



Universiteit Leiden

# Course and Examination Regulations

valid as of 1 September 2016

Programme-specific section:

## Master's Programme: African Studies (research)

These course and examination regulations have been drawn up in accordance with Section 7.13 of the Higher Education and Research Act [*Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek*] (WHW) (henceforth the Act) and additional quality marks as set out in the framework document Leiden University Register of Study Programmes [*Leids universitair register opleidingen*].

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 programmes and a section that contains information that is specific to a particular programme. This programme-specific section forms a whole with the general section, and only contains the articles with content that is specific to a particular programme.

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### Appendices

Appendix D – Curriculum

Appendix E – E-prospectus (see <https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl>)

## 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 **Achievement Levels**

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 programmes in African Studies as well as in different related disciplines;
- The ability to identify a theoretical 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 place;
- 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 apply a theoretical or descriptive approach when conducting basic independent research in African Studies;

- The capacity to deploy the theoretical and methodological tool-sets for the analysis and interpretation of the object of inquiry, directed at innovative research;
- 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 integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.*

- 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.
- Sophisticated understanding of the stakes in the politics of knowledge and an awareness of bias in academic inquiry.

### IV. *Communication*

*Graduates can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously.*

- 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 learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.*

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:

- 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;
- To set up and carry out a research project under expert supervision;
- To take into account ideas, instructions and constructive criticism of supervisors and fellow students and in turn offer feedback to the work of others;
- 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 regarding Language of Instruction [*Gedragscode voertaal*] the language of instruction and examination of the programme is English. Students are expected to have an adequate command of the language of instruction of the programme.

**Article 3.1 Compulsory Components**

3.1.1 The programme includes compulsory components totalling a study load of 120 credits. These compulsory components include a limited choice from a selection of optional courses [*keuzevakken*] from which a student is obliged to choose. These compulsory components also include 10 credits to be spent on courses offered by the recognised national research schools.

**Article 4.2 Obligatory Order**

4.2.1 In the examination, and when indicated, the classes of the following components can only be taken part once the examination of the preceding components specified below have been successfully completed:

<i>Component:</i>	<i>Participation in class and examination after passing:</i>	<i>Participation in examination after passing:</i>
The Field of African Studies and Interdisciplinarity Part 2. Processes of Africanist Research	The Field of African Studies and Interdisciplinarity Part I. Aims and Results of Africanist Research	
Regional Specialization: West Africa		Theory and the Empirical in African Studies
Regional Specialization: East Africa		Theory and the Empirical in African Studies
Regional Specialization: Southern Africa		Theory and the Empirical in African Studies
Seminar: Writing Research		Theory and the Empirical in

Proposal		African Studies
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### Article 4.3 **Examination Formats**

4.3.7 Not applicable.

### Article 5.2 **Admission to the academic year 2016-2017 and following years**

5.2.1 Not applicable.

5.2.2 The Board of Admissions may, on request, grant admission to the programmes to persons who do not meet the requirements specified in 5.2.1 but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board of Admissions that they possess an equal level of knowledge, understanding and skills as the holders of a degree specified in 5.2.1, possibly under conditions to be further determined, without prejudice to the requirements in 5.2.4.

5.2.4 Alongside the requirements specified in 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, the following qualitative admission requirements apply for the programme pursuant to Article 7.30b, second paragraph, of the Act:

- have earned the degree of Bachelor at a 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 C; and
- have affinity with and suitability for scholarly research, demonstrated by 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; and
- are sufficiently proficient in the language of instruction, to be assessed by the Faculty Board (English IELTS 7.0, TOEFL 100 (internet-based) or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)); and
- have completed a bachelor's programme in the field of African Languages and Cultures, (African) Linguistics, History, Cultural Anthropology, Literature, Sociology, Political Sciences, Public Administration or other studies related to the Social Sciences.

5.2.5 If the Executive Board has determined a maximum capacity for the programme, the order of admission will be determined by the qualitative admission requirements as referred to in Article 5.2.4 and Appendix F.

### Article 5.4 **Bridging Programmes (Premasters)**

Not applicable.