



# MA PROGRAMME IN AFRICAN STUDIES

## 2005 CURRICULUM

Applies from 1 September 2020  
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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1. Introduction**

Pursuant to the Danish Ministerial Order on Bachelor's and Master's (Candidatus) Programmes at the Universities (the University Programme Order), Ministerial Order No. 902 of 27 June 2017, the Danish Ministerial Order on Admission and Enrolment on Master's (Candidatus) Programmes at Universities, Ministerial Order No. 1497 of 12 December 2017, and the Danish Ministerial Order on University Examinations and Grading (the Examination Order), Ministerial Order No. 1062 of 30 June 2016, the Faculty of Theology at the University of Copenhagen offers a two-year MA programme in African Studies.

## **1.2. Description of purpose**

The MA programme in African Studies provides an advanced understanding of and critical engagement with the diversity of the African continent and its relationship to the world from historical, social, political, economic and cultural dimensions. The programme takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to the study of Africa and Africa in the world, with particular emphasis on combining disciplines from within the social sciences and humanities. Grounded in this interdisciplinary approach, students acquire strong analytical skills, the ability to conduct independent research, and the possibility of gaining practical experience in relevant professional fields.

The aim is for the student to acquire interdisciplinary skills in abstract problem formulation, application of suitable research methodologies, developing appropriate theoretical frameworks for analysis, and engaging analytically with empirical material, thus becoming qualified to work independently on complex social, economic, political and cultural issues.

The programme is research-based. Emphasis is therefore placed on students acquiring the ability to carry out independent research and analysis. Moreover, students are expected to be able to communicate their academic knowledge and expertise to the general public.

## **1.3. Quality assurance and quality development**

The Faculty of Theology's quality assurance system is based on Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area and the Danish Accreditation Institution's guidelines. The quality assurance policy is available on the Faculty website.

The principle of using external and internal examiners plays a key role in maintaining the high academic level and continued quality development of the programme, with due regard to the special conditions that apply to area studies. The corps of external examiners is appointed by the Agency of Higher Education. A chairmanship is elected by and among the external examiners which, after consultation with the University, allocates exam assessment tasks. Emphasis is therefore placed on the team being representative of the disciplines that constitute African Studies, as well as of the professional areas in which the candidates have acquired expertise.

To enhance the relevance and quality of the study programme, it is organised in dialogue with representatives of relevant groups of prospective employers who are members of the Employers Panel at the Centre of African Studies. Similarly, experience gained by graduates in various working situations is also to be taken into account in the continued development of the quality and relevance of the study programme. The Study Board carries out regular evaluations of teaching across the courses, and these evaluations are made available to the public.

The 2005 Curriculum for the African Studies entered into force 1 September 2005.

This revised Curriculum was approved by the Dean on 7 May 2018.

## 2. Admission requirements, enrolment and title

### 2.1. Admission requirements and enrolment

#### *Danish bachelor degrees*

The following bachelor degrees from a Danish university qualify graduates for admission to the MA programme in African Studies: bachelor degrees in political science, anthropology, geography, history, religion, international studies, cultural encounters and public health.

#### *Foreign bachelor degrees*

Students with a foreign bachelor degree in the above-mentioned areas from a recognised university may be considered qualified for admission. Admission will only be granted if, after a thorough assessment, applicants are deemed to possess educational qualifications equivalent to those required to qualify for admission.

#### *Other bachelor degrees*

Students with a Danish or foreign bachelor degree in other fields related to African Studies or in the social sciences and humanities may be considered qualified for admission. Admission will only be granted if, after a thorough assessment by the assessment committee, applicants are deemed to possess educational qualifications equivalent to those required to qualify for admission.

#### *Professional bachelor degrees*

Following a specific individual assessment, applicants holding a professional bachelor's degree can be admitted if the assessment committee deems that they have the appropriate educational background and basic academic qualifications equivalent to the background and qualifications acquired through a bachelor degree from a university. The assessment committee may decide to have one of the programme's lecturers conduct an interview with such applicants. The purpose of the interview is to clarify the applicant's academic qualifications.

#### *Prioritisation criteria*

If the programme receives more applications than the available slots, selection will be made based on a comprehensive evaluation, with emphasis on the following criteria:

- General proficiency/grades in the qualifying degree programme
- Grades achieved in subjects especially relevant to the applied programme
- Relevant academic experience with Africa
- Academic qualifications related to the disciplines that are central to the programme
- Statement of how the applicant's academic profile fits the programme, outline of academic knowledge of Africa, a description of the intended master's thesis, and the applicant's motivation for applying

### 2.2. Language

The MA programme in African Studies is offered as an all-English study programme. All exams are taken in English. Enrolment presupposes English on par with level B from the Danish secondary school with a weighted grade point average of at least 3.0 not rounding up. The requirement may also be met by English on par with Danish A-level with a weighted grade point average of at least 3.0 not rounding up. The requirement may also be met by English on par with Danish A-level with a weighted grade point average of at least 3.0 not rounding up.

For a full description of how the Faculty assesses foreign upper secondary school leaving certificates, see [www.studies.ku.dk](http://www.studies.ku.dk)

To gain admission, non-Danish applicants must document qualifications on par with 'English level B with a weighted grade point average of at least 3.0 not rounding up' of Danish upper secondary school. The Faculty of Theology accepts the following three ways of documenting this:

- English is the applicant's native language
- Prior studies completed in the English language/in an English-speaking country
- Applicants with English as their second language (except Scandinavians) must pass an IELTS, TOEFL or Cambridge Advanced English test before being admitted

For a full description of the required language skills, see [www.studies.ku.dk](http://www.studies.ku.dk)

### **2.3. Title**

Graduates of the African Studies programme have the right to use the title MA (African Studies) (Danish title: *cand.mag.*).

### **2.4. General regulations**

For the MA in African Studies, in addition to the rules set out in this curriculum, a number of general regulations apply.

The general regulations relate to entrance requirements and admission, withdrawal, re-enrolment and transfer, teaching and exams, requirements of academic integrity, prior approval and credit transfer, leave, dispensation and complaints.

Students should familiarise themselves with and follow the general regulations.

The general regulations are available on the study pages of KUnet.

### 3. Academic profile of African Studies

#### 3.1. Structure and curriculum

The official length of the MA programme in African Studies is two years of full-time study (120 ECTS credits) distributed over four semesters with 30 ECTS credits required per semester. The total length of the programme of 120 ECTS may not be exceeded.

As a rule, a semester comprises fourteen weeks of teaching. The programme comprises a number of compulsory core courses (60 ECTS), elective components (30 ECTS) and an MA thesis (30 ECTS), and has been composed with due regard to academic coherence and progression in the course of study.

The compulsory courses, elective components and MA thesis that make up the programme must be taken in the order set out below and with the associated credit weighting. It should be noted that there are specific rules regarding the MA thesis. See section 4.3 MA thesis.

*The Study programme without Kiswahili as elective components:*

1 <sup>st</sup> semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester	3 <sup>rd</sup> semester	4 <sup>th</sup> semester
<b>Introduction to African Studies</b> Four classes* per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS	<b>Politics, Development and Change in Africa</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS	<b>Elective components:</b>  A combination of one or two thematic courses <i>and/or</i> project-based modules  30 ECTS	<b>MA thesis</b>  (with thesis seminar)  30 ECTS
<b>Nature, Population and Society in Africa</b> Four classes per week 15 ECTS	<b>Religion, Culture and Society in Africa</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS		
	<b>Advanced Research Methods</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS		
<b>Economic Development in Africa</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS	<b>Thematic course</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS		

\* A class is the equivalent to a 45 minutes teaching hour.

#### 3.2. Competence profile

Graduates of the MA in African Studies programme acquire the knowledge, skills and competences listed below. Graduates are qualified to work in a number of fields including: international and local development sectors (both public and private); international relations (e.g. diplomacy, security or cross-cultural arenas); the media and wider communications sectors (print media, radio, TV, public



relations); private business (a range of investment sectors in Africa); as well as within the broad interdisciplinary academic field of African Studies and related individual disciplines (research, teaching, communication).

A graduate in African Studies will have attained the following competences:

*Knowledge:*

- Comprehensive and interdisciplinary knowledge of key themes and questions significant for African Studies, including environmental issues, political economy and development economics, religion, culture, politics, and international development
- Specialised, research-based and in-depth knowledge within a selected number of topics related to African realities, such as urban governance, critical policy and planning, NGOs and civil society, migration and displacement, religion, conflict, natural resource management, and globalisation
- Knowledge and critical understanding of relevant theories from both the social sciences and the humanities that generate reflective approaches to key themes within African Studies
- Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of interdisciplinarity and the ability to identify and critically discuss research topics, questions and debates within African Studies

*Skills:*

- Command of interdisciplinary research methodologies that include both quantitative and qualitative approaches
- Ability to collect, process and analyse data, including the ability to choose adequate research methodologies
- Ability to independently assess and evaluate models for analysis and policy-making, as well as to suggest new models based on scientific research
- Ability to communicate knowledge and discuss both scientific and professional challenges addressed within the field of African Studies to both specialised and non-specialised audiences including researchers, media, international organisations and private companies

*Competences:*

- Capacity to work independently and with flexibility in cross-cultural contexts on complex topics that demand interdisciplinary and creative approaches
- Ability to work independently and in teams within fields relevant to African realities (teaching, communication, health, development, humanitarianism, religion, administration)
- Ability to combine clear theoretical perspectives with a profound and in-depth empirical understanding and knowledge of African contexts that facilitates critical problem identification and the suggestion of realistic solutions
- Capacity to reflect independently and responsibly on one's own learning processes as well as the ability to identify areas in which further learning is required

### **3.3. The interdisciplinary approach of the programme**

The African Studies programme is an area study programme and by definition interdisciplinary. Students must acquire the analytical and methodological competence to take an interdisciplinary approach to African societies, and will be trained in the particular problems associated with combining concepts, theories and approaches from different disciplines.

## 4. Course descriptions and exam regulations

*The following section presents the study programme's courses in chronological order.*

The exam deadlines can be found on KUnet, and the students must familiarise themselves with these regulations.

### 4.1. Compulsory courses

#### 4.1.1. Introduction to African Studies

##### *Description*

African Studies is the interdisciplinary study of Africa and Africa in the world, past and present. This course provides an introduction to African Studies as an academic field, including the history, development and main debates within the field, and introduces the key interdisciplinary approaches of African Studies. It deals with historical and contemporary ideas and representations of Africa, introduces historical dimensions of African realities and examines the relationship Africa has as part of and in relation to the rest of the world. The course also provides an overview of the main conceptual debates within the field. Finally, the course discusses the kinds of knowledge African Studies produces, the significance (for whom, for what) of doing African Studies, as well as the implications of theorising from the global South.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of significant aspects of African Studies as an academic field
- of approaches to Africa and Africa in the world
- of historical and contemporary representations of Africa and their implications
- of key theoretical debates relevant for African Studies

##### Skills

- in appreciating and employing interdisciplinary approaches to Africa
- in processing and orally communicating knowledge during the course

##### Competences

- to reflect critically and independently on topics and themes from an area studies perspective

##### *Assessment criteria*

The pass grade is given when the student demonstrates:

- comprehensive knowledge of African Studies as an academic field
- solid understanding of key theoretical debates relevant for African Studies
- confident capacity to critically and independently reflect on the topics of the course and communicate this orally

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for seven weeks.

*Reading list:* Set course reading list comprising 900-1,200 pages.

*Exam:* Oral. a) active participation through two oral presentations based on the set course reading list and attendance (75 percent) or b) a 20-minute oral exam on a selected question with 20 minutes of preparation time.

*Examiner(s):* Course lecturer.

*Assessment:* Pass/fail.

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

#### **4.1.2. Nature, Population and Society in Africa**

##### *Description*

This course focuses on the relationship between the natural and the social in African contexts. 'Nature' is considered both in terms of its meanings and materialities, and in terms of the environment, physical/natural resources, bodies, persons and populations. The course historicises and explores such contemporary themes as natural resource governance and conflicts, environmental sustainability, climate change, demography, migration and mobility, social classifications such as race, gender and youth, and identity and belonging. It also aims to reveal the dynamic interrelationship between the physical, social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of 'nature' in African contexts.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of key themes and debates on nature, population and society in Africa
- of key theories of and approaches to nature, population and society in Africa

##### Skills

- in identifying and selecting key theories and approaches to enable the analysis of selected aspects of nature, population and society within Africa
- in applying an interdisciplinary approach
- in communicating research-based knowledge and scientific debates related to nature, population and society

##### Competences

- to conduct independent, interdisciplinary and critical analysis of a sub-topic within the fields of nature, population and society

##### *Assessment criteria*

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- confident ability to identify, define and consider a substantive academic question from an interdisciplinary and critical-analytical perspective
- confident ability to choose, analyse and present material relevant to a selected question in an independent and reflective manner
- confident ability to communicate academic ideas and arguments in a clear and concise way

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for one semester.

*Reading list:* Set course reading list comprising 1,600-1,800 pages.

*Exam:* A seven-day take-home exam paper comprising 36,000-48,000 characters. On the basis of the set course reading list the exam paper must answer one of three questions posed by the lecturer. Students are free to choose which of the three questions to answer.

*Examiner(s):* External.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 15 ECTS.

#### **4.1.3. Economic Development in Africa**

##### *Description*

This course will examine key dimensions and dynamics of economic development in Africa, exploring these in relation to global, regional, national and local contexts and their interconnectedness. It will focus particularly on the debates and arguments around the structural transformation of African economies, including the various factors that stimulate growth and productivity on the one hand, and produce inequality, marginalisation or underdevelopment on the other. Assuming the significance of power within all economic and social relations, the course will make use of interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches – including political and economic approaches – to examine these relations.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of key dimensions of economic development in Africa
- of the diverse conditions, structures and actors affecting different economies within the continent
- of key concepts, theories and methodologies relevant for understanding and analysing economic development in Africa

##### Skills

- in analysing overall economic trends in Africa
- in analysing the key themes and arguments in contemporary debates on economic development in Africa

##### Competences

- to critically and independently assess various approaches to economic development in Africa

##### *Assessment criteria*

The grade 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- confident understanding of key economic trends in Africa
- confident knowledge and understanding of various approaches to economic development in Africa
- solid understanding of factors affecting economic growth and/or inequality at and across different spatial scales
- confident ability to apply interdisciplinary theories and methods to aspects of economic development in Africa

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for seven weeks.

*Reading list:* Set course reading list comprising 900-1,200 pages.

*Exam:* Students write two assignments during the course, defined by the course lecturer, from whom they will receive feedback during the course. The length of each assignment should be between 10,500 and 12,000 characters with the total length of both assignments being between 21,000 and 24,000 characters. The final (revised) assignments are handed in as the exam paper as a single document during the exam period.

*Examiner(s):* Internal.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

#### **4.1.4. Politics, Development and Change in Africa**

##### *Description*

This course focuses on key political, political-economic, social, institutional and developmental dimensions of change in Africa. It combines critical social science perspectives and historical analysis with illustrative empirical cases on such themes as nation and belonging, state and state-making, citizenship, democracy and elections, authority and governance. It problematises notions of progress, improvement and development and investigates their manifestations and effects in practice in diverse African settings.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### **Knowledge**

- of a range of local and national political actors, systems and processes
- of critical approaches to political, social and economic development actors, systems and processes
- of Africa's place in international political, social and economic systems
- of interdisciplinary approaches to significant themes related to politics, development and change within contemporary Africa

### Skills

- in analysing complex social, political and political-economic phenomena in diverse and changing African contexts
- in identifying and analysing developmental challenges in Africa
- in independently initiating and defining the parameters of a research question

### Competences

- to conduct independent, interdisciplinary and critical analysis of a sub-topic within the field of politics, development and change
- to master different stages of writing a major assignment
- to engage critically and reflectively in a peer review process

### Assessment criteria

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- strong ability to conduct interdisciplinary analysis of themes relating to politics, development and change in Africa
- confident ability to independently identify, define and analyse a research topic
- confident ability to independently discuss the research question from a critical interdisciplinary perspective
- confident ability to communicate academic ideas and arguments in a clear, concise and well-argued manner

### Teaching:

The course consists of three interrelated phases. The first is a teaching phase focusing on the theoretical, thematic, empirical and methodological aspects of the course. The second phase consists of preparing the first draft of an individual written paper, with some limited supervision. The third phase consists of an opponent exercise in which the students present their individual papers and receive feedback from the lecturer and fellow students in peer groups. The paper is subsequently refined and delivered as the final exam paper.

The course runs for seven weeks with three phases, which are structured as follows:

- A teaching phase with four classes per week based on set course reading list comprising 750-1,000 pages.
- A writing phase with some supervision during which a full draft paper is produced based on an individually defined question and an indicative bibliography (with correct academic referencing) that uses a minimum of 30% of the set course reading list, plus additional literature selected by the student. The paper must be geared towards meeting the same requirements as the final exam paper. The brief supervision will assist with the focus of the paper, problem outline and a working question. Each student is entitled to one 20-minute session of individual supervision.
- An opponent phase in which each student presents a paper in a near-final form and participates in the feedback sessions. The papers are presented in groups, and the group members provide feedback. Each student is allotted 30 minutes of feedback. The final exam paper will be able to be revised with consideration of the feedback received during this opponent phase.

*Reading list:* Each student must submit a combined list of literature for approval by the lecturer prior to submission of the final exam paper. The combined list of literature should consist of 750-1,000 pages comprising literature from the set course reading list and additional literature selected by the student that relates to the topic of the exam paper. The set course reading list must constitute at least 30% of the combined list of literature.

*Exam:* The exam paper must be 24,000-28,800 characters in length.

*Examiner(s):* External.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

#### **4.1.5. Religion, Culture and Society in Africa**

##### *Description*

Drawing on the traditions of both the humanities and social sciences, this course studies religion and culture in Africa in their social contexts. The course focuses on religious and cultural phenomena in modern Africa, the importance of African cultural heritage for contemporary Africans, the interaction between local and global religious trends on the African continent, and connections between religious and cultural movements and social, political and economic dynamics in Africa.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of significant aspects of the cultural, religious and social dimensions of contemporary Africa
- of the social and political significance of African cultural heritage, in particular in relation to large-scale trends such as migration and urbanisation
- of the interaction between local African and global religious and cultural actors and developments

##### Skills

- in identifying and discussing the contemporary significance, use and reshaping of African religious and cultural traditions
- in analysing African religious and cultural phenomena in their societal contexts
- in undertaking interdisciplinary analysis using literature and other relevant material on Africa's religions and cultures

##### Competences

- to conduct independent, interdisciplinary and critical analysis of the local and global significance of religion and culture in Africa based on relevant theoretical approaches and empirical material

##### *Assessment criteria*

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- comprehensive overview of the diversity of Africa's religious and cultural traditions
- confident ability to analyse African religious and cultural phenomena in their societal contexts
- clear understanding of the contemporary significance, use and reshaping of African religious and cultural traditions
- clear understanding of the interaction between local African and global religious and cultural developments
- confident ability to conduct a methodological and theoretical analysis of literature and other material on Africa's religions and cultures

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for seven weeks.

*Reading list:* Set course reading list comprising 900-1,200 pages.

*Exam:* Oral exam prepared on the basis of a selected exam question. A number of exam questions are defined and provided by the course lecturer seven days before the oral exam. The oral exam is 25 minutes long including assessment.

*Examiner(s):* External.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

#### **4.1.6. Advanced Research Methods**

##### *Description*

This course provides students with advanced knowledge of research methods from the humanities and social sciences and serves as a grounding in the collection and analysis of research evidence. The course covers data collection approaches and data analysis methods. This includes ethnographic fieldwork such as participatory observation and interviewing, textual and discourse analysis and quantitative methods such as surveys. Various aspects of research ethics are covered. The course consists of lectures on research methods as well as hands-on training in aspects of research planning such as defining a research topic and question, identifying sources, planning fieldwork, analysing research findings and writing.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### **Knowledge**

- of core concepts and methods relevant for data collection and analysis
- of research ethics

##### **Skills**

- in selecting relevant methods for data collection in relation to the Internship, Field Study and MA thesis research
- Ability to plan and conduct data collection and analysis



## Competences

- to critically reflect on use of methods and ethical aspects of data collection and analysis

## Assessment criteria

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- comprehensive knowledge of central methods relevant for data collection and analysis
- confident ability in selecting relevant methods
- confident ability in planning and conducting data collection and analysis
- solid capacity to reflect critically on the use of methods as well as ethical aspects of data collection

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for seven weeks.

*Reading list:* Set course reading list comprising 900-1,200 pages. Each assignment should include a list of relevant literature comprising 450-600 pages.

*Exam:* Students write two assignments during the course, and receive feedback from the course lecturer and fellow students. The written assignments are: 1) proposal for the Internship or Field Study or a methodology essay (for those not doing Internships or Field Studies) and 2) thesis outline including overall theme, research question, relevant literature, theory and methods. Further details of the assignments are defined and provided by the course lecturer. Each assignment should be 10,500-12,000 characters long and the total length of both assignments should be 21,000-24,000 characters long. The final assignments are handed in as a single document during the exam period.

*Examiner(s):* Internal.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

## 4.2. Elective components

Elective components take place in the third semester of the programme, with the exception of Kiswahili, which takes place in the first and second semester, following the completion of the compulsory courses. Students have a variety of opportunities to use the 30 ECTS credits allocated for elective components: thematic courses at CAS, other faculties at the University of Copenhagen or other universities in Denmark; project-based modules in the form of an Internship or Field Study; or studying abroad as an exchange student for a semester.

### 4.2.1. Thematic courses

#### *Description*

Thematic courses give students the opportunity to expand and deepen their knowledge in a chosen specialised thematic area. This may be either within the field of African Studies or a broader subject of relevance to contemporary Africa. For the exam, the students select a sub-theme within the overall thematic framework of the course. The sub-theme often includes an empirical element and is expected to have a strong conceptual foundation. Possible course themes include: critical development planning and policy, environmental and resource governance, conflict and conflict resolution, displacement and migration, religious movements and urbanisation. The strong focus on

a selected sub-theme will contribute to further specialisation and the acquiring of competences directed towards specific employment sectors.

#### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of a specialised field within the broad area of African Studies

##### Skills

- in identifying a relevant specialised sub-theme and precise question, in consultation with the course lecturer, within the overall focus area of the thematic course
- in independently and critically selecting relevant literature on the sub-topic to be studied

##### Competences

- to independently and critically conduct an analysis of a self-selected research question within a specialised thematic framework

#### *Assessment criteria*

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- confident ability to identify and define a sub-topic of relevance to the overall thematic framework of the course
- confident ability to independently select relevant literature on the sub-topic to be studied
- confident ability to independently and critically conduct an interdisciplinary analysis of the sub-topic in question using relevant literature and evidence
- confident ability to communicate academic debates and arguments in a clear and concise manner

*Teaching:* A thematic course consists of two classes (7.5 and 15 ECTS) per week for one semester. Thematic courses are offered each semester. Thematic courses may also be offered in condensed form, for instance as a summer course or compact course.

*Reading list:* The lecturer provides a reading list comprising 900-1,200 pages (7.5 ECTS) or 1,600-1,800 pages (15 ECTS). Towards the end of the course, each student must submit a combined reading list for approval by the lecturer prior to submitting the final exam paper. The combined list should consist of 900-1,200 pages (7.5 ECTS) or 1,600-1,800 pages (15 ECTS) comprising literature both from the set course reading list and additional literature selected by the student and that is related to the topic of the exam paper. The set course reading list must constitute at least 30% of the combined reading list.

*Exam:* The exam is a written exam.

7.5 ECTS: A written paper on a topic of the student's own choosing comprising 24,000-28,800 characters.

15 ECTS: A written paper on a topic of the student's own choosing comprising 36,000-43,200 characters.

Students can participate in and register for group examination in thematic courses without having a dispensation and approval from the study board. The students must register the group at the exam office. A group can consist of a maximum of three students.

For written group exams the requirements for the combined reading list and the length of the paper is the same as when writing individually, i.e. the length is multiplied by the number of students in the group. The authors of the individual sections must be clearly identified in the exam paper. For all group exams students will be given individual grades.

All three exam attempts for a given thematic course have to be conducted within a year following the conclusion of the course.

*Examiner(s):* External or internal.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 7.5/15 ECTS.

#### **4.2.2. Kiswahili**

##### **4.2.2.1. Kiswahili 1**

###### *Description*

This course provides basic instruction in Kiswahili. During the course students work with relevant texts and dialogues, listening and speaking, grammar, translation, as well as cultural aspects of the Kiswahili language.

###### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

###### Knowledge

- of the Kiswahili language at a basic level

###### Skills

- in reading and analysing short texts in Kiswahili
- in reading and translating short texts and dialogues from Kiswahili to English and vice versa
- in speaking Kiswahili at a basic level

###### Competences

- to master the Kiswahili language at a basic level

###### *Assessment criteria*

The pass grade is given when the student demonstrates:

- sufficient ability to translate text(s) from Kiswahili to English and vice versa
- sufficient ability to write a short text in Kiswahili
- sufficient ability to carry out a grammatical analysis of a text(s)
- ability to express oneself understandably in Kiswahili

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for one semester.

Reading list: Set course reading list of approximately 125 pages of textbook material including grammar, and approximately 25 pages of general texts and some listening exercises.

*Exam:* The exam takes the form of an oral exam at the end of the teaching period. The exam lasts 15 minutes including assessment, with 15 minutes of preparation time and access to specified reference works.

*Examiner:* Course lecturer.

*Assessment:* Pass/fail

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

#### **4.2.2.2. Kiswahili 2**

##### *Description*

This course provides instruction in Kiswahili, including grammar, oral dialogue and text reading relevant to work, educational and everyday life situations. To participate, the student must have completed Kiswahili 1.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of the Kiswahili language, including its history and contemporary use

##### Skills

- in carrying on a conversation and reading shorter texts in Kiswahili
- in interpreting both literary and non-literary texts, including spoken, written and multi-modal texts
- in formulating complex sentences in Kiswahili and analysing their morphology and syntax
- in understanding commonly occurring communication where the language used is nuanced
- in writing clear, concise, grammatically correct and accurately spelled prose

##### Competences

- to master the Kiswahili language at a level that enables the student to conduct a conversation
- to communicate in Kiswahili in situations where context and content are known and unknown

##### *Assessment criteria*

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:

- confident ability to read and summarise orally – with a good flow – both prepared and unprepared prose and non-fiction texts in Kiswahili (at a level corresponding to a newspaper article)
- confident ability to orally conduct a grammatical analysis of prepared prose and non-fiction texts
- confident ability to orally translate unprepared prose and non-fiction texts into English
- confident ability to orally conduct a brief grammatical analysis of these texts

*Teaching:* Four classes per week for one semester.

*Reading list:* Set reading list comprising approximately 250 pages of textbook material, including grammar, and approximately 50 pages of general texts and some listening exercises with five-minute long radio and TV recordings.

*Exam:* The exam takes the form of an oral exam. It is 30 minutes long including assessment, with 30 minutes of preparation time and access to specified reference works.

*Examiner(s):* External.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale.

*Weighting:* 7.5 ECTS.

*The Study programme with Kiswahili 1 and 2, making up half of the elective components:*

1st semester	2nd semester	3rd semester	4th semester
<b>Nature, Population and Society in Africa</b> Four classes* per weeks 15 ECTS	<b>Politics, Development and Change in Africa</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS  <b>Religion, Culture and Society in Africa</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS	<b>Elective component:</b>  One thematic course or project-based module  15 ECTS	<b>MA thesis</b>  (with thesis seminar)  30 ECTS
<b>Introduction to African Studies</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS	<b>Advanced Research Methods</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS		
<b>Economic Development in Africa</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS	<b>Thematic course</b> Four classes per week for seven weeks 7.5 ECTS		
Elective component: <b>Kiswahili 1</b> Four classes per week for fourteen weeks 7.5 ECTS	Elective component: <b>Kiswahili 2</b> Four classes per week for fourteen weeks 7.5 ECTS		

\* A class is the equivalent to a 45 minutes teaching hour

*For Kiswahili:*

To participate in Kiswahili 2, the student must have completed Kiswahili 1.

Students who want to participate in Kiswahili have to be aware that the Kiswahili courses are taken in addition to the compulsory courses of 60 ECTS in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. The courses will account for 15 ECTS of Elective components (3<sup>rd</sup> semester).

#### **4.2.3 Project-based module (Internship and Field Study)**

##### *Description*

Internship and Field Study are non-taught project-based modules through which students can attain either 15 ECTS or 30 ECTS, depending on the length of time of the activity. It is possible to undertake either just one of these modules (15 ECTS or 30 ECTS), or two modules (either one of each, or two of the same worth 15 ECTS each), totalling a maximum of 30 ECTS. The project-based modules are undertaken in the third semester of the MA degree. Students will have a supervisor allocated for the Internship and/or Field Study projects, who ideally – but not necessarily – is the same supervisor as for the thesis in the fourth semester. The Internship and Field Study must have direct relevance to African Studies and must therefore preferably take place in Africa, or elsewhere if the Internship assignments or the theme of the Field Study relate specifically to Africa. It is expected that insights, knowledge and data gathered during an Internship or Field Study are part of the MA thesis, although there may be deviations from this depending on the nature of the activity and the question and focus of the final thesis.

A project-based module requires the submission of a proposal that must be approved by the supervisor. This proposal can be part of the exam paper submitted for the exam for the Advanced Research Methods course. For Internships, in addition to the proposal, a contract with the placement institution must be approved by the supervisor.

*Field Study:* The proposal should be 10,500-12,000 characters long and must be approved by the supervisor before the Field Study can be accepted. The proposal must include a work plan stating the location of the fieldwork, the overall focus and theme and a preliminary working question for the planned investigation, as well as a presentation of the main methods and ethical aspects of the fieldwork. The proposal must also include a preliminary list of literature relevant for the Field Study.

*Internship:* The proposal must be 10,500-12,000 characters long and must be approved by the supervisor before the Internship can be accepted. The proposal must include an outline of the relevance of the Internship to the MA programme, an outline of the organisation and its scope of activities, the anticipated focus of the work activities that the student will undertake, an indication of the academic theme associated with the internship and a preliminary list of literature relevant to this. Finally, the proposal must include a brief discussion of the anticipated challenges the Internship may present and possible ways to deal with these.

##### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### **Knowledge**

- The aim of an Internship is to provide knowledge and practical experience of carrying out professional assignments and activities that are relevant to the field of African Studies
- The aim of a Field Study is to gain knowledge of basic research design and methodological experience of gathering empirical material on a specific topic

## Skills

- in applying appropriate methods and knowledge relevant to the professional assignments of an Internship and/or to undertaking research relevant to a given topic
- in communicating findings and reflections on an Internship and/or Field Study experience

## Competences

- to independently reflect on the chosen methods and theories used when undertaking professional assignments and/or collecting data
- to critically reflect on how knowledge gained during the MA study programme can be used in an Internship or Field Study context

## Assessment criteria

The pass grade is given when the student demonstrates:

- confident ability to collect and systematise data gathered during an Internship or Field Study
- confident ability to independently and critically analyse the material collected and the practical experience acquired in the subject area that is the focus of the work
- confident ability to reflect theoretically and methodologically on the topic in question and the practical experiences gained, including the ability to place it in relation to one or more of the fields that comprise African Studies

*Teaching:* In order to be credit-earning, an Internship or Field Study must have a duration of either 9-15 weeks for 15 ECTS, or 20-26 weeks for 30 ECTS. Students who have registered for more than the mandatory 30 ECTS in courses in the first and second semester may complete an Internship or Field Study for 15 ECTS regardless of whether the duration is more than 15 weeks in the third semester.

*Reading list:* The final written paper must be based on relevant academic literature with a scope of 500-600 pages (15 ECTS) or 800-1,000 pages (30 ECTS). The reading list must be approved by the supervisor.

*Exam:* The exam consists of two assignments completed during the Internship or Field Study, as well as a final written paper. The two assignments consist of short written papers in which the student provides an analytical reflection on how a selected task has been approached and carried out and how the student has used academic skills to carry out the task.

The student chooses the topics by agreement with the supervisor. If the task consists of a particular product this must be attached as an appendix. Internship-related tasks could be writing a blog or an internet article, arranging an activity at the workplace, producing material for the workplace, or making an oral presentation at the workplace. Tasks related to the Field Study could be an interview guide, excerpts from a fieldwork diary, reflections on access to the field, positioning and ethical considerations, or collection and first analysis of collected empirical material.

The final written paper must comprise two parts:

The first part describes the practical aspects and experiences of the Internship or Field Study. The second part of the essay is an analysis of the theme the student has worked on during the Internship or Field Study. It must be based on the data the student has collected during the stay, as well as on the academic literature listed by the student as part of the examination requirements.

15 ECTS: The two assignments should be 4,800-7,200 characters long each and the final paper should be 9,600-12,000 characters long. The total length of all three written assignments should be between 19,200-26,400 characters. All assignments and the final paper must be finally submitted as a single document during the exam period.

30 ECTS: The two assignments should be 7,200-12,000 characters each and the final paper should be between 19,200-24,000 characters. The total length of all three written assignments should be between 33,600-48,000 characters. All assignments and the final paper must be submitted as a final single document during the exam period.

*Examiner(s):* Course lecturer.

*Assessment:* Pass/fail.

*Weighting:* 15 or 30 ECTS.

### **4.3. MA thesis**

#### *Description*

The MA thesis is the final part of the African Studies MA programme. The thesis gives the students the opportunity to work independently, critically and in-depth on a topic of their own choice within the academic framework of African Studies. The MA thesis is written under the guidance of a supervisor.

Part of thesis writing is participation in a thesis seminar. This gives the student the opportunity to discuss general issues related to undertaking independent research and writing a thesis.

#### *Academic goals*

The course aims to give the students the following qualifications:

##### Knowledge

- of a selected topic within the field of African Studies

##### Skills

- in independently identifying a research topic
- in selecting relevant literature, designing appropriate research methods, collecting empirical data, selecting and applying relevant theories and approaches for analysis
- in communicating academic content clearly and concisely at a high academic level

##### Competences

- to independently design and conduct complex and comprehensive research projects within a set timeframe
- to independently formulate and critically analyse a research question by applying relevant theories and methods in an interdisciplinary way

#### *Assessment criteria*

The grade of 12 is given when the student demonstrates:



- comprehensive, in-depth and relevant knowledge and understanding of the selected research topic
- confident ability to identify a research question and design and undertake a comprehensive academic research project
- confident ability to independently and critically analyse a research question using relevant theories, methods and other material
- excellent skills in written and oral communication of academic content, including use of correct academic language, referencing and thesis summary for non-specialists

#### *Agreement on supervision and deadline*

The student must identify a supervisor with whom a thesis contract must be agreed. The submission of the MA thesis presupposes that the student has registered with an approved thesis contract in the Self-Service system at KUnet. It is a prerequisite that the student has passed 60 ECTS and has signed up for the exam of 30 ECTS before writing the MA thesis.

When the thesis contract has been approved and the deadline for submission of the thesis has been set, the student cannot withdraw, and one examination attempt will have been used if the student fails to submit the thesis within the deadline. The MA thesis is written in the final semester of the programme. The study board can grant exemptions when justified by exceptional circumstances.

If the MA thesis is submitted after the set deadline, it will be regarded as a used exam attempt. Exceptional circumstances are the only legitimate reason for withdrawal from the MA thesis exam. If the MA thesis is not submitted on time, or if it earns a grade of 00 or -3, the student must change the project outline of the thesis within the same subject area and have it approved by the supervisor. The student has a timeframe of three months (including holidays etc.) to rewrite the MA thesis. If necessary, a third exam attempt may take place in accordance with the same rules. In special cases, the study board may grant permission for a change of supervisor in connection with a second or third exam attempt.

#### *Scope, literature, etc.*

The MA thesis must be 100,000-180,000 characters long (including the summary) and must be written on the basis of 1,800-2,800 pages of literature. The MA thesis must be written in English. The MA thesis must contain a summary for non-specialists of maximum one page which can be written in Danish or English. The title of the MA thesis and the reading list (containing 1,800-2,800 pages of literature) must be approved by the supervisor.

Students can participate in and register for group examination in the MA thesis without having an exemption and approval from the study board. Groups may have no more than three students. For written group exams the requirements for the reading list and the length of the paper is the same as for individual papers, i.e. the length is multiplied by the number of students in the group. The authors of the individual sections must be clearly identified in the MA thesis. Students are given individual grades.

If appropriate due to the nature of the subject, a thesis can be written in cooperation with an external part on the approval from the supervisor. The student must submit a completed cooperation contract together with the approved thesis contract by the deadlines.

*Exam:* After the student submits the written thesis, a thesis defence takes place in which the student presents the thesis and is examined by two examiners, namely the thesis supervisor and an external examiner. The oral thesis defence is 45 minutes long including assessment. If the MA thesis is written as a group paper, there is an oral exam for each student.

*Examiner(s):* External.

*Assessment:* 7-point grading scale. The grade is based on a combined assessment of the written thesis and the oral defence.

*Weighting:* 30 ECTS.

#### *Credit transfer for prize papers*

Credit for a prize paper that has earned a gold medal at a Danish university is transferable. In such cases, the prize paper takes the place of the MA thesis, and it is automatically awarded the grade of 12.

If a student wishes to submit a prize paper for assessment as an MA thesis, then it must be stated when the MA thesis is submitted that the paper is also submitted as a prize paper. This automatically results in an exemption from the length and bibliography rules that otherwise apply to MA theses. A Danish and English summary must be written according to the rules for prize papers. If the assessment of the paper as an MA thesis takes place concurrently with its assessment as a prize paper, the evaluation committee is appointed according to the rules for prize papers. The assessment of the paper as an MA thesis follows the rest of the rules for assessment of MA theses, and it is not necessary to await the assessment of the paper as a prize paper. The regulations for the transfer of credit for prize papers apply to prize papers written in 2006 and later.

## **4.4. Registration for courses, exams and re-exams**

Students will be registered administratively for compulsory courses in the first semester of the first study year. Thereafter it is the responsibility of each student to register for compulsory courses and elective components within the registration deadline. In a subsequent post-registration period, students may deregister and register for courses if there are places available. See, however, the requirement for continuous study activity and maximum programme completion times. It is not possible to withdraw from a course after the end of the post-registration period other than in exceptional circumstances.

Students will be registered administratively for the first exam attempt in connection with course registration. Students have the option to withdraw from the first, second and third exam attempts within the set deadlines. See, however, the requirements for continuous study activity and maximum programme completion times.

Students are responsible for registering for second and third exam attempts and re-registering for the first exam attempt within the set registration deadlines. Students decide for themselves when to sit their exam attempts. See, however, the requirements for continuous study activity and maximum programme completion times.

If a student does not sit an exam he/she has registered for, it will be considered as an exam attempt unless exceptional circumstances apply. If a student does not pass the exam he/she can register for the exam again, as students may register for the same exam three times.

#### **4.5. Requirements for continuous study activity**

Students must, as a minimum, pass exams totalling 45 ECTS credits each year of study. This is administrated as an accumulated study activity requirement.

Students must be given the opportunity to sit three exam attempts in courses from the study year in question before they can be disenrolled from the programme. As a result, students who, after the end of a study year, have not passed the accumulated number of ECTS credits in accordance with the study activity requirement, will be notified of the time by which they must fulfil the study activity requirement in order to remain on the programme. Students in this situation will be offered student counselling.

#### **4.6. Maximum programme completion times**

Students enrolled as of 1 September 2016 or later must have completed their master's degree programme within the prescribed time plus one year. Students who have not completed their programme within the maximum completion times will be disenrolled from the University.

*Transitional arrangements for students enrolled on the master's degree programme before 1 September 2016:*

Students enrolled on the master's degree programme as of 1 February 2016 must have completed the programme no later than 31 January 2020.

Students enrolled on the master's degree programme as of 1 September 2015 must have completed the programme no later than 31 August 2019.

Students enrolled on the master's degree programme as of 1 February 2015 must have completed the programme no later than 31 January 2019.

## **5. Exemptions, preapproval and credit transfers**

### **5.1. Exemptions**

In exceptional circumstances, the study board may approve exemptions from the curriculum.

The study board may provide special examination conditions for students with physical or mental disabilities if the study board assesses that this is necessary for equality of the students in the exam situation. It should be emphasised that there will be no change in the exam requirements.

The study board may grant an exemption from the study activity requirement if a student is an elite athlete, an entrepreneur or the chair of a voluntary organisation under the Danish Youth Council, or in other exceptional circumstances, for example in cases of disability.

In exceptional circumstances the study board may grant an exemption from the maximum completion times for completing the master's degree programme, for example in cases of disability.

### **5.2. Preapproval**

Students who wish to study at other faculties or universities must apply to the study board for preapproval before beginning the programme.

### **5.3. Credit transfers**

Students admitted to the study programme must apply for credit transfers for passed courses from all previous uncompleted study programmes. Failure by the student to do so may result in sanctions by the University's disciplinary rules. Students may apply for credit transfers for passed courses from previous completed programmes. Students must apply for credit transfers for pre-approved courses.

Credit transfers are approved by the study board on an individual basis.

## **6. Expiration of previous curriculum**

The previous 2005 curriculum, revised September 2018, expires on 31 August 2020.