GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Cultural Anthropology (A002717)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Andriessen, Laura	LW21	staff member
Dhondt, Carmen	LW21	staff member
Stroeken, Koenraad	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Communication Science	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Sociology	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Architectural Design and Construction Techniques)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Urban Design and Architecture)	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A
Elective Set African Studies	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A
Elective Set Religion Studies	5	A
Elective Set Sustainability and Society	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Position of the course

This course aims to introduce students to the central concepts and theories of the anthropological discipline: culture, nature-nurture, religion, identity and diversity. The necessity of having a comparative attitude is explained, together with the difficulties that go with it. The importance of the ethnographic method for 'knowing' is illustrated through casestudies and audiovisual material. *The last sessions further apply the acquired concepts through practice-oriented lectures and online discussions.*

Contents

- Critical overview of the main anthropological concepts and their interrelationships, with specific attention to the history of ethnocentrism.
- Application of the insights from anthropology to interconnected social fields and

themes such as art, religion, intercultural interaction, and communication.
- nature-nurture, origins and the human as 'species'
- Discussion of the central role of ethnographic fieldwork: knowledge is always produced in a qualitative interaction. The emphasis is on the continuity between non-western and western societies.
- Cultural diversity, the existence of alternatives and their interrelations are systematically studied for the fields of (1) economy and gift systems, (2) politics and decision making, (3) cosmology and healing, (4) globalisation, migration and identity, (5) ecology and transition, (6) communication, technology and material culture.
- Opinion polls in realtime, audiovisual material and the interactive location-based service Zone-it keep track of timely discussions
- The last lectures further deepen the concepts by exploiting the possibilities of e-learning, specifically on the themes of identity and 'diversity management'

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge required.

Final competences

1 To gain insight in the main concepts and theories of the anthropological discipline
2 To gain knowledge and insight in the relations between nature/nurture, materialism/idealism, agency/structure, local/global
3 Able to distinguish the views on the human that underlie dominant approaches in the humanities in the West
4 Having knowledge about non-Western cultures en local processes of change
5 Being able to anthropologically frame and evaluate debates on culture and the comparison of cultural traditions
6 Being able to demonstrate the epistemological importance of the ethnographic method and the study of lifeworlds
7 Recognize concrete applications of a reflexive and 'emic' research attitude, as well as recognize deviations from it
8 Being able to critically assess information, produced by the media, about globalization and local lifeworlds, based on the framing of culture.
9 Being able to distinguish frames of experience in the domains of religion, magic and science

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures are recorded and can be viewed afterward on Ufora. Recordings will be available until after the resit.
During the semester, there will be 1 mandatory seminar during which an assignment needs to be completed. This counts toward the total grade for this course. The date for this seminar will be communicated at the start of the semester via Ufora. In case of non-lawful abscence, the student will be noted down as 'asbent' for this evaluation and thus will not receive a grade.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: "The individual human: Introducing anthropology"
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Author : Koenraad Stroeken
ISBN : 978-9-04413-010-2
Number of Pages : 285
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally
Additional information: The manual costs 25 euro but is offered for free on UFORA

References

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance provided via e-mail

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with multiple choice and open questions
Assignment

Calculation of the examination mark

Exam 85%
Assignment 15%

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Absence is allowed, no additional supporting teaching material is provided. In case of abscence during the mandatory seminar, an alternative task will be provided.
2 Lectures are recorded and can be viewed afterwards
3 It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period
4 Possibility to receive feedback at another time: by appointment
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy