COURSE DETAIL

CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Maastricht University – University College Maastricht
Program(s) University College Maastricht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy Communication Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 130
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE 21ST CENTURY
UCEAP Transcript Title CRUCIAL DIFFRNC 21C
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course examines the complex interactions between gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, age, and species difference in the contemporary world. Through a critical inquiry into various topical cases as well as major theoretical texts within contemporary gender and diversity studies, the course traces the multiple ways in which identity and difference, inclusion and exclusion, equality and inequality are produced and reproduced in ongoing flows of negotiation and transformation. The course is rooted in intersectional feminism, critical race theory, queer and trans studies, decolonial theory, and other critical frameworks that link together academic scholarship and grassroots activism. The emergence of various social movements during the 1960s and 1970s – including the women's movement, the civil rights movement, the free speech movement, and LGBT+ activism – serves as a historical and conceptual starting point of the course. Special attention is directed to how intersectional feminisms and queer activisms have challenged the identity politics of mainstream social justice movements, and to the implications of these interventions for academic knowledge production. Subsequently, the course looks into the entangled workings of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, religion, and other 'crucial differences' through a variety of current case studies. From the 'headscarf debates' and anti-Muslim racism in France to the medicalization of intersex bodies, from the rise of Dutch homonationalism to queer and anti-racist environmental movements, the course critically examines the manifold dynamics of difference, power, and inequality in the twenty-first century. Simultaneously, the course traces a future landscape of possibility for minoritarian subjects – including women, queer and trans people, persons of color and indigenous people, as well as a range of nonhuman 'others' – by mapping critical strategies of resistance, resilience, and social justice. Prerequisites HUM2003 The Making of Crucial Differences (strongly recommended!) or another relevant 2000-level course in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
HUM3040

Host Institution Course Title
CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/file/course-catalogue-2025-2026pdf

Host Institution Campus
Maastricht University

Host Institution Faculty
University College Maastricht

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Humanities

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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