

Master's Dissertation (A005119)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 15.0 Study time 450 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (Year) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Andriessen, Laura	LW21	staff member
Dhondt, Carmen	LW21	staff member
de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

Master of Arts in African Studies	crdts	offering
	15	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Research report, research methods, research techniques, academic reporting

Position of the course

In this advanced course the student is required to show competence in the goals as set for the MA-curriculum (final competences), this in order to put a capstone on his/her MA studies.

These goals include:

- 1 being able to reason and take action in an academic way,
- 2 being able to carry out research on an independent basis,
- 3 being able to apply research methods and techniques in an advanced setting,
- 4 being able to report about research results in a sophisticated and well-argued manner. The result is an extended essay, which is evaluated by the supervisor and other referees. The candidate is also required to present the research results during an oral presentation and to report about one's own research to the wider public.

Contents

As agreed upon with the supervisor(s).

At the beginning of the academic year, the lecturer-in-charge organizes information sessions, in which information is conveyed about the formal requirements of the thesis, about research methods and the responsible use of digital tools, incl. generative AI, and about possible research topics. Students are expected to take part in these sessions.

Initial competences

Bachelor in African Languages and Cultures or upon approval of the programme committee.

Final competences

- 1 Advanced comprehension of and insight into the scholarly knowledge related to the study of African Languages and Cultures in general, and of methods, concepts and theories pertaining to the thesis subject(s) in particular.
- 2 Ability to analyze and reflect on scholarly texts in the domain of African Languages and Cultures as well as one or more related disciplines covered by the programme (Linguistics, Literary Studies, History, Anthropology, ...).

- 3 Ability to reason from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- 4 Ability to undertake research and apply research techniques autonomously in an advanced setting.
- 5 Ability to use generative AI (which is allowed and encouraged), being fully aware of the ethical and deontological implications.
- 6 Ability to report in a scholarly form about one's own research for academic peers (in written and oral form), as well as for the wider public (via infographics, video pitches, podcasts, ...).

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Master's dissertation, Independent work

Study material

Type: Other

Name: As agreed upon with the supervisor

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

References

not relevant

Course content-related study coaching

Supervision by the supervisor both personally and in groups, interactive support through Ufora, consulting lecturer via e-mail or by appointment.

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

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

See Vademecum

Calculation of the examination mark

2/20 of the mathematical examination mark is determined by the participation in the information sessions at the beginning of the academic year.

16/20 of the mathematical examination mark is determined by the evaluation of the submitted dissertation and of the oral presentation. In the oral presentation, students are expected to demonstrate their in-depth understanding of the dissertation and to explain the research steps they have taken. Hence, the dissertation and the oral presentation will be evaluated as a whole.

2/20 of the mathematical examination mark is determined by the student's performance in science communication to the general public after submitting the dissertation.

Participation in the oral presentation and science communication is mandatory.

Students who do not participate in these two parts of the evaluation cannot receive a final examination mark higher than 9/20. Students must also achieve at least 10/20 for the dissertation and the oral presentation in order to pass. If this is not the case and the mathematical examination mark nevertheless exceeds 10/20, the final examination mark will be reduced to 9/20.

Facilities for Working Students

As agreed upon with the supervisor

