

## Introduction to Anthropology (A000677)

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

**Credits 3.0** **Study time 90 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture
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**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Andriessen, Laura	LW21	staff member
DeBlock, Hugo	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

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

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	3	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Architecture	3	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Architectural Design and Construction Techniques)	3	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture(main subject Urban Design and Architecture)	3	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture	3	A
Master of Science in Industrial Design Engineering Technology	3	A

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Anthropology, society and culture, history of anthropology, history of colonisation and missionisation, postcolonialism and decolonisation

**Position of the course**

This introductory course (a General Educational Requirement for bachelor students) aims to introduce students to the discipline of anthropology: culture, nature-nurture debates, religion, identity and diversity are treated. Positionality is unpacked as central to the anthropologist's method. The importance of the ethnographic method for 'knowing' is illustrated through casestudies and audiovisual material.

**Contents**

- Critical overview of the main anthropological theories, anthropologists, and ethnographies.
- nature-nurture, origins of man, scientific racism.
- subfields of anthropology such as material culture and art, kinship, economics, politics, religion, globalisation and contemporary society and culture.
- With a constant focus on methodology: ethnographic fieldwork and participant

observation.

- Current debates: colonial monuments, colonisation, postcolonialism and decolonisation, the white world as a "center" "as opposed to" "the periphery".

#### **Initial competences**

No specific prerequisites.

#### **Final competences**

- 1 To gain insight in the main concepts and theories of the anthropological discipline.
- 2 To gain knowledge and insight in scientific and structural and systemic racism.
- 3 Able to distinguish the different views on the human and the power differentials that formed them.
- 4 Having knowledge about non-Western cultures en local processes of change.
- 5 Being able to anthropologically frame 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 'etic' attitude and one's own positionality.
- 8 Being able to critically assess information, produced by the different kinds of media, about globalization and local lifeworlds.

#### **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**

Lecture

#### **Study material**

None

#### **References**

No specific recommended reading.

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

Online coaching through Ufora

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term 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**

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

100% periodical assessment.

#### **Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance. Supporting teaching material is provided (slides, recordings)
- 2 Lecture recordings are provided
- 3 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

4 Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy