



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

AF2215 African Languages, Comparative Linguistics and Typology, 7.5 credits

Afrikanska språk, Komparativ lingvistik och typologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2023-06-20 and was last revised on 2023-06-22 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

Field of education: Arts 100%

Department: Department of Languages and Literatures

Position in the educational system

The course is given as a freestanding course at second cycle level.

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 as follows: (A) a Bachelor's degree in a language or general linguistics in which an individual project of at least 15 credits should be included; (B) English 6/IELTS 6.5/TOEFL 580, in all parts, or the equivalent thereof.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge about and understanding of basic theories and methods in the research domains of comparative linguistics and language typology;
- give an account of relationships between language and important characterising features of various language families in Africa;
- describe how knowledge of African languages contributes to the research domain of language typology;

Competence and skills

- identify and formulate relevant questions;
- plan and independently carry out a limited research project within a given time frame;
- apply language typological theories and methods;
- orally and in writing present and discuss different research questions and research results;

Judgement and approach

- relate critically to literature on comparative linguistics and language typology;
- demonstrate the ability to make research-ethical assessments in his/her individual studies.

Course content

The course focuses on systematically comparative language studies of African languages. Recurrent patterns in different language systems as well as hypotheses concerning unit, diversity, possibilities and limitations in human language are studied. The focus is on languages in Africa and their phonology, morphology and syntax and information structure. Throughout the course, theories of the relationship of the languages from a synchronic and a diachronic perspective are also treated. In an independent task, the student identifies a relevant question in order to analyse data by means of current theories and methods. The independent task should focus on a specific language typological issue question from an African perspective.

Form of teaching

The course may be given as an on-campus course or as an online course. The teaching is conducted in the form of scheduled seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

To what extent the student has achieved the aim of the course is tested through an independent written assignment and a presentation and discussion of the same.

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 twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If the University of Gothenburg has decided that a student is eligible for special study support, the examiner may, provided it is compatible with the aim of the course and it can be done within the scope of available resources, decide to offer the student an adjusted examination or a different examination format.

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, but not later than two years after the course was discontinued or revised. The same applies to internships 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 entire course, the grade of Pass with distinction is required on the final written assignment.

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.

To follow a web-based course, students must have access to a computer, web camera and stable broadband connection.

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