

Introduction to Area Studies (K001061)

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

Credits 6.0 Study time 180 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 2)	Dutch	lecture	20.0 h
		group work	12.5 h
		microteaching	12.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Suliman-Jabary Salamanca, Omar	PS05	lecturer-in-charge
Tegenbos, Jolien	PS05	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	6	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Middle East Studies)	6	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development	6	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development	6	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Global periphery, regional studies, macro-regions and great spaces, economic and cultural geography, macro-regional identities, multi-polarity, imperialism and sub-imperialism, civilizational spheres, globalization and counter-globalization.

Position of the course

This course is a basic course. Its purpose is to familiarize students with both the overall tradition and the different currents and approaches of area studies in the global periphery (the global South), as well as with the geographic, sociological, historical and cultural dynamics behind the formation of real, imagined or aspired-to regions and great spaces.

Contents

Besides an overview of the different relevant currents and approaches in area studies, the concept of area studies will be examined in this course. More specifically, it will treat the definitions of world regions and great spaces and the geographic, sociological, historical and cultural dynamics behind the formation of real, imagined or aspired-to regions and great spaces. This way, a framework illustrated with concrete examples is being offered, with the help of which students can better situate the different specific area studies. Important issues that are being treated include:

- The historical emergence and development, the purposes, the approaches and the actual use of area studies;
- Global economic and cultural geography;
- Globalization and counter-globalization;
- Imperialism and sub-imperialism;
- real, imaginary and aspired-to region delimitations and -identities;

Initial competences

No specific initial competences required but students are to have at least a working knowledge of English and French because of the possibility of guest lectures and literature in those languages.

Final competences

- To have acquired a good insight in the different interpretations, approaches and methodologies in area studies;
- To have a clear understanding of the existing and aspired regions and great spaces as well as of their characteristics;
- To develop a base, framework and foreknowledge to follow one of more specific area studies in the Master's program;
- To be able to understand, situate and critically analyze general political, social and economic events and developments in the different macro regions;
- To be able to follow-up on current affairs in and about the global periphery (the global South) and its different macro regions;
- To be able to situate current affairs in the global periphery in a historical framework.

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, lecture, microteaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

- The students will receive an introduction through lectures in the discipline of area studies and on the main areas;
- They will have to prepare a specific current area study, that is, a specific case study within one of the examined areas that is to be done in groups (group work);
- This case study and group work is to be presented in public;
- The students will have to research and write a journalistic report in the format of what is published in the activist-analytical media which specifically follows up on the global periphery and globalism (e.g. Mo Magazine, De Wereld Morgen, Le Monde diplomatique, Réseau Voltaire, ...)
- Finally, there is also a peer assessment process by the other students through debate sessions during the lectures.

Spread of methods: lectures 30 hours, paper 7,5 hours and microteaching 7,5 hours.

Learning materials and price

The students are expected to take notes, and will be aided in this through the lecture presentations, relevant literature and the maps which will be distributed through the Minerva portal.

References

- Ahram, A.I. (2011), 'The theory and method of comparative area studies', *Qualitative Research*, 11(1): 69-90.
- Bates, R.H. (1997), 'Area Studies and the discipline: a useful controversy?', *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 30(2): 166-169.
- Hall, P.A. & Tarrow, S. (2001) 'Globalization and Area Studies', in O'Meara, P.; Mehlinger, H.D. & Newman, R.M (eds.) *Changing Perspectives on international education*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press
- Hillard, P. (2007), 'La marche irresistible du nouvel order mondial', Parijs: François-Xavier de Guibert.
- Kiely, R. (2010) 'Rethinking imperialism', Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Sagan, I. (2006), 'Contemporary regional studies: theory, methodology and practice', *Regional and Local Studies - special issue*: 5-19.
- Sellier, J. en A (1993), 'Atlas des peuples d'Orient. Monyen-Orinet, Caucase, Asie centrale', Parijs: La Découverte.
- Sellier, J. (2008), 'Atlas des peuples d'Asie méridionale et orientale', Parijs: La Découverte.
- Sellier, J. (2005), 'Atlas des peuples d'Afrique', Parijs: La Découverte.
- Taylor, P.J. & C. Flint (2000), 'Political Geography: World-economy, Nation-State and Locality', Harlow: Pearson-Prentice Hall.
- Tessler, M. (ed.) (1999), 'Area Studies and social science: strategies for understanding Middle East Politics', Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

- Online course coaching;
- Mid-time feedback moments for the students' independent work.

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment, peer assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- Group work: presentations during the lectures of a specific case study; these will be collectively evaluated by group;
- Group work: the written report in journalistic format;
- Micro-teaching: the students will be evaluated on the bases of their active participation in the group discussions. They will also be requested to write a short and concise report (1 page max.) about the presentation of their fellow students. This report will then be shared on Minerva.

Calculation of the examination mark

- 8/20: group work presentation;
- 8/20: written journalistic article;
- 4/20: micro-teaching