GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Anthropology of Affect and Materiality (A005381)

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)	English	Gent	seminar
			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
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject African Languages and Cultures)	5	A
Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

medical anthropology, transcultural psychiatry, global health, Africa, trauma, culture

Position of the course

This regional specialization taught at MA level offers advanced insights regarding the relation between health and culture. Most of all, it seeks to understand the African contemporary world from the perspective 'Power and medicine'. Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

(1) History of medical anthropology; culture-bound syndromes and traditional healing; body, illness and medicine. 3 sessions
(2) Theoretical developments: transcultural psychiatry, critical medical and sensorial anthropology. 2 sessions.
(3) Methodology: ethnographic fieldwork of non-Western concepts of health and illness. Casestudies in Epistemologies of healing (Lake Victoria). 2 s.
(4) Topics: a. Translating health issues among diaspora and asylum seekers, b. HIV prevention and stigma in Africa, c. Poverty, war and trauma.
(5) Student Projects

Initial competences

Cultural anthropology (the course, or competence acquired in other ways)

Final competences

1 Comprehending and situating theory in medical anthropology
2 Skills in qualitative research methodology in the field of illness, health, therapy, medicinal practice, and traditional healing
3 Some knowledge of the history of non-Western aetiologies and treatments, particularly in Africa

4 Qualitative and critical approaches to interdisciplinary health research
5 Ability to design a collective medico-anthropological project

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

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

Lessons will not be recorderd.
Students are required to be present and participate as they acquire the theoretical and methodological basis to develop a collective scientific project.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Critical medical anthropology
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes

References

Updated list, see Ufora website

Course content-related study coaching

Guidance through mail and/or by appointment

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

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

- 80% written exam
- 20% participation and assignment

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:
1 Absence is allowed provided that a replacement task is submitted, after discussion with the lecturer
2 No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings)
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 contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy: https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm