COURSE DETAIL

RACISM IN THE WESTERN WORLD: A CULTURAL HISTORY
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University
Program(s) Utrecht University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) International Studies History
UCEAP Course Number 109
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title RACISM IN THE WESTERN WORLD: A CULTURAL HISTORY
UCEAP Transcript Title RACISM WESTRN WRLD
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
This course offers an intensive introduction to the historical development of ideas about ethnicity, race, and racism in the Western world. Students gain insight into the cultural processes that feed into constructions of race and ethnicity and learn to turn a critical lens on scientific concepts such as racism, racial boundaries, multiculturalism, discrimination, othering, and whiteness. Course participants also are instructed in the techniques of the historian's craft: finding and selecting literature, assessing texts, critically analyzing sources and working with historical concepts such as ethnicity, racism, and discrimination. Though racism is mainly associated with the colonial slave experience and genocide in the Second World War, it has a much longer history that also ripples through to our own world today. This course studies the history of racism in the West from the Enlightenment to the present day. The main focus is on the way in which ideas about race and ethnicity have evolved as categories of differentiation, hierarchy, and exclusion. Students research the complex interactions between these cultural constructs and the historical dimensions of nationalism, colonialism, imperialism and globalization in Western history. The development of racism in Europe is considered from an international and comparative perspective, in part through the study of colonial and transatlantic experiences of slavery and migration, as well as by researching the worldwide spread of ideals of equality, human rights, and civil rights. In addition, the course looks at how scientific and pseudo-scientific constructs of racism, social Darwinism, and eugenics were modeled from the nineteenth century onwards to legitimize differentiation and selection on the basis of racial characteristics. Finally, this course investigates how knowledge of this controversial past can offer a framework for understanding current discussions about race and ethnicity. Note: The lectures of this course are in English. If there is only one seminar group, discussions are also entirely in English.

Language(s) of Instruction

Host Institution Course Number
GE2V16006

Host Institution Course Title
RACISM IN THE WESTERN WORLD: A CULTURAL HISTORY

Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus Humanities
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department History and Art History
Course Last Reviewed

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