



## DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### **SOL220 The History of the Somali Language, 7.5 credits**

Somalisk språkhistoria, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2021-06-03 to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester of 2022.

*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*

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

The requirement for admission to the course is completion of SOL130 and SOL160, or the equivalent.

#### **Learning outcomes**

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

*Knowledge and understanding*

- give an account of important historical processes of change in the Somali and the Cushitic languages;
- give an outline of the historical development of written Somali and its standardisation and illustrate the description with examples from texts from different times;

*Competence and skills*

- independently analyse older texts at different levels (vocabulary, morphology, syntax, style, orthography) and identify important language changes;
- transcribe and reformulate older texts using modern orthography and constructions;
- use available guides in such work in a systematic way;

*Judgement and approach*

- develop a critical evaluative approach regarding older texts as sources of knowledge of Somali language history from the first textual witnesses down to modern times;
- reflect on the relationship between language and power with regard to the standardization process.

**Course content**

The position of Somali among other Cushitic and Afroasiatic languages is highlighted through a short introduction to the most important features of the reconstructed historical development in the language group. The main focus of the course is then on the study the recorded history of the Somali language, particularly language changes and standardization processes. In this connection, a broad selection of literary texts and language descriptions are read from the earliest down to modern times (the 1850s to the 1970s). The texts are analysed from an orthographic, phonetic, morphological, syntactic and lexical point of view. Historical relationships between language and power are also problematised.

**Form of teaching**

The teaching is given as a distance course in the form of teaching sessions, seminars, discussions and tasks on the virtual learning platform of the university.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish and Somali.

**Assessment**

The course is assessed continuously through oral and written assignments, and through a final written examination.

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 twice on the same course component being examined, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent 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 a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg regarding study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may decide, in the case where this is compatible with the learning outcomes for the course, and provided no unreasonable resources are required, to give the student an adjusted examination or an alternative form of examination.

In case the course has been discontinued or undergone any larger changes the student is guaranteed access to at least three additional examination sessions (including regular examination sessions) within the time of at least one year. 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 Pass with distinction on the whole course, this grade is required on the final 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.