

Area Study: Sub-Sahara Africa (K001224)

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

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1)	English	lecture	42.5 h
		microteaching	2.5 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Vlassenroot, Koen	PS05	lecturer-in-charge
Hendriks, Maarten	PS05	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
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 Science in Conflict and Development	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Conflict and Development	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, contemporary politics, governance, conflict, post-conflict, state, state building, state failure, neo-patrimonialism, hybrid governance, protest, informality, landaccess, urbanisation, regional cooperation.

Position of the course

This Area Study is an elective course in the major Global South in the Master of Science in Political Science, Main Subject International Politics, an elective course in the Master of Arts in African Languages and Cultures and an elective 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 development in Sub-Saharan Africa through an historical and thematic approach.

Contents

The seminars approach current political and social dynamics in Sub-Saharan Africa from an historical and thematic perspective.

The first part of the course provides insight in the historical state formation process in Sub-Saharan Africa and concludes with a reflexion on 'the state of the state' in Sub-Saharan Africa, after 50 years of independence.

The second part of the course is structured thematically and linked to case-studies. Selected issues are: seconomic growth and authoritarianism, the role of China in Africa,

social protest and political contestation, en the political meaning of religion.
The issues and case studies may vary depending on current events and ongoing 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 and the Master in Geography can take this course.
- No specific prior knowledge is required.

Final competences

- Knowledge of, and insight into, the historical state formation process in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Insight in current political and social problems in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Insight in contextual determinants of conflict and development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- To be able to organize scientific research.
- Competence in the gathering and processing of information sources and research literature concerning specific cases in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Competence in the development of a research agenda.
- Competence in reporting and orally presenting of research findings.

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

Lecture, microteaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

During the lectures, there is room for discussion.
The assignment takes the form of problem-based learning. Students are expected to organize themselves into a group, to select and explore a current political dynamic in Sub-Saharan Africa based on literature research, and apply it to a case. The final product takes the form of a set of individual papers that will be presented orally at the end of the course. Students with the status of working student may obtain facilities (individual paper and presentation at another time).

Learning materials and price

- Selected chapters or articles from professional literature (via Minerva)
- Powerpoint Presentations (via Minerva)
- Estimated costs: 10 EURO

References

Tijdschriften: Review of African Political Economy, African Affairs, Development and Change, Journal of Modern African Studies, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Journal of Peasant Studies, Third World Quarterly, Urban Studies, Politique Africaine.

Course content-related study coaching

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

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination

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

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The written exam tests 1) the knowledge of and the insight into the historical state formation process in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2) the insight into contemporary political and social problems and into contextual determinants of conflict and development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodic : written exam (60% or 12 points)

Continuous : individual paper, groups work and oral presentation (40% or 8 points). The score for the continuous evaluation is composed as follows: 1 point for attendance, 5 points for the paper, 2 points for the presentation.

Facilities for Working Students

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