



## DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### **AF1311 Investigating African Language Structures, 7.5 credits**

Att utforska strukturer i afrikanska språk, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2021-11-11 and was last revised on 2024-03-11 to be valid from 2024-09-02, autumn semester of 2024.

*Field of education:* Arts 100%

*Department:* Department of Languages and Literatures

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

*Main field of studies*

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*Specialization*

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

Admission to the course requires completion of (a) the course AF1211, African Language Structures and Typology (7.5 credits), (b) courses equal to 45 credits in at least two of the languages/subjects Arabic, Somali, Swahili, Zulu/Xhosa, and linguistics, and (c) a 7.5 credits course in academic writing in English.

Exception is made to the requirement for Swedish as a general entry requirement.

#### **Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- account for linguistic structures in particular African languages, mainly regarding phonetics, morphology and syntax;
- explain the importance of theoretical and methodological considerations for linguistic research;

#### *Competence and skills*

critically read and understand accessibly written scholarly publications within the field, and at the same time problematise traditional concepts and analyses;  
 present and discuss data, methods and analyses, orally and in writing, in dialogue with fellow students and teachers, using a relevant conceptual apparatus;  
 independently apply the acquired theoretical understanding, retrieve and analyse data on African language structures, in order to carry out a smaller research task, such as a bachelor project;

#### *Judgement and approach*

- make independent and critical reflections on the relevance and sustainability of arguments in scholarly texts;
- present and discuss own arguments from a scholarly perspective;
- relate critically to his/her own learning process.

### **Course content**

The aim of the course is to introduce students to scientific research in African linguistics. Special attention is given to research questions, research methods, and the structure of academic papers. Necessary concepts are introduced through lectures and texts from basic handbooks. The acquired knowledge is then applied in assignments where samples of good BA essays and accessibly written scholarly articles are analysed through critical reading and discussion. At the end of the course each student presents their plan for an intended bachelor project. These project plans are discussed in a final seminar.

### **Form of teaching**

The course is an online course. The teaching is conducted in the form of lectures, seminars and assignments on the virtual learning platform of the university.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

Kursen examineras under kursens gång genom obligatoriska arbetsuppgifter och vid kursens slut genom en projektplan för ett självständigt arbete på kandidatnivå.

The course is assessed through obligatory assignments during the term, and a bachelor project plan at the end of the course.

A student who has failed a course item is eligible for a retake exam/assignment. In connection with written assignments, supplementary assignments may be offered in order for the student to achieve a Pass grade. Such a supplementary assignment should be done within the stipulated time (normally five working days after the result has been posted). Otherwise a Fail grade will be reported.

A student who has completed an exam/assignment with a passing grade is not eligible for a retake for the purpose of receiving a higher grade. Nor may a student withdraw a test/assignment once it has been submitted for the purpose of avoiding receiving a grade for the work.

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

### **Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

For the grade of Pass with distinction on the whole course, this grade is required on the written examination.

### **Course evaluation**

The students are given the opportunity to make a written evaluation of the course. The results of the evaluation are published digitally.

### **Additional information**

Equality aspects should be taken into consideration in content, literature, teaching and evaluation.