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 2024-2025

A (semester 1)   Dutch   Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Dhondt, Carmen	LW21	staff member
Brinkman, Inge	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Rahier, Nick	LW21	co-lecturer
Van Bockhaven, Vicky	LW21	co-lecturer
Verbuyst, Rafaël	LW03	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025 | **crdts** | **offering** |

	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

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

Group work, Seminar, Excursion, Lecture, Practical, 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.

Study material

Type: Slides

    Name: Undetermined
    Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
    Optional: no
    Language : Dutch
    Oldest Usable Edition : current academic year
    Available on Ufora : Yes
    Online Available : No
    Available in the Library : No
    Available through Student Association : No

Type: Other

    Name: articles
    Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
    Optional: no
    Language : English
    Author : Various
    Oldest Usable Edition : Current academic year
    Available on Ufora : Yes
    Online Available : No
    Available in the Library : Yes
    Available through Student Association : No
    Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : not applicable
    Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
    Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : intensive

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

Fieldwork report
Oral defence
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/flexibelstuderen.