

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

<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
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### 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