African Languages
(offered by the Department of African Languages)
Telephone number 012 429 8060

1 Introduction

The gateway to a fuller understanding of our rich multilingual society can only be realistically achieved through a deeper knowledge of one or more African languages. A study of an African language empowers one to gain valuable insight and skills for us to become part of a new process of exploring, developing and planning our rich linguistic and literary heritage.

Our Constitution requires us to develop an African language as a language of equal importance with all the other official languages. This knowledge base, together with a communicative competence will not only record and enrich our relatively dormant literary heritage but it will also enable us to engage and compete on equal terms with other South Africans in the fields of commerce and industry. Learning an African language will open up a new dimension of our linguistic and literary understanding and will help us to become somebody who can make the difference in whatever career path we choose.

2 General Information

- Languages offered:
  - Northern Sotho
  - Swati
  - Venda
  - Tsonga
  - Xhosa
  - Southern Sotho
  - Tswana
  - Zulu

- Details in connection with the beginners’ modules in African Languages will be found in 3 below. Note that there are restrictions on the choice of beginners’ modules for students who took an African language at Grade 12 level and by those whose home language is an African language.

- Credit for a degree is NOT granted for:
  1. study units in more than one African language from the same group
  2. study units in more than two African languages
  3. more than six courses (or the equivalent in modules) in African languages
  4. more than two beginners’ modules
  5. more than three courses (or the equivalent in modules) in one and the same language
  6. the beginner’s modules as well as the special course in the same language
  7. module 103 and 101 and 102 in the same language
  8. module 302 and AFL822
  9. module 206 and 203 or 205
  10. module 307 and 302 or 303
  11. module 308 and 304 or 306
  12. module 103 and AFL801

- Modules in Court Interpreting and Court Practice are offered by the Department of African Languages and appear under the subject chapters “Court Interpreting” and “Court Practice” respectively.

FOR THE COLLEGE OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

- Students who passed (or were exempted from) African Languages (special course) for the BAdmin degree prior to 1982 retain credit for it. Credit for a degree is NOT granted for both African Languages I and African Languages (special course).

- ANY OTHER LANGUAGE on first-year level may be taken – see the relevant language subject chapter for the admission requirements.

3 Admission Requirements

See also A9 in Part 5 of the Calendar

BEGINNERS’ MODULES

None: Students are advised to first pass module 101 before registering for module 102.

FIRST-LEVEL MODULES
(offered in the relevant African Language)

- Tuition will be offered in the relevant African language.

- At least 40% in the language concerned or another language from the same group as FIRST language at Matriculation level (Grade 12) (Higher or Standard Grade).

The various African languages offered by the University have been classified as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Language(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i)</td>
<td>Nguni – Swati, Xhosa and Zulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii)</td>
<td>Sotho – Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho and Tswana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii)</td>
<td>Tsonga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv)</td>
<td>Venda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v)</td>
<td>Any other African language approved by the Senate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note that a student whose HOME language is an African language also qualifies for admission to first-level modules in the language concerned (or another language from the same group).

Note also that a student who took an African language as FIRST language at Matriculation level (Grade 12), or whose HOME language is an African language, may NOT register for the beginners’ modules in his/her HOME language or another African language UNLESS IT IS FROM A DIFFERENT GROUP;

- at least 60% in the language concerned or another language from the same group as SECOND or THIRD language (Higher Grade) at Matriculation level (Grade 12);
- or
  - at least 50% in the beginner’s modules (or the special course) in the language concerned or another language from the same group.

### Transitional Arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper passed in a particular African language</th>
<th>Modules which may not be taken (in the same African language)</th>
<th>Outstanding modules which must be taken (in the same African language)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 101</td>
<td>Module 101</td>
<td>Module 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 102</td>
<td>Module 102</td>
<td>Module 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 201</td>
<td>Module 201</td>
<td>Modules 201, 204, 206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 202</td>
<td>Module 201</td>
<td>Modules 202, 204, 206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 203</td>
<td>Modules 204, 206</td>
<td>Modules 201, 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 301</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Any 3 modules on third level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 302</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Any 3 modules on third level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 305</td>
<td>Module 308</td>
<td>Modules 301, 305, 307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 306</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Any 3 modules on third level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### African Languages as a Major Subject

**Compulsory modules for a major subject combination in the relevant language:**

- **First level:** Modules 101 and 102
- **Second level:** Modules 201, 202, 204, 206
- **Third level:** Modules 301, 305, 307, 308

### Syllabus

#### NORTHERN SOTHO

**NB**

NSF101X and NSF102Y will only be offered in English. Students may, however, answer assignments and the examination in English or Afrikaans.

- Northern Sotho (beginners’ modules) NSF101X, and NSF102Y*
- Northern Sotho (first-level modules) NSO101A*, NSO102A
- Northern Sotho (second-level modules) NSO201C, NSO202D, NSO204F*, NSO206H
- Northern Sotho (third-level modules) NSO301F, NSO305K, NSO307M, NSO308N

**SHONA**

**NB**

No new registrations will be accepted for Shona at any level in 2008.

Students who fail or do not write the examination in the following third-level modules in Shona in October 2007, will be given an automatic second examination in January 2008: SHO301K*, SHO305P, SHO307R, SHO308S.

#### SOUTHERN SOTHO

- Southern Sotho (beginners’ modules) SSF101Y and SSF102Y*
- Southern Sotho (first-level modules) SSO101A, SSO102B
- Southern Sotho (second-level modules) SSO201D, SSO202E, SSO204G, SSO206J
- Southern Sotho (third-level modules) SSO301G, SSO305L*, SSO307N, SSO308P

#### SWATI

- Swati (first-level modules) STT1015 and STT1026
- Swati (second-level modules) STT2019, STT202A, STT204C, STT206E
- Swati (third-level modules) STT305G, STT307J, STT308K
6.2 SYLLABUS

FLOATING MODULES

AFL801L Introduction to African languages and indigenous knowledge systems (S1 and S2) (offered in English)
Purpose: to introduce students to African languages and their role as vehicles of indigenous knowledge systems. It is an established fact that a language is a carrier of culture. The multilingual nature of our society provides us with the opportunity to learn and understand each other’s culture. Thus, the module will equip students in different disciplines with the much needed indigenous knowledge systems operating within the South African society.

AFL821Q Language attitudes and worldview (S1 and S2) (offered in English)

NB This module may be taken on only second or third level.

Purpose:
(a) to enhance interpersonal understanding among South Africans through the study of languages and their beliefs, customs, value-revealing concepts, interpersonal attitudes and obtaining perceptions not generally accessible to historically advantaged language groups, and,
(b) thus to enable the learner through knowledge and insight, to intervene in situations where ignorance, indiscretion and aggression can be the cause of misunderstanding.

BEGINNERS’ MODULES
(Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu)

Prerequisite: See 3 above

Advice:
- No previous knowledge of the relevant language is required. A pass in these modules entitles the candidate to proceed with other first-level modules in the language concerned.
- Interaction with mother-tongue speakers with whom communication skills can be practised, is advisable. Regular exposure to the relevant African language is also recommended.

Beginners’ module 101 (S1 and S2)
Purpose: to enable students to communicate effectively with basic language communication skills in the languages, thereby enhancing the quality of the learner’s relationship with the speakers of the languages.

Beginners’ module 102 (S1 and S2)
Purpose: to enable students to communicate effectively with basic reading, listening and comprehension skills together with the application and meaning of idiomatic language in the languages, and thereby enhancing the quality of the learner’s relationship with the language speakers.

FIRST-LEVEL MODULES

Prerequisite: See 3 above
Module 101 Introduction to traditional and modern literature (S1) (offered in the relevant African Language)
Advice: Students are advised to purchase literary and reference works as prescribed for the module.
Purpose: to sensitise students to the basic forms, thematics and production of literature (including orature and translations) in their own languages with a view to empowering them in terms of learning, teaching, interpreting, communication, critical awareness, creativity and translation.

Module 102 Sounds and words (S2) (offered in the relevant African language)
Advice: Students who are interested in the general, linguistic principles underlying the study of language, are advised to enrol additionally for LIN101 (Grammatical concepts) and/or LIN205 (Sounds and sound structure).
Purpose: to sensitise students to the sound system, structural composition, categorisation, identification and formation of the words of their language with a view to improving their communication, learning, teaching, interpreting, translation and critical awareness skills.

SECOND-LEVEL MODULES

Prerequisite: TWO first-level modules in this subject or any FOUR first-level modules

Module 201 Sentence structure and meaning (S1) (offered in the relevant African language)
Advice: Students are advised to first pass module 102 in the relevant African language before registering for this module.
Purpose: to enhance students' critical awareness of language usage by focussing on communicative aspects of sentence structure, meaning relationships and discourse cohesion.

Module 202 African languages in society (S2) (offered in the relevant African language)
Purpose: to promote a better understanding of the different African culture groups in South Africa through the study of aspects of their language, religion, customs, values and interpersonal attitudes (concentrating on African languages in society).

Module 204 African orature (S1) (offered in the relevant African language)
Advice: Students are advised to first pass module 101 in the relevant African language before registering for this module.
Purpose: to sensitise students to the creative trends, styles, structures, themes and functions of orature as well as its relationship to technology, history, legal and socio-economic systems.

Module 206 Modern prose narratives in the African languages (S1) (offered in the relevant African language)
Purpose: to cater particularly for students of the targeted African languages with creative talents, and is intended to equip them with practical skills to develop those talents and put them to use by producing much-needed original and/or translated literary texts in their first language.

THIRD-LEVEL MODULES

Module 301 Discourse strategies in African Languages (S1) (offered in the relevant African language)
Prerequisite: TWO first-level modules in the relevant African Language or any FOUR first-level modules
Purpose: to enhance students' knowledge and skills with regard to both oral and written communication. In order to communicate effectively, appropriate communication strategies need to be adhered to in different contexts of discourse. The knowledge and skills graduates will acquire will be applicable in all language professions.

Module 305 Creative writing and translation (S2) (offered in the relevant African language)
Prerequisite: Module 101 in the same African language or any other equivalent course in the chosen African Language.
Purpose: the module will cater for students of African Languages with creative talents, and is intended to equip them with practical skills to develop those talents and put them to use by producing much-needed original and/or translated literary texts in their mother-tongue.

Module 307 Language technology, terminology and lexicography (S1) (offered in the relevant African language)

NB
In Swati this module is offered in English.

Purpose:
Section A: to serve as an introduction to language processing as applied to the area of speech and language technology. Students are exposed to language resources, an essential component of language technology.
Section B: in view of terminologies and lexicons resorting under strategic language resources, this module aims at developing the much needed skills in terminography and lexicography with special reference to the African languages. This will include term creation strategies, basic dictionary typology and computerised lexicography.

Module 308 Language alive in drama and poetry (S2) (offered in the relevant African language)
Purpose: to trace roots of pre-colonial African theatre during pre-colonial times in South Africa and link them to contemporary African drama of the colonial and post-colonial periods. It will also capacitate students with skills development strategies for economic and self employment.

It will introduce students to the artistic and communicative nature of modern poetry in the African languages in its historical, socio-political, cultural and economic contexts, as well as situating their poetry in the African Continental context.