AF2208   African Language Structures, 7.5 credits

Språkstruktur i afrikanska språk, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2015-02-26 and was last revised on 2015-06-11 to be valid from 2015-08-31, autumn semester of 2015.

Field of education: Arts 100%
Department: Department of Languages and Literatures

Position in the educational system

Main field of studies	*Specialization*
African Languages	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.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- show basic knowledge of the grammatical structure of a Bantu language and Somali (Cushitic);

- show basic knowledge of linguistic variation in Bantu languages and Cushitic languages;

Competence and skills
- demonstrate the ability to apply theories and methods to identify, formulate issues and to plan and carry out a limited work within a given time frame;

- demonstrate the ability to account orally and in writing clearly for and discuss his/her conclusions and the knowledge and the arguments that form the basis for these in dialogue with other groups;

Judgement and approach
- demonstrate the ability to realise his/her need of additional knowledge and take responsibility for his/her knowledge development;
- demonstrate an understanding of the potential and limitations of the subject and of its role in society.

Course content
This course is a basic introduction to the grammatical structure of a Bantu language (that is chosen by the teacher) and Somali. Grammatical properties that will be discussed in both the languages are phonology (the sound system), morphology (word structure) and syntax (sentence structure). The chosen Bantu language and Somali (a Cushitic language) are compared with one another to illustrate in what ways the structure varies between different African languages. Furthermore, the grammatical properties of both the languages are dealt with from a typologic perspective to highlight what is characteristic of these languages and what they have in common with other unrelated languages.

Form of teaching
The teaching is given as seminars, exercises (individual and in groups) and supervised analysis of data.
When the teaching is web-based and is given as a distance course, the seminars are carried out as e-meetings.

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. The course is assessed through a written report of a part of the structure of a language. This report should be carried out independently with supervision and possibly with a tutor, and through an oral presentation.

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

The major part of the course literature is in English.

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.