

## Themes and Regions in African History (A005317)

**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 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

peer teaching

### Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

De Coene, Pieter

LW03

staff member

Couttenier, Maarten

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

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

### Teaching languages

English, Dutch

### Keywords

Africa, history, regional history, important themes in African history

### Position of the course

The objective of this course is to give students a more profound insight in certain themes and/or regions in African history.

### Contents

This course deals with the transition from precolonial history of Central Africa (now DR Congo, Tanzania and Angola) to the colonial period with the installation of Belgian, British, German, French and Portuguese colonies in the same region (ca. 1850-1920). It discusses political and economic changes and conflicts, but also the cultural and economic consequences in Central Africa and the metropole. Hence, aggression and resistance of colonizers and colonized will be discussed, but also the tensions between colonial powers, between local communities and internal conflicts within Belgian colonial rule. Finally, part of the lessons will be devoted to the legitimization of colonial rule through colonial propaganda, with far-reaching consequences until today.

### Initial competences

Having taken the course History of Africa I or II, or having taken classes in political or social sciences with a geographical focus on Africa is advised although not compulsory.

### Final competences

- 1 To have profound knowledge and insight in the region Central Africa and in the most important themes and dynamics that have shaped this region
- 2 To have insight in the theoretical frameworks of the themes studied, to be able to use these frameworks to analyze the history of this region and to understand

how these frameworks can be used for understanding other regions

3 To understand how past and present are connected and to be able to explain *longue durée* historical processes

4 To have insight in the importance of different geographical scales (communities, states, nations, regions etc.) and how they interact with each other

5 To have insight in how our perception of certain themes and regions is shaped by academic literature as well as through different media channels, throughout time

#### **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**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

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

#### **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**

Participation, Assignment

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

not applicable

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