

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 Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Communication Science	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Political 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 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
- 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

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecture recordings are provided.

Assignment is included

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

Online guidance.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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, supporting teaching material is provided (slides, recordings)

2 Lecture recordings are provided

3 It is possible to take the exam at a different time within/outside 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