

## 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
<a href="#">Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures</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
<a href="#">Elective Set 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

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/flexibelstuden>.