COURSE DETAIL

PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE: THE THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF MIND-ALTERING SUBSTANCES

Country
Netherlands

Host Institution
Maastricht University - Center for European Studies

Program(s)
Psychology and Neuroscience, Maastricht

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Psychology

UCEAP Course Number
132

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE: THE THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF MIND-ALTERING SUBSTANCES

UCEAP Transcript Title
PSYCHEDELIC MEDICIN

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

Long before Western people in the sixties and seventies tried out psychedelics for recreational and therapeutic purposes, other cultures had already been using them for ages because of their therapeutic potential. This “psychedelic wave” in the West scared off politicians leading to a scheduling of these substances and a halt to scientific research into the effects of those substances. In the nineties, placebo-controlled studies emerged looking into the negative effects of these drugs due to reports that these users might be cognitively impaired after abundant use of a number of these substances. Two decades later however, after the negative effects had been demonstrated to be limited, when used in moderate amounts, and after the substances appeared to be relatively safe, research into the positive effects started rising and it is blossoming today. While previously only a handful of labs investigated these effects, new research labs in other countries are emerging. The therapeutic potential of psychedelics is now being widely investigated and two companies are now setting up trials in psychiatric patients in order to demonstrate the therapeutic potential of these compounds. Their aim is to have those substances approved as a psychiatric medicine within a few years. While psychedelic research is experiencing a renaissance, it is still treated as the “bad daughter” in psychiatric settings and frowned upon by the general public. From the patient side however, there is a large demand for effective and alternative treatments since treatment is not a “one-size-fits-all” thing and many of those patients fail to benefit from current treatments, leaving them in distress and despair with a pessimistic view on their future. This course educates students about the positive and negative effects of these substances. Through the course students are able to communicate to the lay audience and to patients in an objective way what the current state of affairs is.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
PSY3382

Host Institution Course Title
PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE: THE THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF MIND-ALTERING SUBSTANCES

Host Institution Course Details
https://courserepository.maastrichtuniversity.nl/p/module/EN/CES__PNE/PSY3382

Host Institution Campus
Maastricht University

Host Institution Faculty
Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Center for European Studies

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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