

Fieldwork in Africa (A005316)

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 2019-2020

Offering	Language	Teaching Method	Hours
A (semester 2)	Dutch	fieldwork	10.0 h
		guided self-study	5.0 h
		lecture: plenary exercises	5.0 h
		self-reliant study	5.0 h
		activities	
		lecture	7.5 h
		lecture: response	5.0 h
		lecture	
		seminar: coached exercises	5.0 h
		seminar	5.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020

Luyckfasseel, Margot	LW21	staff member
Brinkman, Inge	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	co-lecturer
Van Bockhaven, Vicky	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Africa; Research methods; Ethnographic, literary, historical and sociolinguistic fieldwork.

Position of the course

This course aims at familiarizing students with ethnographic, literary, historical and/or sociolinguistic fieldwork in Africa.

Contents

This course aims at familiarizing the students with fieldwork in Africa. The course relates to a range of disciplines - obviously with a historical focus on ethnography, but including fieldwork methods for anthropology, history, literary studies and sociolinguistics.

After a theoretical introduction, the course will be continued in a practical direction. The students will engage in an ethnographic fieldwork exercise and through this obtain (practical) knowledge of:

- Ethnographic fieldwork: critical perspectives on the past
- Changing concepts: 'The field', 'Self and Other', reflexivity.
- New ways: multi-sited fieldwork, mobile fieldwork and web-research.
- Ethical aspects, positionality and representation.
- Interview techniques: developing a research question, selection of interlocutors, preparation (questions, background of the interlocutors, etc); the interview as genre.

- (Non-) participant observation: observation as discourse.
- Fieldwork notes, transcription and processing: data processing as hierarchizing process.
- Reporting fieldwork.

Initial competences

No specific requirements

Final competences

- 1 Having acquired a basic knowledge of the theoretical background of fieldwork in Africa
- 2 Having acquired a basic knowledge of the history of ethnographic fieldwork in Africa
- 3 Having acquired insight into the interaction between language, culture and society and having acquired the ability to integrate this insight into own research.
- 4 Being able to think critically about linguistic and communicative aspects of social and cultural processes.
- 5 Being able to critically reflect on autonomously conducted fieldwork and analyse the researcher's positionality in this.
- 6 Having acquired the basic techniques to conduct fieldwork from a sociolinguistic, literary, historical and/or anthropological perspective and being able to apply these independently in a self-chosen research context.
- 7 Being able to carry out fieldwork research and being able to report on this orally and in writing individually.

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

Guided self-study, lecture, microteaching, fieldwork, seminar, self-reliant study activities, lecture: plenary exercises, seminar: coached exercises, lecture: response lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

After a theoretical-methodological introduction, the students will carry out a fieldwork exercise.

Learning materials and price

Articles and course material.

References

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive teaching – and learning methods;
Feedback during every phase of the learning process (on appointment).

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

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

Written examination, report

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

Written examination, report

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, skills test

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

NPE: Participation and exercises.

PE: Written report on the fieldwork exercise (including theoretical-conceptual framework (duly annotated), methodological aspects, diary, interview transcripts, and - in case - audiovisual materials) + defence

Calculation of the examination mark

90% fieldwork report and defence

10% interim (oral) presentation and participation.

NB: Students are required to acquire a pass for both evaluation forms (NPE and PE).

Facilities for Working Students

1. Exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance is only possible under specified conditions.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or on appointment during or before office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and Philosophy and <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuderen>.