

Module descriptions

AKV 801 Cultural theory 801

Academic organisation: Modern European Languages

Contact time: 1 lpw 1 dpw

Period of presentation: Semester 1

Language of instruction: English

Credits: 20

Module content:

This module focuses on a critical interdisciplinary understanding of key concepts of European thought like the humanities, national identity and homogeneity, subject formation, essentialist versus non-essentialist understanding of “culture”, “identity”, “nation”, “reality”, etc.

AKV 802 History of African-European cultural relations 802

Academic organisation: Modern European Languages

Contact time: 1 lpw 1 dpw

Period of presentation: Semester 2

Language of instruction: English

Credits: 20

Module content:

The interrelatedness of “history”, “agency” and “memory” of the mutual constructive forces will be examined, leading to an understanding that one cannot possess one’s (“own”) history, tradition or culture, but rather that these are areas of cultural practice that are continuously in flux and being negotiated.

AKV 803 EU lekgotla 803

Academic organisation: Modern European Languages

Contact time: 14 hours during the year

Period of presentation: Year

Language of instruction: English

Credits: 10

Module content:

The EU lekgotla will provide students with a critical forum to present and discuss their research proposals.

AKV 804 Applied additional module 804

Academic organisation: Modern European Languages

Period of presentation: Semester 1

Language of instruction: English

Credits: 20

Module content:

The credits for this module can either be obtained by taking a European language – other than English – at second-year level or by completing a project in the selected field of specialisation in consultation with the ‘field mentor’.

AKV 805 Inter-disciplinary studies of African-European relations 805

Academic organisation: Modern European Languages

Period of presentation: Semester 2

Language of instruction: English

Credits: 20

Module content:

(NB In consultation with the field mentor in the student’s selected field of specialisation)

Field 1: Narratives, visual worlds, symbolic spaces.

This field deals with stories people tell themselves to make sense of their existence, as well as with symbols and imaginary reality constructions. It leads to a critical re-evaluation of truth granting processes.

Mentors: Prof Amanda du Preez (Visual Arts), Prof Fraser McNeill (Anthropology)

Field 2: Socio-historical dynamics

This field deals with the chronology and dynamics of (power) relations, encounters, counter-encounters and its effects. This can include sociological, political, historical or other approaches towards such dynamics.

Mentors: Prof AloisMlambo (Historical and Heritage Studies), Prof Janis Grobbelaar (Sociology)

Field 3: African-European relations underlining our beliefs and values.

This can include studies of the history of human rights in Africa, of gender, class or race driven norms, of how such norms and traditions change, what we imagine as “our” norms, how norms are codified or what we take for granted.

Mentors: Prof Karin van Marle (Philosophy of Law), Prof Dirk Human (Religion Studies)

Field 4: Political constructions.

This refers to political constructions in public, private and market institutions on communal, national or inter- and transnational levels. It refers to the cultural practices and habits of agency, to how people make things happen, how to negotiate habits and social actions, how power or representation is created, organised, distributed and subverted.

Mentor: Prof Maxi Schoeman (Political Science)

Field 5: Languages, cultures, translations.

This refers to specific language-oriented approaches on the dynamics of African-European relations and refers to “language” as meaning making mechanism beyond mere communicative competences.

Mentors: Prof Russel West-Pavlov (English), Prof Willie Burger (Afrikaans)