



## DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

### **SOL260 Somali Dialectology and Sociolinguistics, 7.5 credits**

Somalisk dialektologi och sociolingvistik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

*First Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2023-06-05 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 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**

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed SOL103 (alternatively 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 basic concepts, principles and aims of the study of geographic and social linguistic variation;

- give examples of various types of linguistic variation in Somali, for example on the basis of gender, age, place and group affiliation.

- describe the most important dialectal features of Somali and their spread;

#### *Competence and skills*

- explain the results of scholarly studies of linguistic variation in Somali, interpret statistics and dialect maps and read dialect texts and identify characterising dialect features in them;
- through comparison with the standard language identify elements of slang, dialect and spoken language in written texts;
- compare and critically discuss different research results and popular conceptions of dialects and linguistic variation and relate this to his/her own experiences;

#### *Judgement and approach*

- problematise on the basis of source criticism dialectological and sociolinguistic source material and the way this has been collected;
- critically reflect on the relation between language and identity and language in relation to language attitudes and power;

### **Course content**

The purpose of the course is to give an increased understanding of the geographic and social variation of the Somali language in view of the modern development of Somali into a standard language with clear differences between formal and informal language. Variables such as geography, situation and identity, e.g. professional role, social class, age, gender and ethnicity are discussed. Linguistic power relations, language attitudes and language choices are also covered.

Throughout the course, key concepts, principles and aims of sociolinguistic and dialectological studies are presented. The course covers in more detail the existing research into Somali dialects, their subdivisions and present-day status.

Morphosyntactic, phonetic and lexicosemantic differences between the different dialect areas are studied. The importance of dialects in different socio-cultural contexts are discussed as well as the use of regional spoken language and slang.

### **Form of teaching**

The course may be given as an on-campus course or as an online course. The course is given in the form of lessons, seminars, discussion and assignments on the university's virtual learning platform.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish, Somali, alternatively English and Somali.

### **Assessment**

The course is examined 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 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 Pass with distinction on the whole course, the grade Pass with distinction 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 in consideration in content, literature, teaching and evaluation.

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