Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2018

Programme-specific section:

Master's Programme: African Studies (research)

These Course and Examination Regulations (henceforth OER) have been drawn up in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*; WHW] (henceforth the Act) and the following Leiden University regulations:

- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration;
- the Regulations for Admission to Master's Programmes.

Pursuant to Article 7.14 of the Act, the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the Course and Examination Regulations and considers, for the purpose of monitoring and adjusting the study load, how much time it takes students to comply. In accordance with Article 9.18 of the Act, the departmental committee is assigned the task of annually assessing the implementation of the OER.

These Course and Examination Regulations consist of two sections: a faculty section that is the same for all programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme, what is known as the programme-specific section of the Course and Examination Regulations. In the text below the relevant articles will refer to this section.

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Appendices
Faculty Section:

Programme-specific section:

Chapter 2   Description of the Programme

Article 2.1   **Objectives of the programme**

The programme has the following objectives:

1. to broaden and deepen the students' knowledge, understanding and skills, and train them in the use of scientific methods in the field of African Studies;

2. to enable students to develop the following academic and professional skills:

   – the ability to solve academic problems independently, critically and creatively;
   – the ability to analyse complex problems;
   – the ability to clearly report academic results, both in writing and orally;

3. to prepare students for an academic career at a university for postgraduate programmes;

4. to prepare students for a non-academic career in the public or private sector for which advanced research skills and practical research experience are a prerequisite.

Article 2.2   **Specialisations**

Not applicable.

Article 2.3   **Learning outcomes**

Graduates of the programme have attained the following learning outcomes, listed according to the Dublin descriptors:

I.   Knowledge and understanding

Graduates have:
- A profound awareness of the current issues, core concepts and research questions in the relevant disciplines and regional fields of the programme;

- A thorough understanding of various theories and methodological approaches and techniques that are commonly used in research in African Studies as well as in different related disciplines;

- The ability to develop a conceptual framework suitable for addressing relevant problems and issues;

- Advanced, up-to-date knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative research methodology appropriate to particular projects and locations;

- Sensitivity to the relationship between theory, method and actual research context;

- A thorough knowledge of and insight into the interdisciplinary position of the study subject;

- A thorough understanding of the societal relevance of the study subject.

II. Applying knowledge and understanding

Graduates have:
- The capacity to critically apply theoretical and descriptive approaches when conducting basic independent research in African Studies;

- The capacity to (innovatively) deploy theoretical and methodological tool-sets derived from the humanities and social sciences for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry. ;

- The ability to critically select, study and analyse literature;

- The ability to independently formulate, perform and assess scientific research at a level suitable for preparing scientific publications;

III. *Making judgments*

Graduates have:

- The ability to select, compile, compare and analyse discipline-related literature and sources independently, with the aid of traditional and modern techniques (heuristic skills);

- The ability to independently study discipline-related literature and sources and to assess these as to their quality and reliability;

- Profound knowledge of the philosophy and ethics of African Studies research and the limitations of individual research projects;

- Awareness of the role of comparison;

- Sophisticated understanding of the stakes in the politics of knowledge and their relationship with the ethics of fairness and objectivity;

- The fundamentals of research project management, such as framing the research, gathering data, data storage, articulating a thesis, ordering and presenting findings in oral and written form and reflection on the ethics of scientific inquiry.

IV. *Communication*

Graduates have;

- The capacity to report independently on relevant research that has been carried out according to current academic standards for the field of research;

- The ability to write scientific reports in English;

- The ability to give persuasive oral presentations;

- The ability to engage in the international academic debate and in non-specialist discussions.

V. *Learning skills*

Graduates have:

- The capacity to apply learning skills that allow them to initiate and conduct a research project with a great degree of independence and autonomy, under expert national or international supervision. This includes:

- The ability to formulate a clear and well-argued problem under expert supervision; and the ability to break these problems down into clear and manageable sub-problems;

- The ability to set up and carry out a research project under expert supervision;

- The capacity to take into account ideas, instructions and constructive criticism of supervisors and peers and in turn offer feedback to the work of others;

- The ability to set up a realistic work schedule and keep to the agreed time guidelines.

Article 2.5 **Study load**

The programme has a study load of 120 credits.

Article 2.8   Language of Instruction

In compliance with the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction[1] the language of instruction and examination of the programme is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language(s) of instruction and examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.4.

Chapter 3   Curriculum

Article 3.1   Compulsory components

3.1.1   The programme includes compulsory components worth a total study load of 120 credits. This includes the electives offered by the recognised national research schools, from which students may choose electives totalling 10 ec.

Chapter 4   Examinations, Final Examination and Further Education

Article 4.2   Obligatory sequence

4.2.1   Students may only sit examinations and, if indicated, participate in class of the following components once they have passes the examination of the preceding components specified below:

Component:	Participation in class and examination after passing:	Participation in examination after passing:
Reflexivity and Methodologies in Africanist Research	The Theoretical Foundations and Interdisciplinary Nature of African Studies	
Africa in Cross-Regional Perspective		Thematic Fields: Theoretical and Empirical Explorations
Seminar: Writing Research Proposal		Thematic Fields: Theoretical and Empirical Explorations

Article 4.3   Form of examination

4.3.7   Not applicable.

Chapter 5   Admission to the programme

Article 5.2   Admission to the programme

5.2.1   Not applicable.

5.2.2   Not applicable.

5.2.3   As further clarification of Article 2.8 concerning the student's command of the language of instruction, the language requirement for this master's programme is English IELTS7.0/TOEFL (Internet based) 100/CPE or CAE 185.

The Faculty Board may request that applicants demonstrate an adequate command at this level. For more information on language tests and diplomas which are sufficient with regard to the required command of English please see http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/prospective/language-requirements.html.

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[1] Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction

5.2.4 Pursuant to Article 7.30b (1) and (2) of the Act persons will be granted admission to the programme, if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board that they meet the following admission requirements:

- A bachelor's degree from a research university, equivalent to the level of a Dutch academic Bachelor's degree, or demonstrate to meet the requirements for such a degree, including the General Academic Skills listed in Appendix B, and

- The bachelor's degree is in the field of African Languages and Cultures, Linguistics, History, Cultural Anthropology, Literature, Sociology, Political Sciences, Public Administration or other studies related to the Humanities or Social Sciences, and

- candidates must have affinity with and suitability for scholarly research, demonstrated by the required research proposal*

- Good grades comparable with an average mark of at least 7.5 (Dutch grading system) for their entire bachelor's programme, and a grade for the bachelor's thesis of an 8 or higher.

*All applicants are required to submit a "Research Proposal" of approximately 1000 words, accompanied by an annotated bibliography of at least five (5) items, outlining the topic or field of research that the applicant wishes to pursue at Leiden University, and indicating the names of one or two faculty members who might guide that research.

For further information on the admission procedure and required application documents please see http://www.students.leiden.edu/application-admission/master/application-admission/.

5.2.5 Maximum capacity: not applicable.

Article 5.4 Bridging programmes (Premasters)

5.4.1 Not applicable.

Chapter 7 Evaluation of the Programme

Article 7.1 Evaluation of the Programme

The programme is evaluated as follows:
- Course Evaluations
- Programme Evaluation