

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 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Andriessen, Laura

LW21

staff member

Dhondt, Carmen

LW21

staff member

Stroeken, Koenraad

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Master of Science in Teaching in Languages\(main subject African Languages and Cultures\)](#)

crdts

5

offering

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

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

COVID19: Due to COVID19, teaching methods may change if necessary.

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

Weekly available during speaking hours; guidance through mail and/or Ufora

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

- 70% written exam
- 30% paper

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance; a task is imposed in substitution after discussion with the lecturer
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information contact the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and

Philosophy: <https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>

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