

Feminist Anthropology (A005525)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) English Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Longman, Chia LW21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

| | crdts | offering |
|--|-------|----------|
| Master of Arts in Gender and Diversity | 5 | A |
| Master of Science in Sociology | 5 | A |

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Anthropology, (auto-)ethnography, gender, racism, ethnicity, sexuality, culture, diversity, religion, secularisation, decolonization, feminist pedagogy

Position of the course

This specialized course offers an overview of key theories, domains and debates in the study of gender, sexuality and ethnicity. Its focus is comparative: what are the cultural meanings attached to notions of gender, sexual and ethnic/racial difference across societies throughout the world; how are those differences expressed and experienced; and how are they related to systems of power and (in) equality? We will explore several major theoretical and analytical approaches in feminist and critical anthropology. We also draw on methodologies from the social and cultural sciences such as ethnography, particularly auto-ethnography, in exploring studies of sex/gender/ethnicity/race and their mutual intersections.

Contents

This course (1) addresses theoretical developments in the study of race/ethnicity and sex/gender. It looks at the way human differences have been studied and explained throughout the development of the discipline of anthropology, including the contributions of key writers.

(2) We also critically review feminist contributions to major anthropological, cultural and social theories and paradigms explaining human differentiation and systems of dominance and hierarchy across societies, such as evolutionary, materialist, structuralist, postmodern, ontological, decolonial perspectives.

(3) Key concepts in contemporary anthropological and social thought such as identity, agency and subjectivity; nature/nurture; racism, sexism and homo- and transphobia; desire and embodiment serve as an analytical lens to explore the workings, meanings and intersections of gender/sexuality/ethnicity in different social domains such as work and social reproduction; social movements and the politics of identity; religion, spirituality and wellbeing; kinship, relationality and belonging. We draw on case studies, ethnographic and other social and cultural research from around the world, with a focus on contemporary movements and debates in society, politics and media.

Initial competences

Thorough prior knowledge and skills, acquired at undergraduate level, of the following are required to start this course:

- gender studies and/or, qualitative research or anthropology at BA level

Final competences

- 1 Understand and evaluate foundational concepts and theories in the study of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity in anthropology and social and cultural sciences.
- 2 Understand the construction of sex, gender, race, ethnicity and the socio-cultural variability of systems of difference and inequality
- 3 Develop and apply critical thinking and discussion skills in the analysis of gender, sexuality and race/ethnicity from a culture-comparative and intersectional perspective
- 4 Apply a social-cultural analysis to contemporary challenges and debates on gender, sexual, ethnic difference and inequality
- 5 Awareness of dynamics of societal diversity, discrimination and inequality in contemporary societies
- 6 Self-reflexivity and openness towards the added value of diversity in multicultural contexts, among which the classroom space.
- 7 Writing skills in linking self-reflexivity to theory and broader societal issues.

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

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Taking notes, class discussion, group discussion, writing exercises.

Study material

None

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Oral assessment, Assignment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark

Oral exam: 50%

Paper: 50%

Students who eschew one or more parts of the evaluation can no longer pass the course. Final scores will be reduced to the highest non-deliberative quotation (7/20) if the final score would be higher than 7/20.

When the student scores less than 10/20 for at least one of the components, he/she can no longer pass the entire course unit. If the total score is a mark of ten or more out of twenty, then this is reduced to the highest failing mark (9/20).

Partial results of 10/20 or more can be transferred to the second exam period.

Facilities for Working Students

- Presence in class is recommended, also because of class discussion and writing exercises. No class-recordings.
- 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. In consultation: postponement deadline for paper