

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 activism 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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