GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Anthropology and Ethnography in Africa (A005313)

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	35.0h
			independent work	5.0h
			seminar	5.0h

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
Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Elective Set African Studies	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Africa, antropology, ethnography, cultures

Position of the course

The course helps students acquire a critical perspective on scientific descriptions of cultural phenomena, more specifically on anthropological descriptions of certain aspects, periods and localities in Africa and the African diaspora. The challenge of this third-year course consists first and foremost in connecting the students' specific expertise in Africa with their general knowledge of cultural diversity. Moreover, the students will expand their understanding of African cultural phenomena as they have been described in anthropological literature.

Contents

The anthropological literature about Africa and the African diaspora is dealt with in ten sessions, which have a descriptive (ethnography of African cultures) and theoretical component (history of Africanist anthropological debates since 19th century).

Initial competences

Students have a basic knowledge of the languages, the geography and the history of Africa.

Final competences

1 To demonstrate a basic knowledge about the history of african anthropology.
2 To demonstrate familiarity with the major trends in the anthropological study of Africa.
3 To be able to apply most important anthropological theories to societal and cultural phenomena in Africa.
4 To be able to critically assess anthropological analyses of research domains such

as diaspora, ethnicity, gender, modernity and globalisation, as well as African studies in Belgium.

5 To analyse, synthesise and report in writing on anthropological descriptions and interpretations of societal and cultural phenomena in Africa.

6 To have an understanding of the cultures and cultural descriptions of Africa.

Conditions for credit contract

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

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lessons will not be recorded, no lecture recordings will be available

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides Anthropology and Ethnography in Africa
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Dutch
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes

References

Check Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

- Guidance possible via email and/or by appointment.
- Individual feedback to help students with their assignment

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

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Calculation of the examination mark

Exam 80%
Assignment and participation in the seminars 20%

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1. Student attendance during educational activities is not required except for the seminars. If this is not possible, the student is expected to contact the lecture assistant at the beginning of the semester to discuss an alternative assignment or arrangement. No additional learning materials will be provided.
2. It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period
3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy