



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

AF2206 African languages, Historical Linguistics of African languages, 7.5 credits

Afrikanska språk, historisk lingvistik och afrikanska språk, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2015-06-11 and was last revised on 2017-10-02 to be valid from 2017-10-02, autumn semester of 2017.

Field of education: Arts 100%

Department: Department of Languages and Literatures

Position in the educational system

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Language and Intercultural Communication (H2SIK)

Main field of studies

African Languages

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

The requirement for admission to the course is a Bachelor's degree, 15 credits of which should be a thesis. Knowledge of some African language provides a useful qualification in the selection of students.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- show familiarity with current methods for historical linguistics in general and in African languages in particular;
- demonstrate an understanding of the specific conditions of historical linguistic research
- show familiarity with historical-linguistic research and the most common theoretical concepts;

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to identify appropriate methods to be able to carry out a limited research study;
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss methodology in dialogue with different groups orally and in writing both within the subject and at department level;
- read critically and understand scholarly non-fiction in central fields and some speciality;

Judgement and approach

- analyse a scholarly presentation with regard to methodology and the relevance and sustainability of the arguments, and present arguments on the basis of the same principles.

Course content

The course provides an introduction to comparative linguistic methods, ways of classifying different types of linguistic variation and change, the effects of language contact, language changes and language alternation and the role that typology and universals play to explain language change. The focus is on the importance of these questions for African languages that are normally not included in the type of written documentation that is available for most European languages.

Form of teaching

The teaching is conducted in the form of seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

To what extent the student has achieved the aim of the course is tested through written and oral tests and presentations.

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.

If a student who has been failed on the same examining course component twice wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, a request of this kind shall be sent in writing to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary. (Chapter 6, Section 22, Higher Education Ordinance).

If the course has been discontinued or substantially revised, a student should be guaranteed to sit the examination on at least three occasions (including the ordinary examination occasion) during a period of at least one year based on the previous course structure.

Grades

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

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. In addition, where relevant, the course should make students aware of and problematise ecological, economic, cultural and socially sustainable development.