (45%):

Participation, consisting of:

1. In-class assignments.
2. Weekly compulsory reading.
3. Participation in discussions during the course meetings.
(1, 2, 3 together 15%).
4. Each student offers a presentation (30%).

Periodic evaluation (55%):

1. Opinion essay (55%).

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

Calculation of the examination mark

NPE: 45%

PE: 55%

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 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 and exercises).

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance: To be discussed with the teacher
- It is possible to take the exam in a different form and/or at a different location
- Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment

