

## Fieldwork in Africa (A005316)

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

**Credits 5.0**                      **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)                      Dutch                      Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Dhondt, Carmen	LW21	staff member
Brinkman, Inge	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Luyckfasseel, Margot	LW03	co-lecturer
Van Bockhaven, Vicky	LW21	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in History</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies</a>	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Africa; Research methods; Ethnographic, literary, historical and sociolinguistic fieldwork.

**Position of the course**

This course aims at familiarizing students with ethnographic, literary, historical and/or sociolinguistic fieldwork in Africa.

**Contents**

This course aims at familiarizing the students with fieldwork in Africa. The course relates to a range of disciplines - obviously with a historical focus on ethnography, but including fieldwork methods for anthropology, history, literary studies and sociolinguistics.

After a theoretical introduction, the course will be continued in a practical direction. The students will engage in an ethnographic fieldwork exercise and through this obtain (practical) knowledge of:

- Ethnographic fieldwork: critical perspectives on the past
- Changing concepts: 'The field', 'Self and Other', reflexivity.
- New ways: multi-sited fieldwork, mobile fieldwork and web-research.
- Ethical aspects, positionality and representation.
- Interview techniques: developing a research question, selection of interlocutors, preparation (questions, background of the interlocutors, etc); the interview as genre.
- (Non-) participant observation: observation as discourse.
- Fieldwork notes, transcription and processing: data processing as hierarchizing process.
- Reporting fieldwork.

**Initial competences**

No specific requirements

**Final competences**

- 1 Having acquired a basic knowledge of the theoretical background of fieldwork in Africa
- 2 Having acquired a basic knowledge of the history of ethnographic fieldwork in Africa
- 3 Having acquired insight into the interaction between language, culture and society and having acquired the ability to integrate this insight into own research.

- 4 Being able to think critically about linguistic and communicative aspects of social and cultural processes.
- 5 Being able to critically reflect on autonomously conducted fieldwork and analyse the researcher's positionality in this.
- 6 Having acquired the basic techniques to conduct fieldwork from a sociolinguistic, literary, historical and/or anthropological perspective and being able to apply these independently in a self-chosen research context.
- 7 Being able to carry out fieldwork research and being able to report on this orally and in writing individually.

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

After a theoretical-methodological introduction, the students will carry out a fieldwork exercise. The participation of non-Dutch speaking students will be facilitated.

#### **Learning materials and price**

Articles and course material.

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive teaching – and learning methods;  
Feedback during every phase of the learning process (on 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**

Skills test, Participation

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

NPE: Participation and exercises.

PE: Written report on the fieldwork exercise (including theoretical-conceptual framework (duly annotated), methodological aspects, diary, interview transcripts, and - in case - audiovisual materials) + defence

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

80% fieldwork report

10% defence

10% interim (oral) presentation and participation.

NB:

Students are required to acquire a pass for all three evaluation forms (NPE and PE).

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

1. Exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance is only possible under specified conditions.
  2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
  3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or on appointment during or before office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy and <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuden>.

