GHENT UNIVERSITY

Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2017-2018

Medical Anthropology: Africa and the Diaspora (K000965)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h** **Contact hrs** 40.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	seminar	5.0h
			lecture	35.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Stroeken, Koenraad	LW19	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027	**crdts**	**offering**

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

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

Position of the course

A regional specialization viewing African societies, and eventually the globe, from the perspective 'Power and medicine'.

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. Case studies in Epistemologies of healing (Lake Victoria). 2 sessions.
(4) Topics (3 sessions): a. Translating health issues among diaspora and asylum seekers, b. HIV prevention and stigma in Africa c. Poverty, war and trauma.
(5) Student Projects (1 session)

Initial competences

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

Final competences

1 - Comprehending and situating theory in medical anthropology
- Skills in qualitative research methodology in the field of illness, health, therapy, medicinal practice, and traditional healing
- Some knowledge of the history of non-Western aetiologies and treatments, particularly in Africa
- Qualitative and critical approaches to interdisciplinary health research
- Ability to design a collective medico-anthropological project

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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

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students are required to be present and participate as they acquire the theoretical and methodological basis to develop a collective scientific project.

Study material

None

References

Ember, Carol R., & Ember, Melvin (editors), ed. (2004), *Encyclopedia of Medical Anthropology: Health and Illness in the World's Cultures*, New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publisher
Good, Byron, Michael M. J. Fischer, Sarah S. Willen, Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good (Editors) 2010 *A Reader in Medical Anthropology: Theoretical Trajectories, Emergent Realities* Wiley-Blackwell.
Hahn, Robert A. and Marcia Inhorn (eds.) (2010) *Anthropology and Public Health, Second Edition: Bridging Differences in Culture and Society*. Oxford University Press.
Littlewood, Roland and Maurice Lipsedge (1989) *Aliens and Alienists: ethnic minorities and psychiatry*, London, Unwin.
Stroeken, K. (2010). *Moral Power: the magic of witchcraft.* Oxford: Berghahn. http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=StroekenMoral

Course content-related study coaching

Reader, most of it available via Minerva

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written examination with open questions

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

Written examination with open questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

- 70% oral exam (incl 20% participation)
- 30% group presentation