

# Global Education Programme (GEP)Course Calendar 2024

Centre for Global Engagement  
Stellenbosch University International

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# 1. Introduction

The Global Education Program (GEP) modules are designed to supplement SU's mainstream course offering by offering a) courses that South Africans would not necessarily need to take but which are worthwhile for international students, b) courses specifically designed to harness Stellenbosch University expertise that lies outside of normal departmental offerings, and c) transdisciplinary and experiential courses that are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Unit for Global Education, that forms part of the Centre for Global Engagement, believes in the power of Higher Education to contribute towards solving global problems such as those contained in the SDGs. The GEP modules contribute to producing a transformative student experience for international students; an intent reflected in our Global Student Learning Outcomes (GSLOs). The GSLO's are:

1. Students will gain increased knowledge about global issues.
2. Students will critically reflect on their own cultural backgrounds to understand how their perspectives inform and/or limit knowledge.
3. Students will demonstrate respect for diversity by adopting multiple perspectives on complex issues.
4. Students will understand that their actions impact communities locally and globally.
5. Students will demonstrate a values-based approach to creating positive change.
6. Students will develop their professional skills and competencies in cross- cultural settings.
7. Students will continuously develop and apply global learning across multiple contexts.

## 2. Languages

### a. Afrikaans For Beginners

59048 – 114 and 144

This course targets new foreign students with no knowledge of Afrikaans. This is a fun-filled course offering you a linguistic and cultural taste of Afrikaans as a language in a

wider cultural context. It aims to develop students' ability:

- to speak social Afrikaans with confidence
- to understand the gist of social conversations; and
- to understand the gist of short texts (newspaper articles, notices, etc.) Basic grammar: vocabulary and idiomatic structures are taught in a defocused manner.

Coordinators: Vernita Beukes

([vernita@sun.ac.za](mailto:vernita@sun.ac.za))

Lectures: Students may select one of the following groups:

- Mondays and Wednesdays      09:00 - 11:00
- Mondays and Wednesdays      12:00 - 14:00

Credits:      3 US credits; 6 ECTS credits; 12 SA credits

*Please note that Dutch and Belgian students may not take this module. Students with some Afrikaans background may be allowed to take Afrikaans for Beginners (Level 2) and should speak to the lecturer if they wish to do so.*

b. Afrikaans Language and Culture for Dutch and Belgium Students

59064-114 and 144

This is a tailor-made course specifically for Dutch mother-tongue speakers from the Netherlands and Belgium. As Afrikaans is a sister language of Dutch, the focus in this course is on much more than linguistics and the acquisition of Afrikaans – it also encourages and stimulates acritical awareness of the complexity of the Afrikaans culture.

The language component of the course focuses mainly on the differences between Afrikaans and Dutch about pronunciation, spelling, certain linguistic structures as well as vocabulary.

For the cultural component, an eclectic approach is followed. The aim is to give an overarching experience of the complex and colourful Afrikaans culture by considering aspects such as identity, origin, history, and the economic and political role of the Afrikaans-speaking section of the population. Participants are also given informal opportunities to experience the language and culture with excursions and visits from guest speakers who share their experience of language, their origins, and their identity.

Feedback from a 2022 participant:

" My biggest learning experience from the course was for me being able to put the perspective of the language into the context of cultural history. This means that I have a way better grip of the complexity of the problems South Africa faces and in what way the language has influenced and still influences this. I consider this course as the most valuable of my exchange experience."

This is a one-semester course consisting of 4 hours per week. All classes are compulsory. The prescribed timetable for the course could be adapted in collaboration with the students interested in enrolling.

Coordinator: Helga Sykstus (hbuys@sun.ac.za)

Lectures: Mondays 13:00-15:00

Tuesdays 09:00-10:00

Wednesdays 12:00-13:00

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

c. isiXhosa Language and Culture

57886 – 114 and 144

Goal of the course: the acquisition of basic isiXhosa language proficiency

Outcomes of the course: the students will be able to demonstrate their speaking, and listening skills, at a lower beginner level, from the selected communication themes concerning (i) health, (ii) the shop: buying and selling, (iii) direction and road signs, (iv) the restaurants and bookings, and (v) clothes and the description of appearances.

Listening skills: Show understanding of a sequence of two or three instructions/descriptions. Listen and understand simple descriptions, actions, and scenes. Show understanding relating to the identification and description of persons and objects. Show understanding of oral suggestions given.

Speaking and oral interaction: Name general objects. Take part in short dialogues. Ask for goods, services, and objects. Comment on opinions and preferences. Answer questions and give details of simple explanations emerging from listening contents. Write short familiar sentences that are dictated.

Coordinators: Miss Johnson

(ssjohnson@sun.ac.za)

Lectures:        Wednesdays        9:00-10:00  
                      Thursday        9:00- 10:00

Credits:        3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

d. French for Beginners

60593 – 114 and 144

Admission requirements: This course is offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of French is required.

Generic Outcomes: Students that have completed the course are able to understand; speak; read; and (to a lesser extent) write basic French in certain everyday situations with a basic knowledge of contemporary French society. Specific Outcomes: After completing the French evening course, a student should be able to:

- Talk about themselves, their life and surroundings, the weather, their likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics.
- Understand basic texts.
- Write a friendly letter.
- Understand and react to a basic conversation in French, and
- Listen to French songs as well as other basic recordings.

Coordinators: Jaco du Plooy (jacoduplooy@sun.ac.za)

Lectures:        Mondays and Wednesdays 17:30-19:00

Credits:        3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

(International Students)

NB: This module does not bear any credits for South African students.

e. Spanish for Beginners

57894 -114 and 144

Admission Requirements: This course is offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of Spanish is required.

Generic Outcomes: Students who complete the course will be able to understand, speak, read and (to a lesser extent) write basic Spanish in everyday situations and have

a basic knowledge of contemporary Spanish society.

Specific Outcomes: After completing the Spanish evening course, a student should be able to:

- Talk about themselves; their lives and surroundings; the weather; likes and dislikes; and other basic conversational topics.
- Understand simple basic texts.
- Understand and react to a basic conversation in Spanish.
- Listen to basic recordings in Spanish (songs, news, weather report etc.).
- Write a short letter or e-mail.

Coordinators: Jaco du Plooy (jacoduplooy@sun.ac.za)

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 17:30-19:00

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

(International Students)

NB: This module does not bear any credits for South African students

f. German for Beginners

60666 –114 and 144

Admission requirements: This course is offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of German is required.

Generic Outcomes: Students who complete the course will be able to understand; speak; read; and (to a lesser extent) write basic German in everyday situations and have a basic knowledge of contemporary German society.

Specific Outcomes: After completing the German evening course, a student should be able to:

- Talk about themselves, their life and surroundings, the weather, likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics.
- Understand simple basic texts.
- Understand and react to a basic conversation in German.
- Listen to basic recordings in German (songs, news, weather report etc. and
- Write a short letter or e-mail.

Coordinators: Jaco du Plooy (jacoduplooy@sun.ac.za)

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursday 17:30-19:00

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

(International Students)

NB: This module does not bear any credits for South African students

g. Chinese for Beginners

13016 -114 and 144

Admission Requirements: These classes are offered for beginners; no prior knowledge of Chinese is required. They are not credit bearing for Stellenbosch students and do not lead to a qualification. No certificates are issued.

Generic Outcomes: To understand, speak, read and (to a lesser extent) write basic Chinese in certain everyday situations with a basic knowledge of contemporary Chinese society.

Specific Outcomes: At the end of the semester the student should be able to:

- Talk about themselves, their life and surroundings, the weather, their likes and dislikes and other basic conversational topics.
- Read basic texts in pinyin and recognize basic texts in characters.
- Write a short friendly letter or email.
- Understand and react to a very basic conversation in Chinese.
- Listen to Chinese songs and other simple recordings.
- Write basic Chinese characters for daily use.

Coordinators: Jaco du Plooy (jacoduplooy@sun.ac.za)

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 17:30-19:00

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

(International Students)

NB: This module does not bear any credits for South African students

## 3. Arts

a) Digital Photography and Visual Studies

14307 - 214 and 244

This module will introduce students to the medium of photography with a focus on the environment it functions within the (South) African context, as well as a focus on modern



digital photography and the technical working knowledge of a camera. This will be done by critically engaging with academic texts alongside photographic works by (South) African photographers, both contemporary and historical. Through this engagement, students will gain an understanding of what a successful image comprises of.

The required readings and photographic visual analyses will engage in complex issues that make up the (South) African landscape. Students will be required to question and analyse the various narratives a photographic series is representing and how the images are being framed through a socio-cultural and historical lens. Practical work and readings will be given at the end of each seminar in preparation for the following week's seminar. This module comprises of 3-4 practical outings to museums/galleries and specific locations.

#### Outcomes

Students will have a good working knowledge of cameras and be able to recognize the importance of composition in photography, which will be seen through their own photographs. They will be able to question and visually analyse various narratives represented in photographic images; and how these visual narratives further influence the socio-cultural landscape of South Africa. A camera that can be set manually is required for the practical sessions. There are some cameras to hire for the semester if students do not own one, however, this must be booked in advance.

Coordinators: Clara Babette Van Tiddens (cbabette@sun.ac.za)

Hennie Rudman (hennierudman04@gmail.com)

Lectures: Thursdays 14:00-17:00

Credits: 4 US Credits, 8 ECTS Credits, 16 SA Credits

## 4. Social Studies

### a) South African Pop Culture and Identity

14243 – 214 and 244

As an international exchange student, you will no doubt experience some level of culture shock when first arriving in South Africa. During your stay you will be interacting with locals from very diverse backgrounds in terms of language, culture, ethnicity, and social class. All these things play a role in how people construct their identities. This module draws from different disciplines - history, hip-hop and other popular music studies, post-

colonial studies, sociology, and more - to give students the necessary context(s) to not only better understand contemporary South African society, but to also gain knowledge about people, popular culture and identities against the backdrop of major historical shifts.

On a theoretical level, the link between popular culture and identity is strong, yet until recently, it has been neglected in wider studies on African culture in favour of a 'traditional', or 'pure', African vs 'elite'/'modern classical' Western dichotomy. This has '... obscured ... the cultural activities, procedures, and products of most people in present-day Africa' (Barber, 1997:1-2). These obscured activities have histories that are in part linked to the continent's colonial past, which not only introduced Western cultural practices (in education, music, etc.), but also initialized rural-urban migration, industrialisation, and introduced mass media, all of which influenced everyday popular culture.

In South Africa, during the politically tumultuous twentieth century, ordinary people managed to establish agency, construct identities, and partake in popular cultural practices that defied the apartheid regime. They composed and performed marabi jazz in Sophiatown in the 1940s and 1950s as a celebration of their African identities and they expressed their fashion and music tastes in Drum magazine. In Cape Town, the famous inner-city neighbourhood, District Six, functioned as a nucleus of coloured people's cultural practices before they were forcibly removed between 1968 and 1982. On the other side of the racial spectrum, some privileged white youths flirted with counterculture and became hippies or punks, while others conformed to conservative cultural practices under apartheid. In post-apartheid South Africa, popular culture still plays a vital role in the way people act socially and differentiate themselves from others in a post-colonial context. Ultimately, this module looks at South African popular culture(s) since the beginning of the 20th century (including popular music, sub-cultures, magazines, films, literature, youth culture, etc.) with the aim of understanding the ways in which people from different backgrounds construct(ed) their identities - both individually and collectively - amidst phases of societal change.

Coordinators: Dr. Schalk van der Merwe  
([deltablu@sun.ac.za](mailto:deltablu@sun.ac.za))

Lectures: Wednesdays 10:00-12:00

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA Credits

a) Politics and Cultural Change in Contemporary South Africa

59021-214 and 244

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to political and cultural changes that are taking place in South Africa. This will be done by brainstorming several pertinent ideas (drawn from political studies, sociology, and anthropology) and subsequently applying these ideas to several themes.

Meetings will comprise two 90-minute seminars per week, over twelve weeks. Each week will address one theme and the first seminar will be led by a lecturer whilst the second seminar will comprise (two, three or four) student presentations and discussion, coordinated by the same lecturer. Reading material will be available on Sun-Learn.

Coordinators: Jantjie Xaba ([xaba@sun.ac.za](mailto:xaba@sun.ac.za))

Lectures: Tuesday and Wednesdays 17:05-18:30

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

c. An Overview of South African History  
57851-214 and 244

This course provides a general overview of South Africa's history with the aim of helping students better understand the complex dynamics of South African society today.

Narratives about South African history often only start with the arrival of permanent European settlers in the mid-17th century, ignoring the fact that human/ hominid ancestry here dates back more than three million years. To put things into better perspective then, this course opens with a focus on South African hominid fossils that are of great importance to our understanding of the evolution of our species. We then look at the complex behaviours of early h. sapiens that date back more than 100 000 years (including the world's oldest rock art), followed by the indigenous San and Khoi people, and the complex civilization of Mapungubwe and its gold trading networks. Only then do we look at the rise of European interest in what is today South Africa, beginning with the navigations around the Southernmost tip of Africa by Portuguese explorers at the end of the 15th century.

This is followed by a look at the colonial era, with particular focus on the Cape's slave

history and its legacies, which leads us to historical events of the 19th century that proved vital in shaping South Africa as it is today: European expansion into the interior, Zulu military expansion in the east, the mineral revolution (diamonds and gold!) and its far-reaching impact, and eventually the South African War. The second part of the course builds on this by examining the roots and causes of one of the most infamous features of South Africa's history: apartheid. We look at the rise of Afrikaner nationalism, African nationalism, anti-apartheid resistance movement(s), the democratic transition, and finally the contours of the post-apartheid era.

Themes dealt with in this course:

(Mis-)conceptions of Africa, South Africa's evolutionary history; First people (San, followed by Khoi); Mapungubwe; Portuguese mariners (why did they arrive when they did?); European settlement; The Mfecane; Independent Boer republics; The mineral revolution; The South African War, 1899-1902; The rise of Afrikaner nationalism; African nationalism; The apartheid era from different perspectives; The democratic transition; The post-apartheid era.

Coordinators: Dr. Schalk van der Merwe

([deltablu@sun.ac.za](mailto:deltablu@sun.ac.za))

Lectures:       Thursdays 14:00-16:00

Credits:         3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

## 5. Various

### a) Sustainable Agriculture: Community Gardening

11467-214 and 244

Coordinators: Thanja Allison

([mja@sun.ac.za](mailto:mja@sun.ac.za))

Lectures:       Wednesday   11:00-13:00

Venue:           TBC

Credits:         3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

### b) Practical Conservation

Theory 14471- 214 and 244; Practical 14471- 213 and 245

## PRACTICAL

This course can be followed as a standalone theoretical course or in conjunction with the practical field work course which are done in the Kruger National Park, and which carries an additional 4 credits (2 ECTS / 1 US Credits). If students follow both courses the total credits are 16 (8 ECTS / 4 US Credits).

Theoretical course: Practical conservation

(12 credits) (6 ECTS / 3 US Credits) (1 lecture & 1 tutorial session per week)

Assessments are done as homework assignments and a variety of assessment methods are being used to test understanding and encourage student participation.

Upon completion of the theoretical course students have the option to attend the practical fieldwork course in Kruger National Park. This course will run in June/July of the academic year and will accommodate the student group's academic schedule. The cost of the field work course in the Kruger National Park includes accommodation and travel cost and can be obtained from the course coordinator.

Coordinators: Thanja Allison

([mja@sun.ac.za](mailto:mja@sun.ac.za))

Lectures: Wednesdays 08:00- 10:00

Credits: Theory: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12SA credits

Credits : 1 US Credits, 2 ECT Credits, 4 SA credits

### c) Understanding HIV in South Africa 12309-214 and 244

This module is offered by the HIV Portfolio within The Equality Unit (EqU). The Equality Unit promotes collective action towards social justice and discourse regarding social asymmetries at Stellenbosch University. EqU's primary focus is to provide a safe space for students and staff to report incidents of unfair discrimination, sexual harassment, gender-based violence, victimisation, and abuse.

EqU provides students and staff with services, training and interventions around HIV and Aids (prevention, testing and counselling), unfair discrimination, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and victimisation, issues related to the LGBTQIA+ community, as well

as the procedure, process, and way forward when reporting incidents of unfair discrimination and harassment. The HIV Portfolio is responsible for coordinating a comprehensive institutional response to HIV across faculties and institutional units. Our priority objectives are prevention, treatment and care strategies for students and staff, HIV counselling, screening, and testing (HST), and excellence through teaching and training. The HIV Portfolio is also responsible for the revision and dissemination of the University HIV policy and regards HIV training and research as a key contributor to prevention and management of the epidemic in South Africa and the African continent.

This module aims to nurture and develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes in students as leaders and future professionals to manage HIV prevention and care in the workplace, both locally and abroad. This module will aim to develop a global understanding of HIV and AIDS through a health and social justice perspective.

The module will aim to provide students with an understanding of:

- A health and social justice framework
- The political history regarding HIV in South Africa
- The impact, statistical overview, and biomedical facts of HIV
- The influence of personal worldview, values, and beliefs on an educational approach to HIV
- Understanding IEC appropriateness and effectiveness
- The role, context, and function of treatment for HIV with reference to the influence of stigma and discrimination in SA
- Most at risk populations (MARPs): Men who have sex with men (MSM), Commercial sex workers (CSW), Intravenous drug users (IDU)

Coordinators: Michelle Munroe

([michellem@sun.ac.za](mailto:michellem@sun.ac.za))

Lectures: Tuesdays 10:00-13:00

Credits: 3 US Credits, 6 ECTS Credits, 12 SA credits

d) Global Service Learning

13953 – 214 and 244

Global Service Learning (GSL) is an experiential learning programme presented in collaboration with Ikaya Primary School in Kayamandi. It is comprised of 60 in-class

hours and 45 hours of on-site community engagement at the 2nd year level. Class covers theory on education, sustainable development, social justice, and community engagement. The community engagement component takes place in a partner school and requires students to work in small groups with their teacher to design and implement basic lessons for 5- and 6- year-old learners. These lessons align with the national curriculum but allow for the introduction of new and creative play-based learning activities into the school. This work at a local school is the ideal way to learn about major socio-political issues in South Africa and to practice principles of participatory community development. Even though students teach, this is not a teaching program, and no prior experience is required. Participants are, however, expected to be comfortable with challenging themselves in new environments, and committed to seeing this challenging, but rewarding, experience through. The academic and service components are complemented with field trips and sessions with various South African students to allow for deeper engagements with global issues as they present themselves in the South African context.

Students taking the course at the 3rd year level have additional responsibilities including a weekly seminar discussion with the lecturer (an additional 22.5-hour class time), extra and more advanced readings, and a self-directed research project.

Upon completion of the GSL course, participants should be able to:

- Understand connections between education, development, and community engagement.
- Understand themselves as actors in a developmental environment.
- Display broadened trans-disciplinary, critical, and multicultural perspectives.
- Apply the skills to develop knowledge partnerships with community-based development agencies.
- Co-craft development interventions with their knowledge partners in a dialectical manner.
- Harness creativity to address gaps between theory and practice.

In addition, participants at the 3rd. year level are expected to be able to:

- Have advanced knowledge of core course concepts.
- Demonstrate advanced analysis of complex problems.

- Integrate their own academic backgrounds into the course.
- Articulate the complex interaction of various issues affecting education, development, and community engagement in the global system.
- Critically and self-reflectively situate themselves as actors in a development environment.

Coordinators: Angelo Jephtha  
(acj@sun.ac.za)

Lectures:        Mondays 9am- 11am  
  
                      Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm  
  
                      Wednesday 2pm-4pm  
  
                      Thursday 8:30am -12:30pm

Credits:                6 US credits; 12 ECTS credits, 24 SA credits

### Addendum

Some important facts about the South African grading system

One of the major cross-cultural difficulties experienced by foreign students when attending a Study Abroad program in South Africa is the issue of allocating grades. US American students find the system of grading papers and tests contrary to what they are used to back home. Neither is 'correct'. Both are simply different ways of evaluating and it need to be interpreted as such.

Let's begin at the bottom and work our way up: At the University of Stellenbosch and most other South African universities, a grade below 50% (D) is a fail. Any grade between 50% to 55% (D) and 56% to 59% (C-) is considered an average grade. Above 60% (C+) to 65% (B-) is generally accepted as an above average grade. If a student receives a grade of 70% (B+), it is classified as a very good grade and 75% (A) and higher is Cum Laude and is regarded as top of the class. Not many students are awarded an A or A+.



### Dates and important information

- GEP Course Coordinator: Angelo McKerry  
angelom@sun.ac.za  
021 808 9021
- Students who do not complete their Final Course Registration Form by the deadline will not be registered for any GEP courses and will not be allowed to attend any GEP courses or classes.
- The SU International may cancel a course if there are not at least five (5) participants registered. This number may change depending on the specific course in question.
- Important notices are often sent to students via e-mail. PLEASE write your e-mail address very clearly. Note that lecturers ONLY use your Stellenbosch University e-mail address.
- Please check SUNLearn regularly for updates.
- Official university dates are available here: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/dates>
- Should you wish to register for a module and you have reached the maximum of 64 credits, you will have to cover the cost of the module yourself.
- There are no classes on official South African public holidays. They are available here: <https://www.gov.za/about-sa/public-holidays>