

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

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 50.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1) English

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Becker, Felicitas Maria LW03 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Poverty, inequality, development, interdisciplinarity, comparisons.

Position of the course

- Provide well-founded, scientific knowledge and insights about African history and the impact of this history on mentalities, global relations and contemporary African societies.
- Broaden insights in historiographic methods and scientific methodology from other disciplines that are relevant to the field of African history
- Broaden knowledge about and insight in social theories relevant to the field of African history
- Set up historical research about Africa and apply knowledge and insights regarding African history and historiography on a scientific level.
- Communicating about research methods and results with fellow student and laymen
- Develop own critical, well-funded, scientific views on Africa within a temporal, spatial and social framework

Contents

Poverty is one of the most salient features of African societies today, and poverty has also deeply shaped the way Africans have been perceived historically. But poverty is a less obvious problem than it seems, based on the fact that we all (think we) know it when we see it. It is fundamentally connected to inequality, and in the post-colonial period, development has become the standard way to seek to address it. The course provides information on definitions of poverty and inequality, on the history of poverty in Africa, on its dynamics and changes, and the way different people coped with and sought to change it over time. It explores the distinctive problems of the Southern African region and the responses of different religious traditions, as well as the changing paradigms of development studies and critical anthropology of development.

Initial competences

It is recommended that students take this class when they have completed their BAs, as it involves a large and diverse amount of specialised literature in English. But advanced BA students in their final year should also find it useful.

Final competences

- 1 Learn about distinctive features and changes in the history of poverty and inequality in Africa, with some comparative information on Europe and the 'West'.
- 2 Learn about the history of development and different ways of explaining its limited impact in Africa.
- 3 Examine arguments about poverty from a variety of social science disciplines, including economics, anthropology, history and development studies.
- 4 Deal with both qualitative and quantitative methods.
- 5 Make connections between arguments from different disciplines and examine how they frame similar problems differently.
- 6 Recognise and examine different policy and political subtexts.

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

Guided self-study, microteaching, self-reliant study activities, lecture: response lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students read texts, submit questions on them before class, and take turns to present commentary on the texts in class. Classes revolve around student discussion.

Learning materials and price

Library books, online journals, material provided on Minerva.

References

There isn't one relevant text, but Martin Ravallion, *The economics of poverty*, and John Iliffe, *The African poor*, are good places to start.

Course content-related study coaching

Some lecturing, guidance for in-class discussions and the preparation of students' contributions to class, provision of background on readings.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Open book examination

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Students are assessed on participation in discussion, on their presentations, and on a final exam.

The final exam is 'open book', i.e. students can take their readings and notes into the exam room. They will be asked to discuss a question on one of the topics of the course, set by the teacher, in the form of an essay.

Additional readings for the preparation of the essay will be provided via Minerva and the library.

Calculation of the examination mark

50% continual evaluation in class, 50% final exam.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during weekly meetings is required.
 2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
 3. Alternative time for feedback is possible
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy