

Introduction to African Linguistics (A005296)

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 1)	Dutch, English	Gent	seminar lecture	15.0h 30.0h
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Goes, Heidi	LW21	staff member
Pacchiarotti, Sara	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Maselli, Lorenzo	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Elective Set African Studies	5	A
Elective Set Linguistics	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

African languages, African linguistics

Position of the course

This basic course wants to give students an introductory survey of the African linguistic landscape, regarding both classification and inventory of the languages and structural characteristics.

Contents

This course first identifies, in general terms, the languages and language families spoken on the African continent. For the native languages considerable attention is devoted to the genetic classifications. The linguistic characteristics of the African languages and African language families are subsequently expanded on, and this on phonological, morphological and syntactic levels.

Initial competences

No specific preliminary knowledge required

Final competences

- 1 To have good knowledge of the geographical place of both indigenous and non-indigenous languages of Africa and of the classification of African languages.
- 2 To know and be able to analyze the most important phonological, morphological and syntactic characteristics of African languages.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Study material

None

References

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Course content-related study coaching

Classes, office hours and e-mail for feedback and problems.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Students are required to hand in weekly homework exercises, which count for 20% of the final grade. Students are required to give a presentation, which counts for 10% of the final grade. The remaining 70% consists of the final exam. A minimum of 10/20 for both periodical and non-periodical evaluation is required. Non-periodical evaluation cannot be repeated in the second exam period. Students who repeat the periodical examination keep the same grade for the non-periodical evaluation.

Calculation of the examination mark

70% periodical (exam), 30% non-periodical (homework exercises and presentation)

Facilities for Working Students

1. Attendance is mandatory.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy