

# 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](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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