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

4.00

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
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Host Institution Course Details
https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/course/UCHUMLIT38/2022/SEM2

Host Institution Campus
University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty

Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Literature

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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