# COURSE DETAIL

## THE MAKING OF CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES: "RACE", SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND CLASS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

**Country**
Netherlands

**Host Institution**
Maastricht University – University College Maastricht

**Program(s)**
University College Maastricht

**UCEAP Course Level**
Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**
Women’s & Gender Studies Sociology History

**UCEAP Course Number**
103

**UCEAP Course Suffix**

**UCEAP Official Title**
THE MAKING OF CRUCIAL DIFFERENCES: "RACE", SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND CLASS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**
RACE SEX GENDR&CLAS

**UCEAP Quarter Units**
6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**
4.00

**Course Description**

Starting from recent debates and problems like new nationalism, misogyny, political homophobia, Islamophobia and antisemitism the course offers a historical inquiry into the construction and development of cultural differences marked through categories like gender, sexuality, class, race, and religion from the eighteenth century until the Holocaust. Through historical case studies, philosophy, and literature it looks at the way in which Western identity-discourse and its colonial subcode have formed dichotomies like self and other, black and white, the Orient and the West, male and female, worker and bourgeois, hetero- and homosexual, and how these differences became social inequalities. The course introduces gender as a category of historical analysis. Through a critical inquiry it reconstructs the paradoxes of a “dialectic of Enlightenment” (Adorno), that means the dark side behind its claim for reason, equality, brotherhood and freedom. The course traces and illustrates the ways in which the Enlightenment has provided a rationale to mark gendered, classed and racialized boundaries in science which, more often than not, resulted in inequalities. These inequalities became embedded in European society in such a way that the active, dominant subject came to be seen as white, male, and middle class. This discourse of dominance helped to carry out European colonialism and the imperial project. With the help of a literary analysis (Joseph Conrad HEART OF DARKNESS), the course introduces into the (critical) role literature can play within the dynamics of social change and cultural discourse. Furthermore, the course introduces into critical theories, like discourse analysis and the history of knowledge, postcolonial and gender/sexuality studies and studies on Orientalism. Thus, it examines the dynamic processes of the “history of sexualities”, their formation and contradictions, which emerged out of these processes. It reconstructs how masculinity and the image of man became a central trope of nationalism and colonialism. Last but not least, it asks how colonial and anti-Semitic discourse, stereotypes of the external Other (in the colonies) and stereotypes of an internal European Other (the Jews etc.) were intertwined and how we can

better understand the Holocaust from a historical, multidirectional perspective.

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
HUM2003

**Host Institution Course Title**
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**Host Institution Course Details**

**Host Institution Campus**

**Host Institution Faculty**
University College Maastricht

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**
Humanities

**Course Last Reviewed**

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