**Programme Specification**

**I. Programme Details**

| Programme title | African Studies  
|                 | African Studies (African Literature – exit award)  
|                 | African Studies & Intensive Language (Arabic or Swahili) |
| Final award (exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations) | BA ☐  
|                 | MA ☒  
|                 | BSc ☐  
|                 | MSc ☐  
| Other ... | ☐  |
| Mode of delivery | Distance-learning ☐  
|                 | On-campus ☒  |
| Professional body accreditation (if applicable) | n/a  |
| Academic year this specification was created | 2016/17  |
| Dates of any subsequent amendments |  |

**II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?**

1. To provide broad-based postgraduate study of aspects of African society and culture.
2. To provide the student with the means to further develop their knowledge of specific aspects of African society and culture.
3. To provide the opportunity through the dissertation to concentrate on one particular area (geographical or disciplinary) of African Studies.
4. To provide the opportunity of studying an African language.

**III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?**

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

| Learning Outcomes: Knowledge |  |
|------------------------------|  |
| 1. The student will gain knowledge and critical awareness of current issues and/or insights into Africa from the perspective of at least two social sciences and/or humanities disciplines.  
| 2. The student will have the opportunity of gaining knowledge or further knowledge of an African language.  
| 3. The student will gain specialized and in-depth knowledge in one particular area of the study of Africa from one disciplinary perspective.  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typical Teaching Methods</th>
<th>Typical Assessment Methods</th>
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</table>
| • Knowledge of the subject of any one course will be gained by attending lectures and tutorials for the course, reading the books and articles recommended by the teachers and, where appropriate, through audio-visual materials.  
| • Students taking an African language will be taught reading, writing, speaking and listening comprehension, all of which will  
| • Knowledge of a specific area of African Studies will be gained through the focus provided by writing the dissertation, which will be supervised by a member of staff from the appropriate disciplinary department.  |
be assessed by written examination, coursework and oral examination.

**Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills**

1. The student will develop a critical and analytical approach to issues relating to Africa in the disciplinary areas chosen.
2. The student will develop skills of synthesizing materials from a variety of sources and presenting these in writing and orally in an academic context.
3. Given the specialist nature of much of what is taught the students have the opportunity of researching topics which have been little commented on in the secondary literature and thus develop research skills by working on primary sources.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Through engagement with teachers and other students in tutorials students will develop their critical and analytical skills and the ability to discuss matters relating to Africa in an objective and mutually respectful manner.</td>
<td>• Coursework and the dissertation provide the opportunity to demonstrate the critical and analytical skills, which are developed through guidance and feedback from the teachers.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills**

1. Student will gain specific knowledge of aspects of African life, which will prepare them for working in Africa.
2. The specialist knowledge developed in the individual courses will allow students to add an academically grounded perspective to their particular subsequent work context.
3. If a student takes an African language they will have a strong practical skill, which will help them in any context where the language is used and which will also be of benefit if they need to learn another language in the future.

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<td>• In most courses the practical skill of presenting a synthesis of material gained from secondary and sometimes, primary sources will be developed through writing essays and, for some courses, by giving presentations. • Students who choose to take a language develop the practical skill of using that language at a level appropriate to the course.</td>
<td>• The development of a competence in academic writing appropriate to the particular disciplinary areas chosen will be acquired through the writing of essays and the dissertation under supervision by teachers.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills**

1. Through managing their studies students will develop the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility.
2. In researching and writing coursework and the dissertation students will develop research and writing skills.
3. Students will develop the skills of independent learning required for continuing onto a research degree or for professional development.
Typical Teaching Methods

- Research and writing skills will be developed through the writing of coursework and the dissertation.
- Students will gain the skills of independent learning as they undertake the reading and writing of coursework during a particular course.

Typical Assessment Methods

- The assessment of written coursework and the drafts of the dissertation will help develop the transferable skill of writing in a suitable register and presenting well ideas and knowledge.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes</th>
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</table>
| Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional.  
  As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see [https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/](https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/)) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.  
  At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.  
  More information can be found on individual module pages. |
### MA African Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>15PAFC990</td>
<td>Dissertation in African Studies</td>
<td>compulsory module</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Taught Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>90</td>
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</table>

**Guided option**

**Open options**

NB: In Area Studies degrees:
1) a maximum of 60 credits can be taken in any one discipline.
2) a minimum of three disciplines must be covered.
3) for students

*List of taught modules (subject to availability)*

#### Anthropology (minor only)
- 15PANH068 Culture and Society of West Africa: 15
- 15PANH063 Culture and Society of East Africa: 15
- 15PANH010 African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World: 15
- 15PANH009 African and Asian Cultures in Britain: 15

#### Art
- 15PARH048 Modern and Contemporary Arts in Africa: 15

#### Economics
- 15PECC203 Economic development in Africa: 30

#### History
- 15PHIH002 Colonial Conquest and Social Change in Southern Africa: 15
- 15PHIH003 Social and Cultural Transformations in Southern Africa since 1945: 15
- 15PHIH026 Slavery in West Africa in the 19th and 20th Centuries: 15
- 15PHIH029 Historical Perspectives on Gender in Africa: 15

#### Language (minor only)
- 15PAFH021 Amharic 1 A (PG): 15
- 15PAFH022 Amharic 1 B (PG): 15
- 15PAFC131 Amharic 2 (PG): 15
- 15PAFH027 Hausa 1 A (PG): 15
- 15PAFH028 Hausa 1 B (PG): 15
- 15PAFC138 Hausa 2 (PG): 15
- 15PAFH023 Somali 1 A (PG): 15
- 15PAFH024 Somali 1 B (PG): 15
- 15PAFC133 Somali 2 (PG): 15
- 15PAFH017 Advanced Somali: Language (PG): 15
- 15PAFH018 Advanced Somali: Literature (PG): 15
- 15PAFH029 Swahili 1 A (PG): 15
- 15PAFH030 Swahili 1 B (PG): 15
- 15PAFC141 Intermediate Swahili 2A (PG): 15
- 15PAFC142 Swahili 3 (PG): 30
- 15PAFH014 Practical Translation Swahili into English: 15
- 15PAFC147 Directed Readings in An African Language: 15
- 15PAFH025 Yoruba 1 A (PG): 15
- 15PAFH026 Yoruba 1 B (PG): 15
- 15PAFC135 Yoruba 2 (PG): 30
- 15PAFH019 Zulu 1 A (PG): 15
- 15PAFH020 Zulu 1 B (PG): 15
- 15PAFC129 Zulu 2 (PG): 30

#### Law
- 15PLAC121 Islamic law (MA/LLM): 30

#### Linguistics
- 15PAFH011 The Structure of Bantu Languages (PG): 15

#### Literature
- 15PAFC124 Literatures in African languages: 30
- 15PAFC139 Travelling Africa: Writing the Cape to Cairo: 30
- 15PAFH012 Realism and Magical Realism in the African Novel (PG): 15
- 15PAFH008 African Philosophy (PG): 15
- 15PAFH009 Philosophy and Decolonization (PG): 15

#### Media
- 15PAFH006 The Story of African Film: Narrative Screen Media in Africa: 15
- 15PAFH010 Curating Africa: African Film and Video in the Age of Festivals: 15
- 15PARH082 Photography and the Image in Africa: 15

#### Politics
- 15PPOC205 Government and politics in Africa: 30

#### Religious Studies
- 15PSRH043 Colonial and Christian Missions in Africa: Readings from the Archives: 15
- 15PSRH049 Religions and Development: 15

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