

Anthropology of Visual and Material Cultures in Africa (A005324)

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
DeBlock, Hugo	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 Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	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 Art Studies	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Material culture and art of Africa, visual culture of Africa, contemporary art and visual culture of Africa, diaspora and identity in the arts of Africa

Position of the course

Introduction to the material culture and art of Africa and, more broadly, anthropology of art

Contents

Introduction to the art history of West and Central Africa and, more broadly, art anthropological perspectives and theories, with a focus on contemporary trends in the material and visual cultures of Africa and in the Diaspora; museology; decolonisation of museums; restitution debates

Initial competences

None

Final competences

- 1 To critically discuss current debates surrounding art, anthropology and material cultures.
- 2 To be able to reflect on the work of contemporary artists and creators from Africa or the African diaspora, whilst demonstrating sensitivity to intercultural diversity.
- 3 To be able to situate the material and visual cultures of Africa and the African diaspora within an anthropological framework.
- 4 To reflect critically and creatively on the pluridisciplinarity of art anthropology in Africa
- 5 Have an understanding of power relations at the intersection of art and anthropology, with specific attention to North-South issues.
- 6 Understand and be able to apply the theory and practice of the anthropology of

art, and visual and material cultures, in general and with regard to Africa in particular.

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

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lessons will not be recorded

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Anthropology of Visual and Material Cultures in Africa

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

References**Course content-related study coaching**

Coaching available by e-mail and/or by appointment

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**

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Absence is allowed, no additional supporting teaching material is provided
 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 concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy