

Conflict and Society in Central and Eastern Africa (K001337)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Cuvelier, Jeroen

PS05

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

crdts

offering

[Master of Science in Teaching in Languages\(main subject African Languages and Cultures\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Teaching in Languages\(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences\(main subject Political Science\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject India\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Japan\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Middle East Studies\)](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in African Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Africa, Central and East Africa, governance, conflict, post-conflict, state, state building, state failure, hybrid governance, protest, informality, resource access, regional cooperation, popular culture.

Position of the course

This course is an elective seminar course in the Master of Arts in African Languages and Cultures and an elective seminar course in the Master of Science in Conflict and Development.

The objectives are: to provide critical insight into contemporary political and social dynamics and contextual determinants of conflict and its societal impact in Central and Eastern Africa through an historical and thematic approach.

Contents

The course approaches current moments and events of contestation, conflict and resistance in Central and Eastern Africa from an historical and thematic perspective. The course, which is a reading course, will explore origins, manifestations and larger impact of resistance, conflict and violence. The course includes, besides of a historical analysis of state formation processes, a detailed reading of specific themes, including the role of identity, political meaning of popular culture, urban protest, armed groups, conflict as social condition and informal processes of regulation.

The issues and case studies may vary depending on current events and ongoing

(Approved)

research of the department.

Initial competences

- All students of the Master in Political Sciences: International Politics, Master in Conflict and Development, the Master in African Languages and Cultures, the Master in History, the Master in Philosophy, the Master in Moral Sciences, the Master in Sociology and the Master in Geography can take this course.
- No specific prior knowledge is required.

Final competences

- 1 Advanced knowledge of, and insight into, the historical state formation process in Central and Eastern Africa.
- 2 Insight in actual processes of contestation and conflict and their social impact, including the political, economic, social, regional and cultural aspects
- 3 Insight into contextual determinants of conflict and resistance.
- 4 Competence in the development of a research agenda.
- 5 Knowledge into the current critical and decolonised thinking on conflict and society in Central and Eastern Africa
- 6 Apply and assess theories from the fields of anthropology, sociology and politicology as part of the study of current dynamics of conflict and society in Central and Eastern Africa

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, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

This course will include seminars.
The assignment takes the form of problem-based learning. Two different assignments will be requested: a critical reading of provided literature to be translated into an essay, and a blog piece. Work students can get specific facilities. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, lectures might be adapted to 'blended learning' and be a combination of on campus and online sessions. Seminars will be mainly online.

Study material

None

References

Journals: Review of African Political Economy, African Affairs, Development and Change, Journal of Modern African Studies, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Journal of Eastern African Studies, Politique Africaine.

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support through Ufora.
Feed back on appointment.
Department-related tutoring: library, research by the Conflict Research Group (CRG).

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The assignments are aimed at acquiring competences 1) in gathering and
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processing of sources and research literature, 2) in developing a specific case and developing a critical perspective, and 3) in reporting and presenting research findings.

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous : individual papers. The score for the continuous evaluation is composed as follows: 5 points for critical reading of literature, 9 points for essay, 6 points for the blog post.

Facilities for Working Students

Students with the status of working student can obtain facilities (individual paper and presentation at another time).