

Introduction to the Geography and Archeology of Africa (A005315)

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)	English	Gent	lecture
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Coutros, Peter	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Goossens, Rudi	WE12	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in History	5	A
Elective Set African Studies	5	A
Elective Set Archaeology	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Africa, Geography, Archaeology

Position of the course

This basic course will give inside in the most important aspects of Africa. Special attention will be given at the physical geography of Africa, the social geography and archaeology of Africa. Besides that, special attention will be given at the interaction of man with its physical environment from the early hominidea until recent history.

Contents

This course has 2 parts: 2/3 about the Geography of Africa, 1/3 about the Archaeology of Africa. The geographical part of the course deals with the physical geographical aspects of the African continent: geology, relief and topography, climate, vegetation, soils...In the second part more social geographical items are discussed: agriculture, population and demography, mining, transport..... Impact of Geography on Archaeological research, evolution of men, Stone-age southern the Sahara, Bantu spreading and agriculture in the Central African Tropical Forest, the start of political structures in the southern savanna.

Initial competences

High school level

Final competences

- 1 To have overview knowledge of the most important Geographical aspects of the African continent.
- 2 To have inside in the interaction between men and its physical environment, also in time.
- 3 To have inside in the archaeology of Africa, southern the Sahara.

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

Lecture

Study material

None

References

Verkoren, O. & Harts-Broekhuis (eds.), 2000, Tropisch Afrika , Van Gorcum; ISBN 90 232 34057
Geselecteerde hoofdstukken uit Livingstone-Smith, A., Cornelissen, E., Gosselain, O. & MacEachern, S. (eds.), 2017. *Field Manual for African archaeology*, Royal Museum for Central Africa, available at <http://www.africamuseum.be/research/publications/rmcfaa/online/fmaa>

Course content-related study coaching

Consultation hours

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodic evaluation