

COURSE DETAIL

HOMO UNIVERSALIS: HOW TO BECOME AN EDUCATED HUMAN BEING?

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University – University College Utrecht

Program(s)

University College Utrecht

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History Education Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number

107

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

HOMO UNIVERSALIS: HOW TO BECOME AN EDUCATED HUMAN BEING?

UCEAP Transcript Title

HOMO UNIVERSALIS

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

Course Description

This course invites students to do a thorough reflection on what it means to be an educated human being. Starting from the classical concept of the artes liberales, it explores the different forms this concept has taken on throughout Western history, such as the humanistic ideal of the "homo universalis," the 19th century concept of Bildung, and the late 20th and 21st-century ideal of "global citizenship." The course also examines the most important challenges which liberal education has faced throughout its long history: e.g. utilitarianism (Plato against the sophists), scholasticism (Lorenzo Valla's critique of medieval "obscurantism"), and the challenge posed by the 19th-century concept of "professional science." Moreover, the course explores the surprising ways in which ideals of liberal education have spread by means of literature, e.g. through the "Bildungsroman" (H. Hesse), the "epic theatre" (Bertolt Brecht) and even the modern detective (Sherlock Holmes). Lastly, the course invites students to write a conclusive statement on the value of liberal education by asking students to rethink how liberal education has formed their character in previous years and how it is likely to bear on life choices that are upcoming in the future.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

UCHUMLIT38

Host Institution Course Title

HOMO UNIVERSALIS: HOW TO BECOME AN EDUCATED HUMAN BEING?

Host Institution Campus

University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Literature

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