



Universiteit Leiden

Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2026

Programme-specific section:

Bachelor's Programme: African Studies

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 Regulation on the Binding Study Advice;
- the Leiden Register of Study Programmes Framework Document;
- the Academic Calendar;
- the Regulations for Student Registration, Tuition Fees and Examination Fees;
- the Online Proctoring Protocol;
- the Guidelines for Elective Credits and Minors.

The model OER are laid down in Dutch and then translated into English. In the event that there are differences between the two versions, the Dutch version will prevail.

Pursuant to Section 7.14 of the Act the Faculty Board regularly evaluates the course and examination regulations and assesses, for the purpose of monitoring and, if necessary, adjusting the study load, the time it takes students to comply with the regulations. In conformity with Section 9.18 of the Act, the department teaching committee is assigned the task of annually assessing how the course and examination regulations are implemented.

These course and examination regulations consist of two sections:

- a general section that is the same for all bachelor programmes and
- a section that contains information specific to a particular degree programme.

This programme-specific section forms a whole together with the faculty section and only includes the articles that contain details specific to a particular programme. Other sections are included in the faculty section.

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Chapter 2 Description of the Programme

Article 2.1 Objectives of the Programme

The aim of the programme is to promote the student's academic development in terms of knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of African Studies to such an extent that:

- the student meets the entry requirements for admission to the master's programmes that follow on from the bachelor's programme;
- the student is able to work in positions for which undergraduate-level academic knowledge and skills in the above field are required or desirable.

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*

- a. thorough knowledge and understanding of the language situation in Africa as a whole and in the different regions and countries, the interaction between language, history and culture, and the varieties of communication;
- b. thorough knowledge and insight into ancient history, modern history, postmodern history and anthropology of Africa;
- c. thorough knowledge and understanding of the role of oral word art in African literature and society; from written literature from Africa and the African diaspora;
- d. thorough knowledge and understanding of African linguistics: insight into the different language structures, knowledge of the current classifications of African languages, insight into the role of language for the development of a country.
- e. able to situate African societies as being part of the world, and able to grasp diversity of African languages, histories and cultures.

II. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

- a. being able to analyse (whether or not oral) texts as a research method;
- b. being able to draw up and deepen arguments on issues in the field of languages, histories and cultures in Africa, with a critical attitude and from different perspectives;
- c. able to communicate professionally in an African society.
- d. able to apply digital techniques in the realm of methods, methodology and analysis in relation to the understanding of languages, histories and cultures of Africa

III. *Language Acquisition*

- a. command of Swahili with an emphasis on oral language skills;
- b. command of another African language of regional significance at a level;
- c. qualification according to the European Framework of Reference for Language Proficiency:

<i>Swahili</i>		<i>Second Language</i>	
Listening	A2+	Listening	A1
Reading	B1+	Reading	A1
Spoken interaction	A2+	Spoken interaction	A1
Spoken production	A2+	Spoken production	A1
Writing	B1+	Writing	A1

IV. *Judgement*

- a. Students are able to critically assess literatures and knowledge from and with Africa;
- b. Critical thinking is an important capability of a student in African Studies.

V. *Communication*

- a. Students are able to communicate in an academic environment;
- b. Students have the skills to translate academic findings to a wider audience, including through digital means.

VI. *Learning Skills*

Students have:

- a. the ability to be self-critical, in particular the ability to put culturally instilled attitudes into perspective and to reflect on that;
- b. the ability to work both independently and in a group on an assignment (including peer-review), that is: to plan and work result-oriented;
- c. the ability to use the digital space for their academic development and for dissemination;
- d. the learning skills that are required to follow a relevant master's programme.

Furthermore, each humanities programme at Leiden University trains students in the general academic skills formulated by the Faculty. These skills relate to the Dublin descriptors Judgement, Communication, and Learning skills as specified in Appendix A of the general section.

Article 2.9 **Language of Instruction**

2.9.1. Subject to the Code of Conduct on the Language of Instruction [*Gedragcode voertaal*¹], the language in which the instruction is given and in which the examinations and final examinations are held is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language(s) of instruction and

¹ [Code of Conduct on Language of Instruction](#)

examination in the programme, in accordance with the requirements stated in Article 5.2.4. As appropriate, the Faculty publishes the Course and Examination Regulations in English for English-taught programmes.

2.9.2. Contrary to Article 2.9.1, individual cases the Board of Examiners can permit the student to write the final thesis in another language, in accordance with the Guideline on Language Policy.²

Chapter 3 Curriculum

Article 3.2 Optional Components

3.2.9 Not applicable.

Chapter 4 Examinations and Final Examination

Article 4.2 Obligatory Sequence

4.2.1 The Prospectus specifies the sequence in which examinations must be taken. Students may only sit examinations that are subject to a compulsory sequence once they have passed the examinations for one or more other components.

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Participation in classes and examination only after passing:</i>
Swahili II	- Swahili I
Swahili III	- Swahili I - Swahili II
Study in Africa	- Propedeuse
BA Thesis African Studies	- Propedeuse - Study in Africa

Chapter 6 Student Counselling and Study Advice

Article 6.3 Study Advice

6.3.2 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

² [Guideline on Language Policy](#)

The Programme Committee advises the Programme Board based on the outcomes of the evaluation.

Appendix F Transitional provisions

Transitional provisions for students that started before 2026-2027

Following a grote programma wijzigen in 2025-26 and taking effect in 2026-27, the following tabblutaed arrangements will be followed by students not able to complete the programme within the specified timeframe for different circumstances.

NEW PROGRAM (to be implemented from 26-27 forward)	EC	Level	OLD PROGRAM (22-23 – 25-26)	EC	Level	Students who did not complete a course in the old program:
Jaar 1			Jaar 1			
Semester 1	30		Semester 1	30		
Introduction to African Literature & Arts	10	100	Introduction to African Literature & Arts	5	100	Course will be offered for different amount of EC – Board of Examiners
Introduction to African History	5	200	Introduction to African History	5	100	Resit course
Introduction to Linguistics	5	100	African Languages Lab	10	200	Course will be offered in a different semester for different amount of EC – Board of Examiners
Swahili I	10	200	Activating the Past: Heritage, Sources & Public History of Africa	5	100	Course ceases to exist – Board of Examiners
			Introduction to African Studies	5	100	Course ceases to exist – Board of Examiners
Semester 2	30		Semester 2	30		
African Networks: International relations, connectivity, diaspora	5	200	African Networks: international relations, connectivity, diaspora	10	200	Course will be offered for a different amount of EC – Board of Examiners
Swahili II	10	200	Swahili I	10	200	Course will be offered in a different semester – Board of Examiners
Methodology: Researching Africa	5	200	Research in Present-day Africa	5	200	Course ceases to exist – Board of Examiners
African Languages Lab	5	100	Oral Performance in Africa	5	200	Course ceases to exist – Board of Examiners

Core curriculum: Philosophy of Science	5	200				
Jaar 2			Jaar 2			
Semester 1	30		Semester 1	30		
Core curriculum: Humanities in a Digital World	5	100	Philosophy of Culture	5	100	Resit course
Swahili III	5	200	Swahili II	10	300	Resit course – it will be offered in semester 1 in 26-27
Language, Culture and Society in Africa	5	200	Core Curriculum: Area Studies	5	100	Course ceases to exist – Board of Examiners
Climate, Health and Medical encounters in Africa	10	300	<i>Choose 10EC</i>			
T.B.A.	5	200	Core Curriculum: World Art and Beyond	5	200	Course ceases to exist – choose another course
			Language, Culture and Society in Africa	5	200	Resit course
			Climate, Health and Medical Encounters in Africa	5	200	Course will be offered for a different amount of EC – Board of Examiners
Semester 2	30		Semester 2	30		
Study in Africa	25	300	Study in Africa	25	300	Resit course
Research in Practice	5	300	Research in Practice	5	300	Resit course
Jaar 3			Jaar 3			
Semester 1	30		Semester 1	30		
<i>Discretionary space</i>	30		Africa Today	10	300	Course will be offered in a different semester – Board of Examiners
			Swahili III	5	400	Resit course – it will be offered in semester 2 in 26-27
			<i>Discretionary space</i>	15		Discretionary space will be 30 EC in semester 1
Semester 2	30		Semester 2	30		
Thesis Seminar BA African Studies	0	400	Thesis Seminar BA African Studies	0	400	Resit course
BA Thesis African Studies	10	400	BA Thesis African Studies	10	400	Resit course
Africa Today	10	300	<i>Discretionary space</i>	15		Discretionary space will be 30 EC in semester 1

Anthropological Linguistics	5	300	<i>Choose 5EC</i>			
African Religions and Philosophies	5	300	African Religions and Philosophies: Understanding Diversity and World Connections	5	400	Resit course
			Swahili Libraries and Indigenous Heritage	5	200	Course ceases to exist – choose another elective
			Anthropological Linguistics	5	300	Resit course

Transitional provisions for students that started *before 2022-2023*

Due to change into the English-taught programme BA African Studies as of September 1, 2022, some of the components will change. As the number of students is very limited the programme will make a tailor made study programme per student that will be presented to the Board of Examiners.