

COURSE DETAIL

A CULTURAL CRITIQUE OF OUR AGING SOCIETY

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Maastricht University – University College Maastricht

Program(s)

Biological and Life Sciences, Maastricht, University College Maastricht

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology Health Sciences

UCEAP Course Number

114

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

A CULTURAL CRITIQUE OF OUR AGING SOCIETY

UCEAP Transcript Title

CULTR AGING SOCIETY

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course focuses on age as identity marker and is set up in true interdisciplinary fashion encompassing perspectives from economy, history, the arts, globalization and gender studies, amongst others. Headlines everywhere tell us that ours is a graying world and that population aging is a defining influence on our twenty-first century, radically affecting public health and national economies. These demographic predictions—the result of the trends of declining mortality and increasing longevity—are typically accompanied by dire warnings of the challenges ahead: unsustainable pension systems which encumber younger generations, the critical need for more caregivers and more resources to care for the increasing numbers of those who are frail and dependent, concerns about maintaining technological progress and competitive workforces with an aging labor force, etc. Rarely are such numbers presented in terms of the possible benefits that population aging might bring, such as in experienced leadership, informal caregiving, and a more flexible labor force less hampered by child care. Also often excluded from these projections is any sense of what life is actually like for the diverse millions of people who grow into old age. The course explores what aging is and means from different disciplinary, historical and (trans)national perspectives, examining the concerns raised about aging societies and the causes and consequences of ageism, which is prejudice or discrimination based upon a person's age. Aging is a topic that we all have a stake in. On one level, this stake is very personal. On a larger scale, the concerns of population aging cross every discipline and ageism pervades all parts of our social and personal lives, even when we don't recognize it. This course prepares students to engage critically in the current and future debates about our aging society and to interrogate hopes and fears for aging experiences. Theoretically and methodologically, this course is part of diversity studies as it adds the category of age to other identity markers, such as gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and religion.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HUM3050

Host Institution Course Title

A CULTURAL CRITIQUE OF OUR AGING SOCIETY

Host Institution Campus

University College Maastricht

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities and Social Sciences

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department**

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