Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Language, History and Identity in Central and Eastern Africa (A005111)

Course size
Credits 5.0
Study time 150 h
Contact hrs 50.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1) English lecture: response lecture 45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Luyckfasseel, Margot LW21 staff member
Meeuwis, Michael LW21 lecturer-in-charge
Bostoen, Koen LW21 co-lecturer
Gunnink, Hilde LW21 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject African Languages and Cultures) 5 A
Master of Arts in African Studies 5 A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures 5 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Central Africa; Eastern Africa; African languages; African cultures; identity; history of linguistic and cultural thought; Bantu; interdisciplinarity

Position of the course
An advanced and long-range understanding of ideological, sociological and diachronic processes underpinning changing patterns of language-based identity formation in Africa.

Contents
Different patterns of language-based group identity formation throughout pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial history are discussed. This with regard to a range of regions in Africa.

Initial competences
Thorough prior knowledge and skills, acquired at undergraduate level, of the following are required to start this MA course:
A. Minimal factual knowledge required:
• Know the basics of African geography (countries, cities etc)
• Know the basics of the history of the European colonisation of Africa, across its regions
• Know the basics of the history of decolonisation and of postcolonial states (regimes, names of most important leaders) in Africa, across its regions
• Know and geographically situate the language phyla of Africa, and know what the Bantu language family is
• Know what the official languages of present-day African states are
• Know what the major African lingua francas and their regional distribution are
• Know the historical spread and presence of Arabic in Africa
B. Theoretical concepts and definitions to be familiar with (know what these mean):
• African Archaeology
• Agency

(Approved)
• Assimilationism in colonisation vs indirect rule
• Basic linguistic concepts such as phoneme, allophone, morpHEME, allomorph, lexeme, place and manner of articulation, etc.
• Codeswitching, borrowing, linguistic transfer
• Colonisation, colonialism, coloniality
• Diglossia
• Emic/etic
• Evolutionism / Racialism
• Essentialism and primordialism
• Exolect, endolect
• Glossonym, ethnonym
• Language codification, language standardisation
• Language ideologies versus linguistic ideologies
• Language policy, language planning, corpus planning
• Lingua franca, interethnic language, language of wider communication (LWC)
• Official language
• Pidgin language, creole language, pidginisation, creolisation
• Postcolonialism; Postcoloniality
• Regiolect, sociolect

C. Have the following basic skills (practical, methodological)
• The ability to find, understand and process academic texts
• Oral presentation in front of a group
• Computer skills: Internet, Word, PowerPoint

Final competences
1 To understand patterns of communal identity formation throughout the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial history of Central and Eastern Africa, with ramifications to other African regions, such as Southern Africa
2 Understand the quintessential role language and culture played and still plays in such processes of communal identity formation.
3 To critically question some conventional concepts and distinctions in mainstream historiography of Africa, such as ‘group’ and ‘ethnicity’ and even the course’s own premise, namely the tripartite division of African history into pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial.

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
Lecture: response lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods
Independent learning situation in which students present a certain content that they have prepared individually or in group to their fellow students (also referred to as student lessons or student presentations). Such sessions are focused on the active (selecting, analyzing and) processing of certain contents and on the other hand on practicing presentation or didactic skills. The supervisor and possibly the fellow students provide the students who have given the lesson or presentation of comments and suggestions with regard to the content and / or the form of the lesson or presentation.
Teacher then adds her or his own insights in the matters presented by the students.

Learning materials and price
Scholarly articles, will be posted on minerva

References
None apart from the compulsory reading materials

Course content-related study coaching
Feedback in class

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

(Approved)
Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodic, written exam (70%): Open questions relating to a selection of the articles and, above all, to the ways these articles were discussed during the classes.

Non-periodic, permanent evaluation (30%): Each student gives at least one presentation, during one of the classes, of one the compulsory scholarly articles

Calculation of the examination mark

see above

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours
Extra information:
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy