Intersectionality and Diversity Studies (A005521)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 **Study time** 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1) Dutch Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Dhondt, Carmen	LW21	staff member
Vitackova, Martina	LW21	staff member
Longman, Chia	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Vantieghem, Wendelien	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

diversity, intersectionality, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, discrimination, inequality, inclusion, identity

Position of the course

This specialized course provides an overview of central theories, concepts and debates in the study of "diversity" in the social and human sciences. Intersectionality is used as an important heuristic and research methodology, to (1) study diversity in its versatility, complexity and interdependence and (2) explain and analyze structures of inequality and privilege.
Students also become acquainted at an advanced level with the operationalization of "diversity" and "intersectionality" in theoretical applications and empirical research in the human and social sciences and in the analysis of various current social themes.
The latter is given shape in a number of basic lessons and some topicalized lectures.

Contents

In recent decades, diversity has become a 'hot topic' in research, in various social areas, including (higher) education and scientific research. The concept is heritage of twentieth century social movements that continue to this day promote equal treatment, rights and recognition of identity, based on minority or oppressed positions in society, such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, disability, etc. The concept was further developed and refined in various fields such as migration studies, gender studies, organizational studies, etc.
The central question is how human 'differences' are given a social place; how the social organization of "diversity" comes about.
This course offers a critical and in-depth overview of theories and debates with which "diversity" can be approached and used critically. An important heuristic here is "intersectionality" as developed in gender studies and black feminist theory. 'Intersectionality' refers to the way in which social location or positioning and identity are at the intersection of different axes or systems of oppression and privilege, including gender, but also sexual identity, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, class, nationality, citizenship status, religion, etc.
This course provides an overview of the diversity and intersectional theories in

which different dimensions of diversity (gender, ethnicity, sexuality, poverty, disability) as well as mechanisms of exclusion (racism, sexism, discrimination) and inclusion (super diversity, social participation, integration) to be explored. Subsequently, it is examined how "diversity" can be studied in various social and cultural domains such as education, language, media, literature; with a focus on the critical analysis of various current social themes.

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge required

Final competences

1 Articulate and describe the most important social issues about diversity and intersectionality in an international comparative context
2 Critically reflect on the opportunities and limitations of diversity and intersectional analysis within different academic disciplines and method application.
3 Abilty to apply an intersectional analysis to gender and diversity related issues and current social themes
4 Awareness of dynamics of social diversity, discrimination, stereotypes and inequality.
5 Competency to deal with gender and diversity related issues in different professional contexts.
6 Openness to the added value of diversity in multicultural contexts.

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

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures and discussion lectures: Students take notes
Guided self-study: the students must independently prepare and process the reading list on the basis of accompanying questions
Independent work: preparation for lesson assignments

Study material

None

References

- Boulila, S.C. (2019). Race in Post-Racial Europe: An Intersectional Analysis. London: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Hill-Collins, P. (2019), Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory. Durham & London: Duke University Press.
- Romero, M. (2018). Introducing Intersectionality. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Vertovec, S. (ed.) (2014), Routledge International Handbook of Diversity Studies, Routledge.

Course content-related study coaching

Individual guidance is possible after class, via the Ufora learning environment or by appointment via e-mail with the teacher.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with open questions and writing assignments

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 100%

Facilities for Working Students

- Presence in class is recommended, also because of class discussion.
- Sufficient learning material is available via the digital learning platform (Ufora) to process the subject matter independently.
- Possibility to take an exam at an alternate time within the regular exam period.