

Core courses

Core Courses

Contemporary World History

Full course description

The course intends to trace back current situations to their historical backgrounds. The first three tasks, under the caption “Toolkit”, will therefore consist of a brief exploration of the philosophy of history and some issues regarding historical perspective, a discussion of the concepts of ‘state’ versus ‘nation’ (in anticipation of issues regarding decolonization, specific regional conflicts, and possible sources for conflict in general that will be discussed in later tasks) and a discussion of the Cold War as an influential factor in recent history.

Each of the following tasks, under the captions of “Area surveys” and “Assessment of the current global situation” respectively, will be built around a case that represents the underlying problem, and both combined will lead the students to specific source material. Examples of such cases are decolonization, the economic development of Asia, conflict in Africa, and the implications of the current position of the USA as 'solitary superpower'.

Course objectives

- To provide students with an understanding of the main trends in politics, demography, society and culture over the last 70 years and to put these trends in a global context.
- To develop a critical attitude towards the use of historical theory, and the interpretation of historical data and processes.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Antony Best, Jussi M. Hanhimäki, Joseph A. Maiolo and Kirsten E. Schulze, International history of the twentieth century and beyond, Third edition, Routledge. 2015.
- E-reader.

COR1003

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

University College Maastricht

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M. Stout](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Political Philosophy

Full course description

Politics is a complex and puzzling subject. If only taken at their word, it is difficult to understand why people act the way they do and believe the things they purport to believe in. As political philosophers we try to understand underlying conceptions and values that shape politics and which are used to justify concrete policies. We are not concerned with what people claim to believe, but rather with the underpinning structures, values and ideas that shape how it is that we live together. We are concerned with how the language and concepts that people use comes to define who they are. In other words, we don't have ideas, ideas have us. Our task in this course is to understand those ideas.

This course will provide an introduction to contemporary philosophical debates about core political concepts such as *justice*, *liberty*, *equality*, *community*, and *democracy* in modern liberal-democratic societies. Students will become familiar with the thought of some of the leading modern political philosophers, like Thomas Hobbes, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Rawls, Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin, and Martha Nussbaum. Since conceptual analysis is the core business of philosophy, students will learn to analyse concepts, to clarify fuzzy moral ideas, and to make explicit the tensions and contradictions inherent to our political lives. Students will learn how to apply these concepts to current political debate and practice.

Course objectives

- The course will provide an introduction to western political philosophy. Students will learn to analyse, discuss, and apply basic concepts in contemporary political philosophy such as justice, equality, liberty and community.
- Students will apply these core concepts to various local, national, and global political issues such as migration and global justice.
- Students will be trained in normative political argumentation. They will exercise their ability to debate contentious ethical issues of public life.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Various primary texts in political philosophy (these vary somewhat from period to period and year to year)
- Adam Swift (2014, third edition), *Political Philosophy; A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians*, Cambridge, Polity Press.

COR1004

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [J.M. Hoye](#)
- [J.L.P. Prinz](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Philosophy of Science

Full course description

Typical issues in this course are: What is the role of observation in science? What is a scientific explanation? What roles do theories and experiments play in science? What is the nature of scientific progress? Can we rationally decide between scientific viewpoints? In what ways are the social sciences similar to or different from the natural sciences?

The course presents an introduction to major issues in the philosophy of science. It can be divided into four parts. In the first we will deal with traditional positions on the objectivity and methodology of science, like those of logical empiricism. The second focuses on objections to this received view as formulated by critical rationalism and by Thomas Kuhn's paradigm theory. Kuhn's theory revolutionized thinking about scientific knowledge and led to the so-called sociological and historical turn in the philosophy of science. The course then addresses two fundamental problems in the field: 'Do our theories describe reality?' (The problem of realism) and 'Do we now have better knowledge than in the past' (The problem of cognitive progress). In the final part of the course problems in the philosophy of the social sciences will take center stage: How do the social sciences explain and predict events? Does the method of understanding present an alternative methodology for social science? And finally: What is the role of social science in society.

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with the philosophical foundations of scientific method.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

It is strongly recommended not to take the course in your first or second semester.

Recommended reading

- Chalmers, D. (1999). What is This Thing Called Science?
- E-Readers.

COR1002

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.J. Boon](#)
- [P. Vermeer](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Science, Reason and Human Progress

Full course description

Science never stands still, and for some time now, there appears to be a growing shift in intellectual enquiry and discovery toward more cross- disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking. The core course Science, Reason and Human Progress takes this observation as a starting point. In doing so, its ultimate goal is to make students aware of the value of scientific inquiry across different academic domains and of its fundamental relevance to societal developments. Such awareness can only be developed by first getting a basic understanding of 'how scientific inquiry works'. To achieve this the course has three aims that are more specific. The first is to introduce students to scientific thought, language and behaviour and their relation to human progress. In this context, it will become clear that academic, scientific, and intellectual work interacts with political, social and

moral change, which in turn often starts with scientific inquiry. The second aim is to help students develop and apply scientific inquiry skills. The third aim is teaching Liberal Arts & Science students to recognise how they can become part of this change in scientific and human progress that scientific inquiry brings about and possibly even lead it. In order to do so, throughout the course, emphasis lies on recognition of past, present and (possible) future scientific works (theory and applications) grounded in enlightenment

Course objectives

- Students learn to recognise, define, and analyse scientific and intellectual achievements grounded in enlightenment and describe their relation to human progress.
- Students learn to review scientific theory and thought, scientific jargon and its application in a critical manner.
- Students are encouraged to recognise and illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of successful scientific endeavour
- Students are trained to apply the scientific inquiry method. In addition, they practice cross- and interdisciplinary thought and use it to review and report solutions to a real-world issue

COR1006

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M.A.J.F. Heins](#)

Concentration

Concentration: Sciences

Calculus

Full course description

Students enter this course with a wide variety of backgrounds. For some students who have previously seen very little calculus there will be many new techniques introduced, whereas for other students with a broader prior experience some of the techniques will be familiar. Throughout the course we will illustrate the methods learnt by looking at real problems from different fields where these techniques can be applied and through this applied lens all students will explore new facets of calculus and deepen their knowledge.

The course will discuss;

- Functions
- Limits and continuity
- Derivatives
- Rules of differentiation

University College Maastricht

- Maxima and Minima
- Implicit differentiation and rates
- Integration
- Definite integrals
- Applications of integration
- Improper integrals
- Differential Equations

Course objectives

- In this course we provide an introduction to calculus. Emphasis is on an understanding of the basic concepts and techniques, and on developing the practical, computational skills to solve problems from a wide range of application areas.

Prerequisites

SCI1010 Basic Mathematical Tools or substantial high school experience in Mathematics (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-M, p. vi-viii). Students who are unsure if this course is suitable for them can contact the coordinator to discuss their situation.

Recommended reading

- Waner, S and Costenoble, S.R. (2014). Applied Calculus, 6th edition, international edition. Brooks/Cole, Cengage learning.

SCI2018

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R. Cavill](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Sustainable Development: An Introduction

Full course description

Today it is acknowledged that achieving sustainable development at the local, regional and global scale is one of the greatest challenges for the 21st century. But in many cases the term 'sustainable development' functions as little more than a vacuous buzzword. So what does sustainable

development actually mean? How unsustainable is our global society at the moment? Are we contributing to irreversible climate change? Are we already passing dangerous global environmental tipping points? Why are humans acting in such unsustainable ways? And, of course, what are sustainable ways forward?

This course aims to enhance student's understanding of 'sustainable development', based on the notion that human development can only be sustainable when environmental boundaries are respected. The course introduces the main concepts, ideas and theories related to the term sustainable development. Students will gain insights into (the limits to) humanity's immense impact on the earth's systems and the underlying drivers of these unsustainable trends. Furthermore, sustainable development requires an understanding that inaction has consequences. Students will learn about some of the contemporary ideas about how to achieve a more sustainable society. As part of the examination students will link theories/concepts/ideas discussed in the course to a self-selected case study (a promising way forward towards sustainability) in a poster presentation.

Course objectives

- To gain a basic understanding of the (various perspectives on the) concept of sustainable development and some of the main related ideas, concepts and theories.
- To gain insights into (the limits to) our immense global human impact on the earth's systems and the underlying drivers of these unsustainable trends
- To explore ideas about how to achieve a more sustainable society.

Prerequisites

None

- [Climate Change](#)

Recommended reading

- E-Readers.

SCI1016

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.M.T.E. Huynen](#)

Teaching methods:

University College Maastricht

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Functional Neuroanatomy

Full course description

Human beings mostly go through their lives without paying much attention to their actions such as breathing, eating and even learning. Our brain seems to take care of us in an almost effortless way by planning, initiating and executing our actions and by regulating our somatic homeostasis. The course Brain and Action is concerned with exactly how the nervous system does so. The course deals with the scientific study of the central and peripheral nervous system as well as with some of the latest developments in neuroscience. Via problem based learning tasks, both the anatomy and functions of important neurological structures like the spinal cord and the brain are examined.

Questions that will be raised continually during the course are, e.g.: What is the hippocampus? What function does the corpus callosum have? How does the brain develop both pre- and postnatally? How does neurotransmission take place? Etc.

Course objectives

- To make students familiar with the basic division, anatomy and functions of the central and peripheral nervous system.
- To gain knowledge of the workings and anatomy of the brain's most important structures.
- To gain basic practical knowledge of brain dissection.

Prerequisites

Secondary school biology (for an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B, p. vi-viii) and/or a genuine(!) interest in the anatomy of the nervous system.

Recommended reading

- Bear, M.F., (2016). *Neuroscience: Exploring the brain* (4th ed.), ISBN: 9780781760034.
- Various textbooks on the anatomy of the brain (available in UM library and UCM reading room).
- Several research articles on the relationship between modern lifestyle and nervous system anatomy and functioning.

SCI2034

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

- [M.A.J.F. Heins](#)

Advances in Biomedical Sciences

Full course description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to recent breakthroughs in the physical and biological sciences that are now being explored for biomedical applications. The topics will come directly from the research expertise of the lecturers, all of whom are young principal investigators in the new research institutes at the UM: MERLN and M4I. The course will cover a broad range of topics, including nanomaterials for regenerative medicine, supramolecular biomaterials, big data and computer learning, electron microscopy, imaging and diagnostic mass spectrometry, and structural biology of tuberculosis. Each of these fields has the potential to address some of society's greatest challenges, including the health and vitality of our ageing population, and this will be discussed in both the lectures and the tasks. Students will gain firsthand experience of scientific research taking place at the UM and will have the opportunity to visit research laboratories as part of a demonstration of some of the topics discussed in the lectures. Students will experience unrestricted access for a firsthand account of a new generation of research lines with a new generation of labs.

In addition to a final content-based oral exam, there will be two papers for evaluation. For their midterm, students will choose a recent discovery reported in the press and investigate the scientific claims and integrity of the reporting. In the final paper, the student acts as the reporter, and will write an opinion piece on a topic of research in either MERLN or M4I; this report will be informed by an interview with one of the lecturers.

This course is designed for top students with a concentration in the sciences who wish to advance their learning to the next level, beyond textbooks. Students will benefit from close contact with young scientists from diverse fields and will be expected to read scientific literature to enhance their learning. Skills learned within this course will be highly applicable for more advanced degrees (Master's, PhD) within the sciences, and within the competitive job market.

Course objectives

- To gain insight into frontier topics of the biomedical sciences, with first-hand accounts of successes, problems, and a forecast for the future.
- To apply knowledge from the natural sciences towards problems in society.
- To give an accurate account of the work and thought process of academic researchers.
- To learn to critically read scientific news and perform basic literature research.
- To learn how to ask questions of a scientist and report others research to a wider audience.
- To gain familiarity with cutting edge research within the MERLN and M4I institutes.
- To access new labs and research lines starting with young Assistant Professors within UM.

Prerequisites

At least one of: SCI2017 Organic Chemistry, SCI2037 Cell Biology, or SCI2038 Physics. Highly motivated students with a different background should speak to the course coordinators.

Recommended reading

Selected scientific articles.

SCI3050

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [P.A. Wieringa](#)

Introduction to Game Theory

Full course description

What is a game?

The word game may make you think of things like poker, chess or backgammon. However, within the context of this course its meaning is far broader. A game is basically a decision problem in which several parties are involved. Generally these parties have different and conflicting interests, and often

there is no solution to the decision problem that will make all parties happy. The parties in the conflict are normally called players (or agents), but one should keep in mind that these may just as well be firms competing for their market shares, animals fighting over a territory, children trying to get the

biggest piece of cake, or politicians fighting over the distribution of budgets. We encounter very fundamental issues like rationality, expectations, fairness, power, cooperation, threats, manipulations, risk, stability. In some games everything depends on strategic possibilities of the players. In such games we also encounter information structures; what does each player know about the other player's possibilities and goals. Does A know that B knows that A knows that B knows etc?

Game Theory analyzes different types of games and their solution concepts. Analyzing, or solving, a game boils down to answering a mathematical question and then interpreting the result.

In the games that we discuss in the Game Theory course the solution depends on strategic possibilities of the players. We will discuss the games in order of increasing strategic possibilities, which means that as the course progresses, the games become more complex. Many examples shall be discussed to clarify the issues and many exercises will be provided to learn how to compute solutions.

Course objectives

- To familiarize the students with the fundamentals of Game Theory.

Prerequisites

SCI1010 Basic Mathematical Tools or substantial high school experience in Mathematics (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-M, p. vi-viii). Students who are unsure if this course is suitable for them can contact the coordinator to discuss their situation.

Recommended reading

- Lecture Notes Introduction to Game Theory by Frank Thuijsman will be provided.

SCI2010

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G.M. Schoenmakers](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Human Physiology

Full course description

While Mathematics is seen as the father of science, Physiology is the mother. Physiology attempts to explain the physical and chemical factors that are responsible for the origin, development, and progression of life. Human physiology investigates the mechanisms of the human body making it a living being (Guyton). In the healthy human body it is of the utmost importance that the working conditions for all cells are kept "constant". In this respect it is noteworthy that essentially all organs and cells of the human body perform functions that help to maintain this constant nature or homeostasis by using feed-back mechanisms. We will begin by discussing the physiology of the cell, and the function of the cell membrane. Continuing, we will discuss cardiovascular physiology, respiratory, fluid and salt balance, followed by the autonomic nervous system and the endocrine system and ending with gastrointestinal physiology, control and feedback.

Course objectives

- To obtain basic knowledge of human physiology

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SKI2079 Lab Skills: Human Anatomy and Histology. Students wishing to take the Lab Skills should concurrently enroll in, or have completed, this course. Students wishing to take SCI2009 Human Physiology without taking the Lab Skills may do so.

Prerequisites

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology. Students with substantial high school experience in Biology (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B, p. vi-viii) can contact the coordinator to request a waiver.

Recommended reading

Multiple sources provided by UM/UCM libraries including textbooks on:

Physiology, Biochemistry, Physics, Pathology, Internal Medicine, etc. The use of the on-line library Access Medicine (access provided by UB).

SCI2009

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [A.J. Gilde](#)

Data Analytics

Full course description

This course treats the theory and practice of Business Analytics. Tools for the analysis of data are discussed, as well as methods for discovering knowledge from information and using this knowledge for intelligent decision making.

The course consists of applying up-to-date data mining techniques on real-life problems. These techniques will be implemented with modern software tools (SAS, SPSS modeller, Tableau, WEKA, XLMiner). We study how (and how not) to extract information from large data bases with standard techniques from data mining and how to interpret the results.

The first cases, selected from the literature, are used to get experience with the mentioned goals. The last two or three cases are selected from business practices based on current topical developments of the various disciplines involved with data oriented decision making: financial, marketing, supply chain management etcetera. These cases will be introduced by the selected companies. Some companies involved in previous years are: VISA (London), Proctor & Gamble

University College Maastricht
(Brussels), and Smurfit-Kappa (Roermond).

Course objectives

- This course aims at getting hands-on experience in analyzing managerial decision processes, based on available data, and using quantitative techniques for decision making.

Prerequisites

SCI2033 Data Mining.

Recommended

SSC2061 Statistics 1.

Recommended reading

- Data Science for Business, What You Need to Know about Data Mining and Data-Analytic Thinking, by Foster Provost and Tom Fawcett, O'Reilly Media 2013. ISBN 978-1-4493-6132-7, EBook ISBN 978-1-4493-6131-0 (not compulsory).
- Other materials, i.e. slides, selected scientific papers and data, will be made available through Student Portal.

Recommended:

- Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic (2015). *Storytelling with Data: A Data Visualization Guide for Business Professionals*. Wiley. ISBN-10: 1119002257, ISBN-13: 978-1119002253

SCI3051

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [C.P.M. van Hoesel](#)
- [M.B.P. Peeters - Rutten](#)

Immunology

Full course description

The course Immunology focuses on the role of different humoral factors, cells and cell systems of the innate and adaptive immune system, that are involved in the defense of an organism against intruders like foreign cells or (non) complex structures (e.g. foreign proteins). In addition, the processes in the immune response after immunization, vaccination and transplantation will be discussed.

Course objectives

- To gain knowledge and insight in cells and humoral factors of the innate and adaptive immune system.
- To gain knowledge and insight in cellular and molecular effector mechanisms of the innate and adaptive immunity during inflammation and infection.
- To gain knowledge and insight in the structure and function of primary and secondary lymphoid tissue.
- To gain knowledge and insight in the processes in the immune response after immunization and vaccination.
- To gain knowledge and insight in immune mechanisms in disease.

Prerequisites

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology. Students with substantial high school experience in biology (for an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B, p. vi-viii) can contact the coordinators to request a waiver.

Recommended

SCI2037 Cell Biology, SCI2040 Microbiology.

- [Introduction to Biology](#)

Recommended reading

- Abbas, A.K., Lichtman A.H. and Pillai, S. (2016). Basic Immunology (5th ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier.

SCI2031

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [K.A.M. Wouters](#)
- [B. Schmitz](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Metabolism, Nutrition and Exercise

Full course description

The aim of the course is to provide students with a solid understanding of the key aspects in energy metabolism, and the effects of nutrients on skeletal muscle metabolism during exercise of different types. The course requires prior knowledge on some simple (bio)chemical concepts (e.g. the structure and function of macromolecules, common forms of chemical reactions, basic cell structure, and metabolism of macromolecules).

The course builds around a practical case study. With a group of students, you develop a recommendation regarding nutrition and exercise for a patient, a client, or an organisation. Since this is an advance-level course, with students from different backgrounds, you can also provide other recommendations, e.g. how to motivate the client to meet the recommendations.

The first part of the course provides a theoretical framework on the basics of exercise biochemistry and exercise physiology. In the form of tutorial groups, you discuss the physiology of muscles, the metabolism of macronutrients, the hormonal regulation of metabolism, and the biochemical and physiological role of micronutrients in relation to exercise and fatigue. You are not confronted with predesigned problems; instead you can relate the theoretical framework directly to your case. The course builds on knowledge you have obtained in basic and intermediate courses, such as biochemistry, human physiology, and cell biology. In addition, you are encouraged to relate to appropriate knowledge from other courses. This course serves as a culmination: relevant knowledge acquired in previous courses is combined and applied.

In the second part of the course, you look further into the case and fill in the gaps. You may have to do some more literature research, but you can also get in touch with professionals who work with cases like yours on a day-to-day basis. There will be ample time to discuss the group work in class, and ask for and provide feedback to fellow groups. This will be in the format of group discussions and a peer review session. By doing so, you have the opportunity to present your findings and ask remaining questions or discuss issues in relation to the case study, as well as to receive feedback on how to proceed. A recommendation on your case, in the form of a group assignment, concludes this part of the course.

Course objectives

- To acquire knowledge of cellular and whole-body energy metabolism in rest and during exercise.
- To acquire knowledge of the effects of nutrients on cellular and whole-body energy metabolism.
- To acquire knowledge of the effects of training on different body systems and how this relates to exercise.
- To translate scientific, biochemical theories and processes to practical applications for laymen.

Please note that this course focuses primarily on the biochemical aspects of metabolic processes. It is not a course on nutrition or exercise physiology.

Prerequisites

SCI2035 Biochemistry.

Recommended reading

- There is no main book for this course. A list of suggested readings is provided in the course manual; these books are all available in Reading Room at UCM and/or in the library at the UNS50. In addition, E-Readers will be available in the Student Portal.

SCI3005

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [J. Hoeks](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Written exam

Genetics and Evolution

Full course description

Within the life sciences there are two kinds of theories that deal with phenomena: proximate-causal theories and ultimate causal theories. Molecular genetics is indispensable for understanding the proximate causation of phenomena. It explains how genetics information, encoded in the DNA, is transcribed and translated into molecules that are involved in the development of characteristics (phenotypes) of an individual. Evolutionary theory tries to solve problems related to the ultimate causation of phenomena. Why have specific genotypes been selected through selection on phenotypes? Its core discipline is evolutionary genetics. Genetics and evolutionary theory will be discussed in this course.

The course starts with the mechanisms that cause evolutionary change: natural selection, inheritance, and gene expression. In order to make these mechanisms understandable for students, this course will deal with the essentials of molecular, Mendel, and population genetics. It then moves on to the evolution of life cycles, sex, and sexual selection. After discussing kin selection it uses genomic imprinting to explain genetic conflicts. Game theory will be used to explain the models that treat conflicts. The course will finish with the evolution of life histories, especially senescence.

Besides theoretical and mathematical models, the course will treat the applications of these models within the fields of biology, medicine, and psychology. For example sexual selection will be used to explain the principles of partner selection in human beings (psychology), kin selection will be treated

in the context of conflicts between paternal and maternal alleles during pregnancies (medicine), and the evolution of sex will be treated in relation to rates of mutation and recombination (biology).

Course objectives

- To acquaint students with genetics and evolutionary theory.
- To provide students with insight into the essentials of genetic and evolutionary models and their applications in biology, medicine and psychology.

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SKI2088 Lab Skills: Genetics. Students wishing to take the Lab Skills should concurrently enroll in, or have completed, this course. Students wishing to take SCI2022 Genetics and Evolution I without taking the Lab Skills may do so.

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology. Students with substantial high school experience in Biology (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B, p. vi-viii) can contact the coordinator to request a waiver.

Recommended reading

-

Stearns, S.C. & Hoekstra, R.F. (2005) Evolution; An introduction (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press, Oxford.

- Alberts, D. & Johnson, A. (2007) Molecular Biology of the cell, fourth, fifth or sixth edition.

SCI2022

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [B. Schmitz](#)
- [M.J.W.M. Voncken](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Written exam

Climate Change

Full course description

Does it infuriate you when people consider the greenhouse effect to be a bad phenomenon? Do you know your 'RCP2.6' from your 'RCP8.5'? How about the relative importance of carbon dioxide and methane in terms of radiative forcing? Or the difference between climate-friendly and climate resilient? No? Join the club. Very few people understand the nuts and bolts of climate science. And that is a real shame, because climate change is considered to be the greatest environmental threat humanity has ever faced. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that the human influence on the climate system is clear. Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, while the need for adaptation to this new reality is increasingly being recognized. The course will provide students with a sound understanding of the key drivers and processes of climate change. We will discuss the state-of-the-art climate science, examine some key impacts of (future) climate change, and explore what can be done to address the problem.

Course objectives

- To explore historic, current and future changes in our climate system.
- To review the uncertainties underlying (the modeling of) future climate change
- To examine some key impacts of climate change on human societies and natural systems.
- To explore climate mitigation and climate adaptation strategies (incl. Paris Agreement).

Prerequisites

SCI1016 Sustainable Development

SCI2041

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M.M.T.E. Huynen](#)

Introduction to Biology

Full course description

Biology, the science of life, studies organisms as the basic units of life. How they are evolved, how they are build up, how they act, how they communicate with each other, how they are related to the non-living environment, and how they reproduce. Since organisms are built up of cells, the basic unity of all life forms, the course will start with biomolecules and reactions that enable life, followed by tasks about organelles, cells, DNA and the protein machinery that results in the diversity of cells. We will continue with cell growth and differentiation, metabolism and reproduction. Towards the end of the course, we will go into organ systems and evolutionary mechanisms that ultimately

Course objectives

- To provide students with a good basic knowledge required to enter more specialised courses in life sciences.
- To gain insight in the biology of organisms.
- To increase appreciation and knowledge of the science of life.

Prerequisites

NB: This course is aimed at students who have only taken basic level biology. It is strongly suggested that students with substantial high school experience in biology consider taking relevant 2000-level courses directly (for an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B, p. vi-viii). However, the content of this course does go beyond high school biology end level. It is possible to take this course without having previously taken biology, but it will be challenging.

Prerequisite

None.

Recommended reading

- Campbell et al., *Biology, a global approach*, 10th edition, 2015.
- Sadava et al., *Life, the science of biology*, 11th edition, 2016.

SCI1009

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- B. Schmitz

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Linear Algebra

Full course description

Linear algebra is the branch of mathematics which is primarily concerned with problems involving linearity of one kind or another. This is reflected by the three main themes around which this

University College Maastricht

introductory course is centred.

The first theme is concerns with what can be recognized without doubt as the most frequently occurring mathematical problem in practical applications: how to solve a system of linear equations. For this problem a complete solution procedure is developed which provides the student with a way to deal with such problems systematically, regardless of the number of equations or the number of unknowns.

The second theme addresses linear functions and mappings, which can be studied naturally from a geometric point of view. This involves geometric 'objects' such as points, lines and planes, and geometric 'actions' such as rotation, reflection, projection and translation. One of the main tools of linear algebra is offered by matrices and vectors, for which a basic theory of matrix-vector computation is developed. This allows one to bring these two themes together in a common framework, in what turns out to be an exceptionally fruitful way. By introducing the notions of vector spaces, inner products and orthogonality, a deeper understanding of the scope of these techniques is developed, opening up a large array of rather diverse application areas.

The third theme surfaces when the point of view is shifted once more, now from the geometric point of view to the dynamic perspective, where the focus is on the effects of iteration (i.e., the repeated application of a linear mapping). This involves a basic theory of eigenvalues and eigenvectors, which have many applications in various branches of science as will be discussed. For instance, important applications in problems involving dynamics and stability, and applications to optimization problems found in operations research.

Many examples and exercises shall be provided to clarify the issues and to develop practical computational skills. They also serve to demonstrate practical applications where the results of this course can be successfully employed.

Students will obtain insight that various seemingly different questions all boil down to the same mathematical problem of solving a system of equations. Students will learn to look at the same problem from different angles and will learn to switch their point of view (from geometric to algebraic and vice versa).

Course objectives

- To provide an introduction to the main topics of linear algebra. Emphasis is on an understanding of the basic concepts and techniques, and on developing the practical, computational skills to solve problems from a wide range of application areas.

Prerequisites

SCI1010 Basic Mathematical Tools or substantial high school experience in Mathematics (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-M, p. vi-viii). Students who are unsure if this course is suitable for them can contact the coordinator to discuss their situation.

Recommended reading

- Lay, David C. (2012). *Linear Algebra and Its Applications*. (4th ed.). Pearson. ISBN 13: 978-0-321-62335-5.

University College Maastricht

SCI2019

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M. Musegaas](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Artificial Intelligence

Full course description

The course starts with an analysis of the question "Can machines think", and the preconceptions usually encountered in discussions about that idea.

Next the metaphor of an "intelligent agent" is introduced, that is, of an entity that pursues goals by perceiving and acting flexibly and autonomously in a possibly very complex environment.

The main part of the course explores the metaphor of an intelligent agent by introducing a number of state-of-the-art concepts, algorithms, and methods which enable computers (i.e., software and robots) to solve problems in a way which deserves to be called intelligent. Topics covered in this part are chosen from AI areas such as intelligent search and constraint satisfaction, architectures for intelligent agents, and coordination among intelligent agents.

The course as a whole conveys basic aspects and facets of engineering (analyzing and designing) AI systems. Covered topics are explored and applied in exercises and tasks (in-class and homework).

Course objectives

- To convey the ideas that have emerged over the past fifty years of Artificial Intelligence research, and about two millenia of related work, expressed in the study of so-called intelligent agents.
- To discuss the possibility of machines that think.
- To show how algorithms can be used (1) to understand human behavior in terms of underlying processes, and (2) to enable systems to think or act intelligently.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Russell, S., & Norvig, P. (2009, Third Edition). Artificial Intelligence. A modern approach. Prentice-Hall.
- Wooldridge, M. (2009, Second Edition). An introduction to multiagent systems. John Wiley & Sons.

SCI2036

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [S. Asteriadis](#)

Introduction to Chemistry

Full course description

The emphasis of this course will be on a number of essential topics in modern chemistry. The course will start with a close look at the structure of atoms and their place in the periodic table, followed by an examination of the properties of various types of chemical bonds, ending with a discussion of chemical reactivity. The topics covered in this course cover the characteristics of gases/liquids/solids, thermodynamics, reaction kinetics, acid-base chemistry, electrochemistry, and chemical bonding theory. The concepts that are learned are applied to biochemical examples. Basic knowledge of chemistry is important in a wide variety of disciplines, ranging from (life) sciences and medicine to management, economics and governance studies.

Course objectives

- To teach the first principles of organic and inorganic chemistry for future students in medicine, biology and molecular life sciences, in such a way that they can apply these concepts to solve typical chemical and biomedical problems.
- To give you the ability to recognize chemical compounds and to understand their basic physical and chemical properties.
- To enable you to understand the basic physical chemistry of fundamental importance to most natural processes, such as thermodynamics, acid-base behavior, kinetics, and electrochemistry.
- To provide the basic knowledge for further advanced courses in chemistry, biochemistry and the life sciences.

Prerequisites

NB: This course is aimed at students who have never taken chemistry or have only taken basic level chemistry. It is strongly suggested that students who took chemistry in high school consider taking SCI2017 directly.

Recommended reading

- To be announced.

SCI1004

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [C.S. Bahn](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Written exam

Computer Science

Full course description

As an overview of the discipline, the course covers a breadth of topics including algorithmic foundations of informatics; hardware issues such as number systems and computer architectures; and software issues such as operating systems, programming languages, compilers, networks, the Internet, and artificial intelligence. All the concepts introduced during the course are investigated in lab sessions. In the end of the course students are expected to develop experience in how to apply techniques from informatics, computer science and programming for their own research and educational purposes.

Course objectives

- To provide an introduction to the fundamental concepts found throughout the field of informatics and computer science.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Schneider, G.M. & Gersting, J.L. (2013, Sixth Edition). An Invitation to Computer Science: Java

SCI2039

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [D. Dibenedetto](#)

Microbiology

Full course description

The 7 weeks course will be divided into 4 parts:

Bacteriology (3 weeks):

1. Introduction in bacteriology. General principles of replication, classification and identification of bacteria will be addressed. Presence of bacteria in humans, animals and plants and composition of the endogenous flora will be discussed. These items will be discussed in an introduction lecture, expert meeting and 2 obligatory practical sessions.
2. Bacterial infections, including adhesion, virulence, biofilms and antimicrobial resistance: This part will be discussed in a lecture and in PBL tutorial meetings. The acquisition of antimicrobial resistance and the epidemiology of worldwide antimicrobial resistance will be discussed. In addition, new approaches for treatment of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, such as phage therapy, will be discussed

Virology (2 weeks):

1. Introduction in virology. General principals of replication, classification and pathogenesis of viruses and classes antivirals will be discussed in the introduction lecture.
2. Viral infections: The second part will consist of 2 topics and will be discussed in PBL approach. Topics to be discussed are influenza and HIV. The unique characteristics of the structure of these viruses and its importance for epidemiology. The lecture on epidemiology and outbreaks will also focus on outbreaks of virla pathogens and highlight the difference with outbreak of bacterial pathogens
3. The host response to infection, and prevention of infection by vaccination will be discussed in a lecture and during the PBL sessions.

Epidemiology of infectious diseases and outbreak management (1 week)

1. Introduction in epidemiology of infectious disease. General principals of transmission, latency and infectiveness will be discussed in a lecture and during PBL sessions.
2. The basic principles of outbreak management, the use of epidemic curves of disease for outbreak management and prevention of the spread of infectious diseases will be the focus of a lecture and PBL sessions.

1. Introduction in the role of microbes in the environment. The role of microbes in biogeochemical cycles, such as the carbon and nitrogen cycles, in the environment and adaptation to the environment, as well as the use of micro-organisms as biosensors, in food-production, waste treatment and bioremediation will be discussed in a lecture and during PBL sessions.

Course objectives

- To obtain basic knowledge of microbiology, i.e. of bacteriology, virology and environmental and applied microbiology.
- To study the characteristics of a selection of micro-organisms in relation to their related infectious diseases, more specific pathogenesis, immunity, epidemiology, diagnosis and therapy.
- To study the epidemiology of infectious diseases in relation to outbreaks, outbreak management and prevention
- To study environmental microbiology by looking at the role micro-organisms play in our environment and how micro-organisms can be used to our advantage.

Prerequisites

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology

Recommended reading

The books recommended will only provide a basic knowledge of the topics, the students are encouraged to find scientific literature online for detailed study on the topics.

- Murray. Medical Microbiology. (7th ed.)
- Tortora. Microbiology: an introduction (8th ed.)
- (Review) scientific articles, mentioned in the course manual

SCI2040

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [L. van Alphen](#)

Introduction to Programming

Full course description

This course is an intensive introduction to programming in Java that assumes no prior

University College Maastricht

programming experience. It explores all aspects of modern programming by means of lectures and hands-on practical lab sessions.

The course starts with the basics of computer science and computer programming. After a short introduction to computer organization, the principles of structured programming in Java are presented. Main topics covered are: data types and variables, methods, conditional statements, loops, recursion. Finally, the course introduces the object-oriented features of Java and their usage for program design. All these concepts have to be understood both from their theoretical perspective and their practical applications.

Course objectives

- Identify, interpret and apply fundamentals of programming & object-oriented design.
- Give examples of important topics and principles of software development.
- Point out obvious mistakes in programs and analyze how they run.
- Design, compose and evaluate programs that solve specific problems.
- Use a software development environment (IntelliJ) to create, debug, and run programs.

Prerequisites

Abstract thinking ability. Basic math knowledge is assumed. No prior programming experience is required; recommended: SCI2039 (Was SCI1006) Computer Science.

Recommended reading

- Allen B. Downey, *Think Java: How to Think like a Computer Scientist*, Green Tea Press, 2012.
<http://www.greenteapress.com/thinkapjava/> (ABD)
- David J. Eck, *Introduction to Programming Using Java*, Sixth Edition, 2011.
<http://math.hws.edu/javanotes/> (DJE)

SCI2011

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.B. Browne](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Discrete Mathematics

Full course description

The students will learn the what the following fundamental concepts involve:

1. Numbers: We discuss a.o. integers, natural numbers, real numbers and prime numbers and properties that these classes of numbers have;
2. Logic: This involves drawing (correct!) conclusions and how to use logic to prove mathematical statements.
3. Sets: A set is nothing more than a collection of items. Often those items will be numbers, but this is not necessarily the case. We discuss properties of sets and concepts related to sets, like intersections, and unions;
4. (Mathematical) relations: A relation is essentially a comparing mechanism for elements in a set. E.g. 'smaller than'. We discuss several relations and their properties;
5. Functions: A function is a mapping from one set to another. We discuss several properties that functions may have, like invertibility;
6. Combinatorics, the science of 'smart counting': The question is 'In how many ways...', the answer will often be a big number and we discuss how to find them quickly. For this purpose we use concepts like permutations and combinations.

Almost every time mathematics is used, it concerns some of the above concepts. A good understanding of these topics is therefore very important and Discrete Mathematics is a perfect course to combine with other mathematics courses. Hence, students who are interested in (applied) mathematics, computer science and/or econometrics might find this course particularly useful.

Course objectives

- To make students familiar with several fundamental concepts in mathematics, a.o. numbers, logic, proofs, sets, relations, functions and combinatorics (see description).
- To get the students to notice how beautiful the world of mathematics is.

Prerequisites

Substantial high school experience in Mathematics (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-M, p. vi-viii). Students who are unsure if this course is suitable for them can contact the coordinator to discuss their situation.

Recommended reading

- Chetwynd, A., & Diggle, P. Discrete Mathematics.
- Lecture notes will be provided via Student Portal.

SCI2002

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

University College Maastricht

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [O. D'Huys](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Organic Chemistry

Full course description

This course focuses on the basis of organic chemistry. In the first part of the course, important fundamental topics, such as atomic theory, bonding theory, hybridization, molecular orbital theory and resonance will be discussed. A special topic will be stereochemistry, which is an essential topic in organic chemistry and the life sciences, since stereochemistry often determines the activity of biological compounds or medicines. Subsequently, the course continues with an introduction into reactivity of organic molecules. Focus will be on a selection of fundamental organic reactions, which form the basis for a wide array of other organic reactions. To this end, a logical review will be provided of the reactivity of the most important functional groups, as applied in organic synthesis.

Course objectives

- To give the ability to recognize and name common organic compounds.
- To know the basic physical and chemical properties of common organic compounds.
- To understand stereochemistry and its impact on the properties and applications of organic molecules.
- To enable you to understand the most important organic reactions and be able to apply these reactions to obtain well defined organic compounds.

Prerequisites

SCI1004 Introduction to Chemistry. Students with substantial high school experience in Chemistry (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-C, p. vi-viii) can contact the coordinator to request a waiver.

Recommended reading

- Klein; "Organic Chemistry"; 2th edition or 3rd edition; Wiley (ISBN: 9781118452288/978-1119110477).

SCI2017

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

University College Maastricht

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [H. Diliën](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Cognitive Neuroscience

Full course description

Cognitive neuroscience is an entirely new research field that originally emerged from a combination of traditional sciences such as philosophy, psychology, medicine and biology that all investigate the principles of perception, behaviour and cognition from different perspectives.

As technical developments of different methods and tools in the field of cognitive neuroscience came forth, and as theoretical application of different mathematical and computer science-based models were used to explain neuronal functioning, additional disciplines, such as physics, mathematics, bioengineering and computer science materialized as an important part of this research field.

Subsequently, an effective research project in cognitive neuroscience requires an interdisciplinary cooperation, in which each scientific discipline contributes its respective genuine theories, models, techniques and tools for the mutual investigation of the neuronal principles of perception, attention, and cognition.

But can we really watch the brain at work? Are there ways to identify where exactly, and when exactly activation in the brain is necessary to perform a specific mental process? This course will help to give some answers on the basic principles of brain research and it will show relevant applications of these techniques in different areas of cognitive psychology.

Course objectives

- To give an introduction into the new field of cognitive neuroscience.
- To learn which methods a brain researcher can use to investigate the neuronal bases of different mental processes.

Prerequisites

SCI2034 Brain and Action and elementary knowledge of electricity and magnetism as stated under SCI-P(p. vi-viii).

Recommended

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology or SCI2038 Physics (or SCI1030 Physics I) or SSC1005 Introduction

Recommended reading

- E-Reader

SCI3046

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [F. Duecker](#)
- [S.J.G. ten Oever](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Datamining

Full course description

Data mining is a relatively new scientific field that enables finding interesting knowledge from (very large) data. In practice it is often a mixed-initiative process that has the potential to predict events or to analyze them in retrospect. Data mining has elements of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and statistics.

A typical database contains data, information or even knowledge if the appropriate queries are submitted and answered. The situation changes if you have to analyze large databases with many variables. Elementary database queries and standard statistical analysis are not sufficient to answer your information need. Your intuition guides you to understand that the database contains more knowledge on a specific topic that you would like to know explicitly. Data mining can assist you in acquiring this knowledge. The course shows you within two months how this works. You will learn new techniques, new methods, and tools of data mining. The course focuses on techniques with a direct practical use. A step-by-step introduction to powerful (freeware) data-mining tools will enable you to achieve specific skills, autonomy and hands-on experience. A number of real data sets will be analyzed and discussed. In the end of the course you will be able to apply data-mining techniques for research and business purposes.

The following points will be addressed during the course:

* Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

University College Maastricht

* Data Preparation

* Basic Techniques for Data Mining:

- Decision-Tree Induction
- Rule Induction
- Instance-Based Learning
- Bayesian Learning
- Ensemble Techniques
- Clustering
- Association Rules
- Tools for Data Mining
- How to Interpret and Evaluate Data-Mining Results

Course objectives

- To provide an introduction to the fundamental concepts found throughout the field of data mining.
- To provide a practical experience of applying data-mining techniques for analyzing data and deriving new knowledge.

Prerequisites

SCI2039 (Was SCI1006) Computer Science or SCI2011 Introduction to Programming and SSC2061 Statistics I.

Recommended reading

- Mitchell, T. (1997). Machine Learning. McGraw Hill. ISBN 0070428077.

SCI2033

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E.N. Smirnov](#)

Biochemistry

Full course description

Biochemistry is considered the mother of all Life Sciences. Understanding Biochemistry will facilitate learning of more specialised Life Sciences such as Molecular and Cell Biology. This course will present the essentials of Biochemistry during 6 lectures and 10 tutorials. We will cover the

University College Maastricht

structures, functions and interactions of the biomacromolecules, including proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, DNA and RNA, which perform many of the activities associated with life. We will provide insight in the specificity and action of enzymes, the biocatalysts of the cell. Further, we will explain metabolic pathways that result in the generation of ATP, the major energy currency of the cell.

Finally we will present recent biochemical understandings on genome editing that revolutionize treatment of diseases at the level of correcting mutated genes (gene therapy).

Course objectives

- To communicate fundamental principles governing structure, function and interactions of biological molecules to students encountering biochemistry for the first time.
- To increase appreciation of the science of biochemistry and its relevance to Health and Disease .
- To study the roles of bio-macromolecules like proteins, lipids, polysaccharides and nucleotides in living cells in the context of diseases such as hyperventilation, thrombosis and atherosclerosis.
- To create deeper understanding of the basic principles of enzyme catalysis and inhibition.
- To prepare students to enter advanced courses that require more detailed biochemistry knowledge, and to finally allow entrance to various Master programs in the life sciences.

Prerequisites

Note: Please be aware that this course is jointly offered together with MSP. This might imply that classes will take place in the MSP building, and that the course is displayed under an MSP course code in your schedule and on Student Portal. On your transcript and your grade list the course will be displayed with the regular UCM course code.

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SKI2086 Lab Skills: Biochemistry. Students wishing to take the Lab Skills should concurrently enroll in, or have completed, this course. Students wishing to take SCI2035 Biochemistry without taking the Lab Skills may do so

Prerequisites

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology or SCI 1004 Introduction to Chemistry. Students with substantial high school experience in Biology or Chemistry (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B and SCI-C, p. vi-viii) can contact the coordinator to request a waiver.

Recommended reading

- Berg, J.M., Tymoczko, J.L., Stryer, L. *Biochemistry*. (8th ed). W.H. Freeman. ISBN-10: 1-4641-2610-0; ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-2610-9
- Pratt, C.W. and Cornely, K. *Essential Biochemistry* (4th ed.) John Wiley & Sons. ISBN978-1-119-45112-9
- Garrett and Grisham. *Biochemistry*. (4th ed.). Thomson Brooks/Cole. ISBN101133108792 ISBN13 978-1133108795.

- [C.P.M. Reutelingsperger](#)
- [N.M. Deckers](#)

Optimization

Full course description

In everyday life we are surrounded with applications of optimization. A common drive of human activity is to make things better, to enhance performance, and to carry out the best possible actions in given situations. Often the essentials of a situation can be captured by a mathematical description (a model, with or without constraints) and the value of a proposed action by a function (an optimization criterion). Then the goal becomes to optimize the criterion for the given model under the associated constraints (if any). Depending on the nature of the model, the constraints, and the optimization function, many different mathematical techniques are available to characterize and compute optima. In this course we address the most important areas in optimization and we study the most common techniques.

First, we consider the optimization of unconstrained continuous functions in several variables. Some notions we will come across are: partial derivatives; the gradient and the Hessian; stationary points; minima, maxima and saddle points; local and global optima. Techniques to compute optima range from analytical and algebraic techniques (i.e., solving systems of equations) to iterative and approximate numerical techniques (e.g., gradient methods and hill climbing, Newton and quasi-Newton methods, and several others). We will focus on a selection of these. An important class of functions to consider is that of least squares criteria. We will consider both linear and nonlinear least squares problems and suitable iterative techniques to solve them. Linear least squares problems are often encountered in the context of fitting a model to measurement data. They also allow one to rephrase the problem of solving a nonlinear system of equations as an optimization problem, while the converse is possible too.

Second, we address optimization problems subject to a given set of constraints. A well-known such class consists of linear optimization functions subject to linear equality or inequality constraints: the class of linear programs. The problem of fitting a linear model to measurement data using the criterion of least absolute deviations, can be reformulated as a linear program. Several methods are available to solve such problems, including active set methods and the simplex algorithm, but also interior point methods and primal-dual methods. We discuss the Kuhn-Tucker conditions for optimality. For the optimization of nonlinear functions subject to nonlinear constraints we address the Lagrange multiplier method.

To demonstrate the various optimization problems and solution techniques, we will provide many examples and exercises. To demonstrate the wide range of applicability, these are taken from different fields of science and engineering. To become acquainted with optimization techniques, one computer class is organized in which the basics of the software package Matlab are presented.

Course objectives

- To become familiar with the basic concepts and methods of optimization.
- To understand how techniques from calculus and linear algebra are useful for optimization.
- To become familiar with a diversity of optimization problems and solution techniques.
- To be able to cast certain real-world problems into the form of optimization problems.
- To be able to solve certain optimization problems with software (Matlab).

Prerequisites

SCI2018 Calculus and SCI2019 Linear Algebra.

- [Calculus](#)
- [Linear Algebra](#)

Recommended reading

- Hand-outs will be distributed during the course

Recommended literature:

- F.S. Hillier and G.J. Lieberman: Introduction to Operations Research (10th edition). McGraw-Hill, 2015 ISBN 978-0-07-352345-3.
- A.D. Belegundu and T.R. Chandrupatla: Optimization Concepts and Applications in Engineering (2nd ed.). Cambridge university Press, 2011.
- Martin T. Hagan et al.: Neural Network Design (2nd edition), available as free ebook.

SCI3003

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [G. Stamoulis](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s)

Cell Biology

Full course description

In this course students have an opportunity to get acquainted with the discipline of cell biology. This discipline has been profiting from the development and improvements of recombinant DNA technology and is a driving force in fundamental and biomedical research. In this course students

are challenged to discuss, at a detailed molecular level, different cellular and genetic processes that are the basis of life as we know it. The aim of the course is to familiarize students with further knowledge in the field of cell biology, which will enable them to better understand and appreciate the newest developments in this research area. Discussions will revolve around general cell biological topics such as the role of membranes, membrane transport of small molecules, the nuclear architecture, the organization of the genome, regulation of transcription and translation, protein trafficking, the cell cycle and maintenance of genomic integrity, programmed cell death and senescence. The last task, dealing with cancer, serves as an integration task; knowledge of the previous topics is required to appreciate what the consequences can be when a cell goes astray and the defence mechanisms of the body fail.

Course objectives

- To obtain insight in basic molecular genetic and cell biological processes in cells, tissues and organisms by leading the student through the origin of life, its differentiation and diversification, and deregulation of molecular processes leading to disease.

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SKI2077 Lab Skills: Cell Biology. Students wishing to take the Lab Skills should concurrently enroll in or have completed this course. Students wishing to take SCI2037 Cell Biology without taking the Lab Skills may do so.

Prerequisites

SCI1009 Introduction to Biology. Students with substantial high school experience in biology (for an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-B, p. vi-viii) can contact the coordinator to request a waiver.

Recommended reading

- Alberts et al., *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, 6th edition, 2014.
- Sadava et al., *Life, the science of biology*, 10th edition, 2012.
- Scientific publications provided during the course.

SCI2037

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- J. Broers
- [J.L.V. Broers](#)
- [J.M. Vanoevelen](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

The Digital Enterprise

Full course description

Too often IT is viewed as the province of technocrats, a domain inhabited by technical experts with little relevance to real-world problems. And yet, the economic importance of information, information systems, and thus information management has been growing constantly over the last decades, thanks to the relentless increase in computer performance.

We are increasingly dependent on information systems and data to make decisions in a wide range of domains. Sensor and network technology helps us to collect and analyze data in real-time, and to speed up decision making in all areas of our society. The possibilities of information and computer science are endless, but they also raise concerns: for instance about privacy, security, and identity, but also about interpretation and perception of data.

All these developments have led to the present-day "digital enterprise". In digital enterprises, the creation, distribution, use, integration and manipulation of information is a significant economic activity. The digitization of enterprises also has consequences for society. People who have the means to partake in this form of society are sometimes called digital citizens. This is one of many dozen labels that have been identified to suggest that humans are entering a new phase of society. The digital society can be both a threat and an opportunity to enterprises – this is, for instance, clearly visible in sectors such as retail (traditional retailers vs Amazon & Co), accommodation (traditional hotel vs AirBNB) and transportation (traditional taxis vs Uber).

This course offers an overview of role of digital concepts in enterprises: the digital enterprise. The course provides both a theoretical grounding and a pragmatic approach to applying key concepts. Drawing on ideas, tools, and techniques from such disciplines as economics, sociology, cognitive science, organizational behavior, and computer science, the course shows the digital enterprise from different perspectives: its position in society and the market, but also elements such as governance, information technology, and people. The course serves as an introduction to other Information and Computer Science courses, in which the various topics of the Digital Enterprise will be discussed in more detail.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the role of data, information and knowledge in several contexts: enterprises, but also society in general.
- To familiarize students with the background of knowledge management, its models and application.
- To introduce students to the methodologies used in developing information systems (e.g. the systems development lifecycle method versus agile methodologies).
- To introduce students to the organization and governance of data, information and knowledge.
- To introduce students to the managerial challenges associated with the use of information systems in enterprises.

Prerequisites

NB: This course was formerly known as SCI1005 The Information Society. The course is an

University College Maastricht

introductory course to the Information Sciences curriculum, providing an overview of topics related to the use, embedding and management of information and information technology. The emphasis will be on the organizational (enterprise) context, but we will also touch upon the broader societal impact of information technologies.

None.

Recommended reading

- E-Reader

SCI1005

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [A.F. Harmsen](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Written exam

Basic Mathematical Tools

Full course description

Students learn to analyze mathematical problems from various fields in mathematics, such as analysis, algebra, and probability theory. Thus, students are trained to model and solve quantitative problems from a wide variety of disciplines.

The course is intended in particular for students with only a limited mathematical background from pre-university education that need to refresh their skills in mathematics and calculus. The first three weeks recap topics that are already covered in secondary school. The remaining weeks cover more advanced topics to prepare students for further quantitative courses.

The course guides students through a wide variety of topics in mathematics and its applications. Topics range through solving equations and inequalities, techniques for differentiation, function analysis, probability theory, geometry and approximation techniques.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a thorough mathematical basic toolbox.
- To train students in computation and analytic reasoning.
- To demonstrate why mathematics is extremely useful in many disciplines.
- To prepare students for more advanced courses in mathematics.

Prerequisites

This course is aimed at students who have only taken basic level Mathematics in High School. Although the level of high school mathematics required for this course is basic, the pace of this course exceeds high school levels. Further, the course topics cover, but also digress beyond high school mathematics. Thus, since the emphasis of this course is on computational rather than conceptual issues, students that take this course are required to have at least some affinity with quantitative skills and application of mathematical techniques.

Students who are not sure whether this course is appropriate for them are welcome to contact the course coordinator. It is strongly suggested that students who have taken the highest level of mathematics in high school consider taking relevant 2000-level courses directly.

Prerequisite

None.

Recommended reading

- E-Reader

SCI1010

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [A.J. Vermeulen](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Mathematical Modelling

Full course description

To describe natural phenomena and processes, mathematical models are widely used. The focus in this course shall be on dynamical models (i.e., where time plays a role) in particular those that have interaction with the environment through inputs and outputs. Mathematical systems theory provides the framework to deal with such models in a systematic and useful way. First we consider some general aspects of mathematical modeling. Then we briefly address dynamical systems without inputs and outputs - but which may show nonlinear behavior. We study basic properties such as equilibrium points, linearization, and stability. We then switch to linear dynamical models with inputs and outputs. They are used in many different areas of the natural sciences and in engineering disciplines. We discuss the following topics and concepts. Linear difference and differential equations, Laplace transforms, transfer functions of linear systems; controllability, observability, minimality; system representations with an emphasis on state-space representations and canonical forms; stability; the interconnection of linear systems including feedback; frequency domain analysis

University College Maastricht

and the relationship with filter theory, Fourier analysis, and time series analysis. To demonstrate the applicability of the techniques and concepts, many examples from science and engineering are mentioned and briefly discussed.

Course objectives

- To have the ability to interpret dynamical phenomena as mathematical systems and to cast them into such form.
- To understand the basic concepts of linear systems theory.
- To be familiar with analysis techniques for linear systems, to understand their behavior and interaction.
- To become familiar with some application areas of mathematical systems and models.

Prerequisites

SCI2019 Linear Algebra and SCI2018 Calculus

Recommended reading

- Lecture notes, electronically provided

Recommended background literature:

- R.J. Vaccaro, *Digital Control. A State-Space Approach*, McGraw-Hill International Editions, 1995. ISBN: 0-07-066781-0.
- D.W. Jordan and P. Smith, *Nonlinear Ordinary Differential Equations*, 2nd ed., (Oxford Applied Mathematics and Computing Science Series), Clarendon Press, 1987

SCI3006

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [B. Franci](#)

Endocrinology

Full course description

The discipline Physiology deals with the explanation of the biological, physical and chemical factors that are responsible for the origin, development, and progression of life. The first course on Human Physiology - which is compulsory for this course - focused on the specific characteristics and mechanisms of the normal homeostasis in the human body. In this follow-up course disturbances in physiological function (homeostasis) resulting in disease will be studied and used to deepen the knowledge on human endocrinology. These disturbances will be studied through the presentation of

patient cases exemplified by; hypertension, renal failure, infertility, steroid abuse, diabetes and starvation. Attention will also be paid to the treatment of these diseases.

Course objectives

- To obtain insight into the endocrine system of the human body by studying illnesses that disturb this homeostatic control mechanism.

Prerequisites

SCI2009 Human Physiology.

Recommended reading

- Multiple sources provided by UM/UCM libraries including textbooks on: Physiology, Biochemistry, Physics, Pathology, Internal Medicine, etc. The use of the on-line library Access Medicine (access provided by UB).

SCI3007

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [A.J. Gilde](#)

Pathobiology and Disease

Full course description

In this course students will have an opportunity to learn how modern medicine has benefitted from our knowledge in the fields of (molecular) cell biology and immunology. Pathobiology is the field that deals with disturbance of normal physiological processes and the consequences of it for adequate functioning of our human body. Our challenge has been to arrange a program that offers insight in the nature, e.g. the causes and processes of disease.

The emphasis in this course is on diseases of the immune system and oncology. In this respect, this course builds on the knowledge obtained in the UCM course 'Immunology' and 'Cell Biology'. It is our hope that the acquired knowledge will furthermore enable you to better understand and appreciate the newest developments in treatment of these diseases.

The program comprises PBL tasks, workshops and assignments. PBL tasks will be presented to you in the form of tutorial group meetings and topic-related lectures. The tasks deal with 1) examples of diseases caused by unwanted reactions of the immune system, e.g. chronic inflammation and autoimmunity, and 2) with oncological diseases in which cells have gone astray, circumvent the

body's defense mechanisms and give rise to cancer.

Workshops will address immunology- and oncology-related research highlights related to diagnostic, preventive and (immuno)therapeutic developments in immunological and oncological diseases. Assignments consist of writing an essay and giving a presentation on a block-related subject for discussion and deepening in the tutorial group meeting.

Course objectives

- To gain more insight in the field of pathobiology. particularly in immunological and oncological diseases
- To increase appreciation and knowledge of healthy living.
- To provide students with a good basic knowledge required to enter master courses in life sciences.

Prerequisites

SCI2037 Cell Biology and SCI2031 Immunology.

Recommended

SCI2040 Microbiology, SCI2009 Human Physiology, SKI2088 Lab Skills: Genetics, SKI2077 Lab Skills: Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics.

Recommended reading

- Abbas, Lichtmann and Pillai. Cellular and Molecular Immunology, 8th edition, 2014.
- Alberts et al. Molecular Biology of the Cell, 6th edition, 2015

SCI3049

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [K.A.M. Wouters](#)

Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health

Full course description

This course studies infectious diseases in a multidisciplinary way with a global public health emphasis. The first part of this course will introduce some basic knowledge on the disease processes and the human immune responses. Following the introductory components, the second part of the course will focus on three types of viruses that cause zoonotic/infectious diseases in the modern era: retroviruses (i.e., HIV/AIDS), influenza viruses (i.e., H5N1, H1N1, H7N9), and coronaviruses (i.e.,

University College Maastricht

SARS, MERS, COVID-19). The focus of the discussion will be on the biology of host-pathogen interactions, the basic epidemiology of infectious diseases, and possible counter-measures, including disease surveillance and vaccine development. Cutting across these cases, we will also look into the importance of social determinants of infectious diseases. The global impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will be explored in the third part of the course. Factors affecting drug use, both on macro and micro levels, will be discussed and analyzed. We will wrap up the course by highlighting the "One Health" concept (i.e., human-animal-environment interfaces) in responding to zoonotic diseases and AMR

Course objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the differences between bacteria, viruses, and parasites that cause diseases.
- Understand the functions of the human immune system in protecting against diseases.
- Understand the fundamental concepts of infectious diseases epidemiology as used in public health practice.
- Identify what is in the vaccine and how it works.
- Explain the social determinants of infectious diseases.
- Explore the "One Health" concept in AMR and zoonotic disease responses.
- Develop expertise about one specific infectious disease.
- Work effectively in collaborative groups

SCI2042

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [Y.P. Lo](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Theory Construction and Modelling Techniques

Full course description

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with model systems within the different disciplines of Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities. Modelling is an important skill for all research, irrespective of concentration or discipline. Models allow us to approach complex questions in systematic ways, for instance, by predicting weather conditions, the patterns of bird flight formations or the results of presidential elections. Such questions are present everywhere and it is through modelling that we can try to find some answers. Modelling helps us to break down what we are studying into variables, understand relations or correlations between them and even predict the future. The course starts with a short introduction to models, followed by several case studies that illustrate their usefulness in various contexts. Exposing students to models used in both academia and every-day thinking, the course fosters a thorough understanding of natural, social, and cultural phenomena. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to link models to specific situations and examples from their daily-life. The final report allows students to use the knowledge gained in the course to analyze a case study of their own interest. This can be done by conducting thought experiments, applying and redefining existing models. The interactive lectures help students to gain a broad understanding of different kinds of modelling techniques. A special workshop is offered in

order to trigger interests, thoughts and ideas and find ways of translating them into an individual and structured academic report for all disciplines and concentrations

Course objectives

- To offer a broad overview of scientific models and modelling techniques in different disciplines.
- To teach students how to work with models in different academic fields.
- To teach students how to model a specific case study by using general models and modelling techniques.

SCI1001

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [L.M. Bevers](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Concentration: Social Sciences

War in World Politics

Full course description

Why do nations and states go to war? This course will endeavor to give some answers to this question. To do that, the course will be divided into three sections that mirror the above objectives. The first section will focus on the different types of conflict. In this section, the ethics of war will also be discussed: do “Just Wars” exist? Section two will concentrate on the causes of conflict. It will reflect on a variety of sources that emerge from such domains as the global system, the states themselves or individuals. Part three will examine as case studies a number of modern conflicts, such as World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the breakup of Yugoslavia, the War between India and Pakistan, the Arab- Israeli conflict and Saddam Hussein’s Wars against Iran and Kuwait.

Course objectives

- To understand international conflict.
- To examine different types of conflict and their various causes in the world.
- To examine as case studies different conflicts throughout history.

Prerequisites

SSC1006 International Relations or SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science and at least one 2000-level Social Sciences course.

Recommended reading

- Levy, J. S. and W. R. Thompson. (2010). Causes of War. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Stoessinger, J. G. (2011). Why Nations Go to War. 11th Edition. Thomson, Wadsworth.
- E-reader.

SSC3012

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.N. Haar](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Atrocity Triangle: A Course on the Criminology of Gross Human Rights Violations

Full course description

The first part of the course introduces the leading concepts and theoretical frameworks that will structure the course. The course therefore firstly addresses the concept of the 'atrocity triangle' and it looks into the relationship between the three actors (the perpetrator, the victim, and the bystander) involved in the triangle. Subsequently, an integrated criminological model will be introduced which sets out the relevant etiological elements that will be addressed in greater detail in the second part of the course.

The second part of the course, which focuses on the perpetrators, will start with the forms, functions and effects of (political) violence and the concept of torture in particular. The analysis continues on the macro level and addresses the role of policy and ideology. Subsequent analysis focusses on the meso level and the role of military organizations and other institutions is discussed. In this context attention is paid to the influence of military training and we will discuss how with the help of a bureaucratic system genocide can be planned, organized and carried out. The discussion will thus address several compulsive and determinative features of the environment surrounding perpetrators of gross human rights violations. We will furthermore discuss several experiments (Milgram, Ash, Stanford, etc.) on obedience, institutional roles and conformity, but we will also address other social-psychological mechanisms which are helpful in understanding how and why people are able to participate in the perpetration of gross human rights violations. Lastly, the important role that language and discourse plays in conflict and international crime is highlighted.

The third part of the course will focus on the bystander. We will start the discussion on the role of the bystander by looking into the phenomenon of the 'the bystander effect' in order to address the

question why bystanders fail to act. Secondly, the role of bystanders in international politics at the macro-level of both states and international organizations in the field of human rights will be discussed. We will give special attention to the role of the UN Security Council when it was confronted with gross human rights violations. Lastly, in addition to perpetrators and bystanders (collaborators), certain actors in the same situations did not perpetrate or passively stand by, instead they took affirmative action and came to the help of those in need. We will therefore look more closely into the phenomenon of rescuing in order to find out what turns actors into rescuers.

The fourth and last part of the course will take a more victimological perspective, which focuses on the position of the victim. Who are the victims and why are they victimized? What is the relationship between these victims and their perpetrators and what are the consequences of this relationship? In this context specific attention will be paid to gender selective violence. More particularly, the phenomena of rape as a 'weapon of war' and gendercide (gender selective mass killings) will be discussed. Also, the complex case of child soldiers will be addressed as they are victims and perpetrators at the same time.

Several lectures will be held during this course. These lectures will be used to illustrate the discussed materials and to provide the participants with a deeper understanding of the subject matter by presenting the linkage between theory and (research) practice. During the lectures, various guest speakers will address the subject matter from the practitioner's perspective. In addition, we will screen a number of documentaries that will be analyzed during the post-discussion. We hope that, through these documentaries, the subject matter of this course will become more accessible and less abstract.

Case studies play an important role throughout the course and we will therefore pay attention to a wide variety of cases including The Holocaust and other cases of genocide (Armenia, Australia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Srebrenica, Darfur, etc.). Although cases of genocide will play an important role in this course, the caseload is certainly not limited to genocide and other violent conflicts will be addressed as well. Here one could think of the following cases, Chili, Argentina, Guatemala, Indonesia, East Timor, Iraq, Syria, Congo, Central African Republic, etc. Not to forget the torture practices of the U.S.

The insights gathered throughout this course have policy implications and inform us how we could react to gross human rights violations once they have occurred. These policy implications are addressed in greater detail during another UCM course titled The aftermath of atrocity: A course on transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction (SSC 3052) which will be taught during the spring semester in period 5.

Course objectives

- To gain a criminological understanding of gross human rights violations and other international crimes by examining their causes on individual (micro), institutional (meso), national and international (macro) levels using a criminological approach that integrates relevant insights from different disciplines (social psychology, sociology, victimology, history, international relations, international law and psychology).
- Moreover, to view the world through the eyes of the perpetrators as well as the victims and the bystanders by focusing on their roles in the occurrence of gross human rights violations.
- To make insightful the linkage between gross human rights violations and violent conflicts in the world.
- To gain an understanding of how to approach the criminological study of complex cases of violence and to be able to analyze such cases independently.

Prerequisites

Two 2000-level courses in the Social Sciences or Humanities.

Recommended reading

- Handbook (t.b.a)
- E-reader.

SSC3032

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.A.R. Moerland](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Economic Psychology

Full course description

Increasingly, economists are discovering psychology as a means to enrich their models of economic behaviour and well-being and to give them a better foundation. The importance of this is illustrated by the fact that the Nobel prize winner in economics in 2002 was the distinguished psychologist Daniel Kahneman. He characterizes his research as a quest for the 'logic of the irrational'. Adam Smith already recognized that economic behaviour, just like other behaviour, is motivated by an intriguing blend of 'rational' considerations and 'irrational' sentiments. The great challenge is to investigate the implications of the latter motives for economics. This course aims to give an intensive introduction into this field. In the first nine sessions of the course the psychology and behavioural economics of judgment and decision-making are dealt with. Basic principles of rationality are compared with actual behaviour in making decisions. Also, a link is made to the emerging field of neuroeconomics. Next, students are introduced into the psychological and economic research on subjective well-being (happiness) and its socio-economic determinants (especially income). The importance of this research for economics and its policy implications will be highlighted. Students should realize that this course is not easy and that its material also includes some mathematical derivations.

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with basic concepts, theories and insights of the economic

Prerequisites

SSC2061 Statistics I and SSC1027 Principles of Economics.

Recommended

SSC2048 Intermediate Microeconomics.

- [Principles of Economics](#)

Recommended reading

- Hastie, Reid, and Robyn M. Dawes. Rational choice in an uncertain world: The psychology of judgment and decision making. Sage, 2010.
- Articles and chapters from books.

SSC3033

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- To be announced
- M.C.M. Vendrik
- [P. Werner](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

History of Western Political Thought

Full course description

When considering modern political issues it is often instructive, and sometimes humbling, to realize that many such issues have deep historical roots. For as long as human beings have been living together in societies, questions concerning how these societies should be organized have been asked. The answers that historical writers have given to these questions are still relevant today and still inform current political thought. By investigating the questions philosophers were grappling with and how they sought to answer them, we may perceive more acutely the questions facing our societies and discover how we might answer those questions. We will study important texts by 8 seminal political thinkers from several periods in history: Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke Rousseau, Smith and Hegel. Our aim will be to understand the particular problems they were

University College Maastricht

seeking to solve and how or whether they did so. Although the main texts we will use are historic, the methods we will use are analytic. We will also read several modern texts which take up themes from these historical texts, but these modern texts are strictly supplementary. By applying the tools acquired in Political Philosophy (COR1004) to these texts, we will be able to come to terms with them and apply historical insight to current issues.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a basic grasp of the evolution of political thought in the Western tradition.
- To teach students how to study historical works of philosophy.
- To identify how issues and questions in contemporary politics and contemporary political thought have their roots in historical writings.

Prerequisites

COR1004 Political Philosophy.

Recommended

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy.

- [Political Philosophy](#)

Recommended reading

- Cahn, S. (2005/2011/2015). Political Philosophy. OUP, Oxford. (All editions are acceptable).
- Several pieces of modern secondary literature in an E-Reader available on Student Portal.

SSC2039

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T.J. Dekker](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Contemporary Sociological Theory

Full course description

“Many people, ordinary ones and scientists alike, hate theory. Yet they could not live without it. When all is said and done, theory is the more or less disciplined talk by which people make what sense they can of their social worlds” (Charles Lemert in *The Blackwell Companion To Major Classical Social Theorists* (2003), p. 267). This course is part two of a sequence tracing back through the historical development of sociological theory (the first part being Classical Sociology). Whereas in Classical Sociology we focused on sociological theory up until the 1930s, in this course we will be dealing mainly, but not exclusively, with social theory that has emerged from the 1960s onward. During this time, the historical context started to change in important ways, since it brought about an inclusion of new voices from the Global South, the beginnings of the greatest phase so far of the women’s movement, and a variety of other social movements from environment to gay rights. The 1960s pushed sociological theorists to focus more on processes of social change, on social inequality and processes of marginalization and exploitation that shape it, power relations and social movements that contest them, and on cultural and other differences among individuals and groups. In the first portion of the course, you will be introduced to four major theoretical schools of thought in modern sociology. They are: functionalism, the Frankfurt School, Structuralism, and Interactionism. We will discuss these traditions on the basis of a well founded and accessible text called *Understanding Modern Sociology* which comes out of the UK. The text includes a comprehensive representation of European and US-American sociological theory. This first part of the course will be enhanced by reading original works by Herbert Marcuse, Howard Becker, Nancy Chodorow and Michel Foucault. Reading original theoretical material is important since students are then given the opportunity to form their own opinion about what the theorists are saying. Reading original works, of course, can be a very difficult and challenging, but also elating task. In the second part of the course we will continue the work of reading original theoretical texts by focusing on more alternative ways of theorizing about the social world. We will be reading works by Patricia Hill Collins, an African-American standpoint theorist, Pierre Bourdieu, a French sociologist, and Edward Said and Franz Fanon, two thinkers who are classified as post-colonial theorists. Some of the questions we will be dealing with in this course include: How can we make sense of the social world? How does capitalism impact our social reality? How is social reality constructed? What causes social change? What is the link between agency and structure? How is knowledge produced and by whom?

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with theories in contemporary sociology and give them the necessary skills to analyze, use, and criticize those theories.
- To discuss what a theory is, how we can theorize, and how theories can illuminate real social problems or issues.

Prerequisites

One of the following courses: SSC1003 / SSC2065 Theories of Social Order, SSC2028 Classical Sociology, SSC 2059 Social Movements, HUM2031 Cultural Studies II, HUM 2014 Philosophers of the 20th Century.

Recommended

SSC2028 Classical Sociology or HUM 2014 Philosophers for the 20th Century. This course is not recommended for first year students.

Recommended reading

- Calhoun, C., et al. (2002). Contemporary Sociological Theory. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.
- Sharrock, W.W., et al. (2003). Understanding Modern Sociology. London: Sage Publications.

SSC3038

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [V. Lifrieri](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Accounting and Accountability

Full course description

Accounting is usually studied from a financial point of view. This conventional view sees accounting as identifying, measuring and communicating financial information to enable informed judgments and decisions by the users of information. From this financial perspective, accounting is mainly split into two complementary fields: financial accounting and management accounting.

In financial accounting the external use of accounting information is discussed. The most important outcome of the financial reporting process is the annual report, containing the firm's financial statements. During the course students will learn essential bookkeeping techniques, that is, how to make the necessary journal entries and prepare basic financial statements. Furthermore, the underlying principles of financial accounting rules will be studied.

In discussing the subject of management accounting, which has an internal focus (aimed at managers), the course will concentrate on the value of management accounting information for the internal decision-making process. In general, the purpose of management accounting is to facilitate (e.g., cost calculations) and influence decision-making (e.g., performance evaluation).

This course is however not bound by this (narrow) financial framework. It acknowledges that accounting is gradually evolving from an entirely financially oriented discipline to one that also studies non-financial information, including contemporary concepts such as corporate governance and corporate social responsibility. As such, it discusses accounting within a broader framework, extending the notion of accounting to a societal phenomenon. In this respect we will also discuss the role accounting has possibly played in the recent financial crisis.

A topic of special importance in accounting and accountability nowadays is corporate governance. In essence, corporate governance deals with the relationships between a company's management, its board of directors, shareholders and other stakeholders. Specifically, the course will discuss some major important accounting scandals (Enron, WorldCom) and the role corporate governance played in these scandals.

Course objectives

- To give students the ability to apply basic bookkeeping (making journal entries and preparing basic financial statements) and management accounting techniques (e.g. cost analysis, budgeting).
- To provide an understanding of international accounting rules and principles.
- To provide an understanding of the basics of related fields like corporate governance, auditing and management control.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Bhimani, A., C.T. Horngren, S.M. Datar, G. Foster (2015). Management and Cost Accounting, Prentice-Hall, 6th edition.
- Harrison, W.T., C.T. Horngren, C.W. Thomas & T. Suwardy (2014). Financial Accounting - International Financial Reporting Standards, Pearson, 9th edition/global edition.
- Selected chapters from other text books.
- Research articles available on the Student Portal.

SSC2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.H.C. Kaenen](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Urbanisation, Development and Poverty

Full course description

Since 2008, according to the United Nations Populations Fund, more than half of the world population lives in urban areas. Of particular concern is the fact that over a billion people now live in informal settlements or slums, where poverty and precarity are highly concentrated. Nevertheless, people continue to migrate to cities, and primarily to informal settlements. Despite their vulnerability to disaster, disease, violence and cultural tensions, they also appear to be focal points of vitality, opportunity and new initiatives. In many ways the city can be conceptualized as a contested site, a compact 'laboratory' where many of the tensions and opportunities related to globalization and development are acted out.

Through readings in this course we delve into the human aspects of these loci that embody contrasts and contradictions, and we analyze social, economic and political processes in cities of the Global South. We discuss connections and tensions between urban communities and economic development, the creation of vulnerable populations through urbanization and the precariousness of labor, the structural failures of slum ecologies and how they affect people, but also how citizens nevertheless find uncountable modes of making the city their home. We examine the articulation of neoliberalism in urban space, the consequences of international debt and structural adjustment projects in 'megacities', and we look at how cities are hubs for moving people (most often women) to other places to make a living in the service industries - domestic labor, sex work, cleaning jobs. Furthermore, we examine the opportunities these cities represent: as spaces of creativity, new *mélanges* of identities, new cultural forms and novel cultural, economic, social and political prospects. In short, we aspire to infuse you with knowledge both of how urban development and poverty are structurally reproduced in highly political ways, and of how cityness also always depends on how people manage to flexibly and inventively arrange their lives on a daily basis.

Course objectives

After completion of this course students have acquired knowledge about impacts of urbanisation on development and poverty in an increasingly globalized world. In particular, they will learn about:

- Multifaceted impacts of global urbanisation, including economic, ecological and social challenges and opportunities of increasingly populated cities
- Impoverished conditions of many city dwellers of the Global South, as experienced through access to infrastructures, mobilities, public space, and diversity
- Development impacts and potentials created by interconnectedness between 'global cities.'

Prerequisites

SSC2046 Globalization and Inequality or SCI1016 Sustainable Development

- [Globalization and Inequality](#)

Recommended reading

- Simone, A. M. (2010). *City life from Jakarta to Dakar: Movements at the crossroads*. New York: Routledge.
- Relevant academic articles, reports, book chapters and websites.

University College Maastricht

SSC3047

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [B. le Normand](#)

International Law

Full course description

In particular since World War II international law has been subject to considerable change, both in scope and in content. The number of State actors has grown as the result of the process of decolonization. A large number of international organizations and institutions have also emerged as subjects of international law. Transnational corporations increasingly constitute an important economic power factor in international relations. The need for international cooperation became progressively evident in order to maintain international peace and security, to promote economic and social development, to safeguard the environment and to uphold human dignity. The course focuses on some of the more traditional issues of international law as well as on some new developments. The topics are: the changing nature and enforceability of international law, sources and subjects of international law, recognition, territory, the law of treaties, the United Nations, human rights, the law of the sea, State responsibility, international environmental law, peaceful settlement of disputes, and the use of force. One session will be in the form of a moot court on an international environmental law case for which students will prepare by writing a (short) memorandum of pleading. Both the paper and the oral pleading are part of the examination.

Course objectives

Students who have taken this course have in-depth knowledge of the characteristics of international law in comparison to national law systems and they will understand how the two systems complement each other. In this context, students can analyze the domestic situation of a State as regards the way in which international law has been implemented. They can identify situations of violations of international law and they are able to determine which steps can be taken to solve conflicts in a peaceful way.

- In addition, students will have acquired legal skills. In general, they will be able to apply legal theory to concrete cases. More in particular, they can find international legal sources, they are able to closely read and analyze legal documents (especially case law), they can identify legal problems, and they are able to use legal arguments in favour or against a certain legal position.

Prerequisites

SSC1007 Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning or another law course; SKI1008 Introduction to Academic Skills I; SKI1009 Introduction to Academic Skills II; PRO1010 Introduction to Academic Communication: A Writing Project.

Recommended

SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories.

- [Introduction to Law](#)

Recommended reading

- Henriksen, Anders, International Law, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2017
ISBN: 9780198753018TMC Asser Institute (last ed.)
- Elementary International Law (Elementair Internationaal Recht), TMC Asser Press.
ISBN: 9789067043496.

SSC2024

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [I. Westendorp](#)

Foundations of Cognitive Psychology

Full course description

The mechanization of thought (i.e. regarding the human mind as an information processing machine not unlike a computer) has always repelled and attracted psychologist and philosophers after the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries. As a result, human thought wasn't always the topic of psychology, especially at the time of the rise of radical behaviorism in the early 20th century. Anything referring to mental processes was not to be used in explanations of human behavior. However, with the inventions of machines that could think in combination with the failure of behaviorism to account for even the simplest of human behavior, the mind was back in psychology. And back with a vengeance. During the '60 and '70 of the 20th century information processing theory became the leading paradigm in cognitive psychology. Information processing theory deals with how people receive, store, integrate, retrieve, and use information. The present course is concerned with theoretical and empirical perspectives on human cognition, perception and the experimental methods to study cognition and perception. Eleven basic topics of cognitive science/ psychology are discussed using a Problem Based Learning format. The topics studied in the course are amongst others: The history of the study of the human mind as information processing

machine, schema's, scripts, plans, and frames, knowledge representation, top down and bottom up processing, semantic networks and spreading of activation, intelligence and individual differences, etc.

Course objectives

- To give students an overview of the study of the human mind as information processing machine over time and to provide insight into the foundations of cognitive science.
- To make students familiar with the basic concepts used in theories on human information processing and the experimental designs used in cognitive psychology.
- To provide an insight into the character of cognitive processes; various forms of perception, learning, thinking, etc.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology or SCI2036 Artificial Intelligence.

Recommended reading

- E-reader available on Student Portal.
- Several chapters from basic cognitive psychology textbooks (There is not one single basic book that covers all topics, hence the chapters of several books are available as an E-Reader or hardcopy at UCM's reading room and the UM library)

SSC2062

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M. Capalbo](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Written exam

The Psychology of Individual Differences: Personality and Intelligence

Full course description

This course will provide you with knowledge on the most important scientific theories and empirical findings on personality and intelligence. You will learn why and when a person behaves in a different way than someone else and how personality impacts what will happen to us in our life. We will also discuss practical applications of theory and research findings and learn to apply measurement

techniques for assessing individual differences.

You will learn about different theoretical conceptualizations and measurement approaches of personality and intelligence. Based on the purpose of the assessment, different methods may prove more or less useful. You will also discover different explanations for why people differ in their personality and their level of intelligence. We will look at physiological, evolutionary-genetic as well as contextual explanations. Further, you will take a closer look at the relationship between personality, intelligence and meaningful life events. What personality traits are important for marital satisfaction and what characteristics make us become a criminal? But also - how does becoming a parent or getting a new job change our personality? Lastly you will be introduced to real life applications of knowledge on personality and intelligence. Specifically, we will discuss how this knowledge is used in clinical settings (e.g., when having patients with a personality disorders) and in organizational settings (e.g., for personnel selection purposes).

Course objectives

- Gain insight into the two key subdivisions in the study of human individual differences: personality and intelligence.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology.

Recommended reading

- Larsen, R. J., Buss, D. M., Wismeijer, A., & Song, J. (2017). Personality Psychology: Domains of knowledge about human nature. Berkshire, UK: McGraw Hill Higher Education.

SSC2063

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [P. Brüll](#)

Memory

Full course description

In our everyday cognitive functions we rely heavily on multiple types of memory. This includes seemingly trivial actions, such as remembering your grocery shopping list, to navigate through Maastricht, and to have a sense of your own identity. How are memories formed and maintained in our mind and brain? Do we have multiple memory systems, or just one memory mechanism from which the richness of memory is derived? What happens if our memory fails us, when we forget or when we remember falsely? This course investigates the cognitive correlates (information

processing) and neurobiological mechanisms of declarative, or explicit memory. We will discuss a number of cognitive models, including Baddeley's Working Memory model, the Modal model, and interference theory in forgetting. In addition, we will discuss the role of long-term potentiation (LTP) in memory, research for which Prof. Eric Kandel received the Nobel prize in 2000, as well as how different brain areas contribute to memory. Throughout the course, we will discuss relevant methodological issues regarding memory research. Importantly, please be aware that brain anatomy and function are an important part of this course; an interest in and understanding of these fields at the level of Introduction to Psychology or higher is highly recommended. In addition to the tutorial meetings, students will complete a practical and paper assignment in which memory performance of real subjects is assessed.

Course objectives

- To help students acquire knowledge of recent as well as classic theories in the field of memory acquisition, consolidation and retrieval, for short- and long-term declarative memory.
- To provide knowledge of the principles of forgetting, reconstructive processes and false memories.
- To provide knowledge about the biological basis of memory acquisition, storage and retrieval.
- To familiarize students with relevant basic brain anatomy.
- To provide experience with common experimental designs in memory research.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology; SCI2034 Brain and Action is strongly recommended.

- [Introduction to Psychology](#)

Recommended reading

- To be announced.
- E-reader.

SSC2025

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [A. Sambeth](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

American Foreign Policy

Full course description

Everyone appears to have an opinion on American foreign policy, however, often such opinions are based on emotion or rhetoric. This course does not want students to be less critical of the United States, rather it strives to inform and educate students on the history, process and sources of American foreign policy, so that opinions are based on a sound footing.

The course is divided into four sections. The first section will focus on the field of foreign policy analysis as a subfield in International Relations. An overview of the various analytical perspectives on U.S. foreign policy will be covered. This first section will also consider the importance of examining American foreign policy in today's world.

Section two will concentrate on the history of U.S. foreign policy, covering such events as the Founding of United States, World War I, the interwar years, World War II, the making of a Superpower, the Cold War, the Post-Cold War world, September 11th and ending with recent world events, such as the Iraq War and the Global War on Terror.

Part three will examine the politics and the policy-making process of American foreign policy. Topics for discussion in this section will include the institutions involved in the policy making process, such as the President, various bureaucracies like the State Department, the Department of Defense and the CIA, plus Congress and the Courts. This section will also consider the role the American public plays in the process of making U.S. foreign policy. The final part of this course will study the instruments used to implement American Foreign Policy. This section will include a discussion of America's use of open or diplomatic instruments, secret instruments, economic instruments and also its military instruments. This final section will end with a task that discusses the future of American Foreign Policy.

Course objectives

- To understand the history, the political process in which policy is made and the policy content of American foreign policy.

Prerequisites

SSC1006 International Relations or SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science and at least one 2000-level Social Sciences course.

Recommended reading

- Hastedt, Glenn P. (2017). *American Foreign Policy: Past, Present and Future*. 11th edition. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Kaufman, Joyce P. (2017). *A Concise History of U.S. Foreign Policy*. 4th edition, Rowman & Littlefield.
- E-reader.

SSC3036

Period 1

University College Maastricht

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.N. Haar](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning

Full course description

This course aims to introduce students to the general content of modern law and to the discipline of legal reasoning. These two go together. Law cannot be fully understood in abstraction of the particular way that lawyers, judges and other expert operators of the legal system look at it. Coming out of the course, students should be able to understand what law is and how it is different from (and similar to) morality, identify the main branches of Law and their basic institutions, recognize and differentiate the principal values underlying those branches and understand the nature of legal reasoning and be able to apply it to legal problems.

It is often assumed that to study law means essentially to study the law of a particular jurisdiction. A Dutch lawyer studies Dutch law and a German lawyer studies German law, and there is little that they share beyond the name of their chosen profession. This picture is misleading. Despite the fact that every country establishes its own legal system, there is much less diversity in law than what one would imagine. A key theme of this course is that law arises naturally as a solution to various social problems and, to the extent that human societies face the same problems, similar responses appear almost everywhere. Even though details may vary, contract, property, inheritance, marriage, constitutions and crimes exist in almost all modern societies. Instead of focusing on specific sets of rules like the Dutch Civil Code, or the French Criminal Code, this course focuses on these widely shared problems and widely shared institutional responses.

With regards to legal reasoning, the course asks students to create a tax, which will help them understand how law can be used as a policy tool for regulatory and redistributive purposes. In this connection, the course will also include a “workshop” where students will be asked to go through a high profile judgment and identify the logical moves taken by a court to justify its decision.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the basic areas of law (contracts, property, torts, criminal law, international law etc.).

University College Maastricht

- To familiarize students with the methods of legal reasoning.
- To illustrate to students how law arises in response to social problem and how it is different from other domains such as politics and morality.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Jaap Hage & Bram Akkermans, Introduction to Law (Heidelberg: Springer 2017).
- Additional material on legal reasoning provided by the instructor.

SSC1007

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [G.M. Arosemena Solorzano](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Introduction to Political Science

Full course description

This course will be an introduction to a field of study that is often subdivided into five or more disciplines. The subdivision list includes International Relations, Comparative Government, Political Theory/Philosophy, Public Policy/Public Administration and finally a state-centric discipline which depends on your country of origin (i.e. American Politics or Dutch Politics to name two).

The course will start with a simple examination of the meaning of the world "politics." How much of

politics is really about solving distribution problems? In other words, a limited amount of resources in society must be distributed in some equitable manner. After this initial discussion, the course will move to consider the central themes of Macro politics, with particular emphasis on the classification of political systems, political ideology and political authority.

Themes in Micro politics are addressed in the second half of the course. Micro politics refers to the study of how individuals “fit” into their political system. Micro political topics will include political socialization, political groups, elections, voting, political parties, party systems and political leadership. The course ends with a look at system performance and how to bring about change in political systems when performance is wanting.

To help students understand and relate to the political realm in which they exist, each student is required to embark on an individual research paper about their country of origin. It is hoped that this assignment will not only allow students to apply concepts learned in the course but also prompt them to expand their knowledge of how to use resource materials available via the library.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the concepts, ideas and theoretical underpinnings which constitute the study of government and politics.
- To outline the scope of political science and its central themes.
- To provide the intellectual skills necessary for coming to informed judgments about political issues.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Heywood, A. (2019). Politics, 5th edition. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave.

SSC1025

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.N. Haar](#)

University College Maastricht

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Brand Management And How To Communicate About Brands

Full course description

This course covers foundations of brand management and marketing communications (including advertising). The course will take a strong consumer-based focus, therefore the foundation of branding and advertising in consumer behavior and consumer psychology theories will be discussed. We will discuss theory that is at the foundation of branding and advertising and then apply it through team assignments on students' chosen brands.

The course consists of two parts:

- In the first part we will deal with brand management: In the brand management part the nature of brands in consumers' minds, the concept of brand equity and instruments to build and leverage brands will be discussed.
- In the second part we will focus on integrated marketing communications. In the integrated marketing communications part we will have a look at the concept of Integrated Marketing Communications, the communication process and theories of consumer behavior and response.

Course objectives

- To give students an introduction to the communication of brands to consumers. On the one hand a strong theoretical foundation will be built by studying the textbook chapters and journal articles (E-reader). On the other hand, we will continuously translate this theory to practice, by means of short articles from the business press (E-reader), brief student presentations, and one larger group project.
- Next to being instructive and interesting, this course can also be a lot of fun. We are confronted with brands and advertising every single day, and it is challenging to explore the processes by which this is done.
- To have an in depth understanding of the theories concerning branding, marketing communication and consumer behavior, and of the implications of these theories for marketing management. Skills that will be developed/ enhanced during this course are: presentation skills, teamwork skills, writing skills, analytical skills, reflection skills and creativity skills.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

SSC1027 Principles of Economics

Recommended reading

- To be announced

SSC2018

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [E.C. Brüggem](#)
- [T.P. Döring](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

European Foreign Policy

Full course description

The course is divided into three sections. The first section will start with a focus on the importance of European Foreign Policy for foreign policy analysis and vice versa. It will also consider what theories in International Relations can help explain the conduct of European Foreign Policy. This section will then move on to consider the institutional framework of the EU's foreign policy, the role of the Member States in the formation of policy and then finally consider in more detail the main external relations policies themselves. The main policy areas include Common Defense Policy, Common Security Policy, Economic and Trade Policy and Enlargement Policy.

The second section deals with the important regions and particular states that the European Union has established strong foreign policy relationships. These important regions and states include the United States, Russia, the Developing world and Emerging Economies. The third section ends with a consideration of the EU's future role as a global player.

Course objectives

- To understand the history and the complexity of European Foreign Policy.
- To understand the political-institutional process in which EU Foreign Policy is made.
- To grasp the content of European Foreign Policy.
- To understand relations with important regions and particular states that the European Union has established strong foreign policy relationships.

Prerequisites

SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science or SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories, and SSC3030 The Law of European Institutions or SSC1009 Introduction to European Integration.

Recommended reading

- Christopher Hill, Michael Smith, and Sophie Vanhoonacker. 2017. *International Relations and the European Union*. Third Edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780198737322
- E-reader.

SSC3002

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.N. Haar](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Social Movements

Full course description

This course is designed to introduce students to the sociological study of social movements. An overview of the field will be provided by identifying key concepts, theories and methods through examination of a variety of case studies. Salient themes addressed will include: democracy, identity, globalization, civil rights, environmentalism, gender, sexuality, class and ethnicity/race. While much attention will be placed on social movements within Europe, a global-comparative perspective will be periodically emphasized. The over-arching goal of the course will be to reveal the ways in which social movements work to both produce and resist social change. Some of the main questions addressed in the course will be: What is a social movement? Why do people join social movements? How do movements gain/lose momentum? What is the relationship between social movements and democracy? And, under what conditions do social movements 'succeed'?

Course objectives

- To become conversant in the major questions driving social movement research.
- To become conversant in the key theories and concepts driving social movement research.
- To become conversant in the primary methods driving social movement research.

University College Maastricht

- To evaluate and assess social movement research in a critical and constructive manner.
- To design a case study and initiate an original empirical study of social movements.
- To reflect on the relevance and utility of studying social movements.

Prerequisites

SSC1029 Sociological Perspectives and at least one of the following: SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science, SSC1003/SSC2065 Theories of Social Order, SSC1006 International Relations, SSC2019 Social Psychology or SSC2028 Classical Sociology.

Recommended reading

- E-Readers.

SSC2059

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [K.A. Heidemann](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Comparative Constitutional Law

Full course description

In this course, we study basic concepts of constitutional law. Particular attention is devoted to: the functioning of a state, different systems of government and the concept and application of the principle of separation of powers. Furthermore, different electoral systems and different mechanisms governing the relations between the executive and legislative branches of government will be discussed. The issues of federalism and bicameralism will be analysed. Finally, the rules governing constitutional review will be discussed, together with the issue of fundamental rights protection. These themes will be addressed with regard to the American, German, French, British and Dutch legal systems.

Course objectives

- To get students acquainted with the political and constitutional systems of a number of European countries and the United States.
- To introduce students to the overarching concepts of constitutional law.

Prerequisites

SSC1007 Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning or SSC1009 Introduction to European Integration or SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science.

Recommended reading

- Heringa, A.W. (2016), *Constitutions Compared - An Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law*. (4th Ed.) Antwerp/Oxford: Intersentia.
- S. Hardt and A.W. Heringa, eds. (2014), *Sources of Constitutional Law*, Antwerp/Oxford: Intersentia.

SSC2060

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [P. Sabharwal](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Statistics II

Full course description

In Statistics II, we resume the thread of Statistics I: a discussion of the basic tools of inferential statistics: confidence intervals and hypothesis tests (which in turn involved concepts like null and alternative hypotheses, Type I and Type II errors, rejection points and p-values), all these concepts illustrated in the context of the one-sample tests. In this course you will encounter a whole battery of additional tests, enabling you to examine a large array of questions that may come up in social sciences and life sciences, and that focus on cases you will encounter most frequently: multivariate cases, rather than univariate cases.

In the first weeks, we discuss amongst others the two-sample t-test (allowing you to compare the mean of a quantitative variable between two populations), ANOVA (same, for more than two populations), the paired-sample t-test and the chi-square test (allowing you to establish relationships between qualitative variables, using contingency tables). But the main dish of the course is obviously regression analysis, a very flexible technique which allows you to relate a dependent variable to a number of independent or explanatory variables.

There will be a strong focus on actively doing statistics. Using the great 'How is Life?' data set of OECD, that compares quality of life in many countries, you will do weekly empirical investigations, using SPSS as your modeling tool. And at the finish of the course, you will do another, more major and less structured empirical analysis in SPSS: your student project. The project measures your active mastery of statistical data analysis. In the final exam your passive mastery will be assessed. The exam will consist of pieces of statistical analyses, with the student having to interpret and

criticize the outcomes of these analyses. Weekly assignments, as well as the project and exam focus on your ability to apply statistics in relevant areas, beyond 'knowing statistics'.

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with quantitative research methods, building on SSC2061 Statistics I.
- To develop the abilities to read, understand and criticize articles in the domain of your concentration, as a passive use of your knowledge of quantitative techniques.
- To gain experience in actively performing a quantitative analysis yourself, making use of the (more advanced features of the) tool SPSS.

Prerequisites

SSC2061 Statistics I.

Recommended reading

De Veaux, R.D., Velleman, P.F., & Bock, D.E. (2012). Stats: Data and Models, International Edition, 3/E. Addison-Wesley. 0-321-75372-0 (tentatively).

SSC3018

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [J.B.A. Raymaekers](#)
- [V. Penders](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Computertest, Written exam

Theories of Social Order

Full course description

What binds us? What divides us? And how can we organise society so that we can all live together peacefully? These questions seem to have a renewed urgency in many Western countries, where the traditional societal order seems under attack in many different ways. In "Theories of Social Order", we study the different types of glue that hold societies together. For sociologists, the root of the problem of social order may be found in the sometimes conflicting interests of individuals and those of groups (and societies), which these individuals constitute. Whenever individual interest conflicts with group interest, social order is at risk. A solution to the problem requires the reconciliation of individual and collective interests, but theorists have provided several distinct solutions to this

problem. We will consider the six most prominent mechanisms to produce social order: individuals, hierarchies, markets, groups, networks, and institutions. We read classical and foundational texts by important sociologists like Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, as well as contemporary scholarship and empirical applications that, in some form or another, apply the arguments made by these earlier scholars. We use the editorial introductions by Hechter & Horne to provide the background for each of these texts and link them to the central problem: how to achieve social order? Throughout the course, the strengths and weaknesses of the various theories are discussed, and classical texts are linked to contemporary events whenever feasible. But we will also critically assess the way in which evidence can be used to assess theoretical claims about social order. In this way, students will improve their understanding of the social world and will learn to apply the analytical tools to real-life phenomena. They will learn to critically assess claims made about society in general, and social order in particular.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the way classical and modern sociologists theorize about society and in particular, to introduce students to a core theoretical issue in the social sciences: the problem of social order.
- To develop skills in identifying and analyzing theoretical arguments.
- To understand how sociologists use different types of evidence to understand society.
- To apply abstract theories to new concrete empirical situations.

Prerequisites

SSC1029 Sociological Perspectives or SSC2028 Classical Sociology or COR1005 Theory Construction and Modelling Techniques

Recommended reading

- Hechter, M. & Horne, C. (2009). *Theories of social order. A reader*. 2nd edition. Stanford University Press.
- E-reader.

SSC2065

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [R.K.W. van der Velden](#)
- [M. Levels](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Attendance, Presentation

Innovation Systems, Policy and Sustainability Transitions

Full course description

The issues, that the political economic systems create while moving forward with a multitude of attempts in structuring our everyday lives and possible futures, continue to systematically socialize negative economic, environmental and social impacts over us and the world society. Much needed global societal transition towards alternative settings calls for a comprehensive understanding and the analysis of the working of the multi-scalar socio-technical systems. Accelerating the evolutionary scientific, technological and social sustainability transitions towards alternative societal futures requires a holistic, interdisciplinary and critical know-how which will be introduced by a set of lectures and enhanced by participatory discussions. Lectures and discussions are supplemented by optional multi-method research, entrepreneurial mentoring, critical advocacy and evidence-based policy writing skills sessions. After completing this course, participants will acquire working knowledge on ideas, interests, institutions of societal relevance and be able to design new actions or policies for change making in varieties of systems, sciences, innovations, transitions, economies, contexts, and, ultimately on the sustainability outcomes.

Course objectives

To gain holistic, interdisciplinary and critical knowledge in the analyses of:

- Varieties of systems of innovation and sustainability transitions from political economic and societal perspectives, which integrates economic, social, environmental, as well as policy perspectives.
- In particular, varieties of systems (e.g. technological, regional, socio-technical systems), entrepreneurships (e.g. technological, social, environmental), sciences in systems (e.g. natural and social sciences), innovations (e.g. technological, social, environmental eco-innovations), transitions (e.g. technological, regional, societal, sustainability transitions), and alternative economies (e.g. circular economy, social economy, digital economy, bio-economy, sharing economy).
- Varieties of systems and transitions from a global perspective (e.g. contexts and cases of high and middle/low income countries, emerging markets and powers, international cooperation in between).
- Varieties of systems and transitions from a human perspective (e.g. varieties of entrepreneurships and of outcomes, e.g. agency, quality of life, well-being, happiness, peace).
- To acquire an evidence-based approach for different policy analysis and design styles, and formulation techniques on how to write a policy brief in practice.

Prerequisites

SSC1017 Principles of Economics OR SCI1016 Sustainable Development: An Introduction.

SSC3056

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

- [S. Turkeli](#)

China and India in Global Governance

Full course description

This course examines the emerging roles of non-Western actors in institutions of global governance. While traditional scholars of international relations focused on relations between sovereign states, this course addresses the questions of governance in a globalizing world through an examination of the interactions between international organizations (IOs) and sovereign states in shaping the contemporary global order. Given that major IOs have been led by Western powers, exploring the emerging roles of China and India in the Western-centric governance architecture are of particular interest to us. These two countries have experienced unprecedented economic growth in the past decades as they have integrated more with the market economy since the 1980s. Their emerging roles as global players were acknowledged in the U.S National Intelligence Council's report in 2005, stating, "In the same way that commentators refer to the 1900s as the "American Century," the 21st century may be seen as a time when Asia, led by China and India, comes into its own." We will start off by introducing the theoretical and historical perspectives on global governance. Week 2 will discuss the changes of Chinese and Indian foreign policy strategies and the rationales for their engagement in IOs. Focusing on the selected section of regimes, including climate change and infectious disease, security and terrorism, trade and finance, and also development and foreign aid, Week 3 and 4 will examine the ways in which China and India engage to the existing global governance architecture, the tools they use and the efforts they make to influence or redesign current Western-centric international institutions. Week 5 will take a closer look at the involvement of China and India in regional institutions with overlapping membership, including Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Bangladesh–China–India–Myanmar Forum for Regional Cooperation (BCIM), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Asia. While China and India have worked together to contribute to the regional governance, major security challenges presented by the rising powers to their neighboring countries, such as territorial disputes and river basin management, will also be highlighted. Week 6 will wrap up the course by considering the future global governance: How would the Western-led international institutions incorporate the rising powers? Can China and India collaborate on rising global governance challenges? Are they strategic partners or strategic rivals?

Course objectives

- To understand the evolution of global governance and the current challenges to world order
- To analyze the impacts of emerging powers, China and India, on Western-led international organizations (IOs)
- To understand the different political systems and foreign policy strategies of China and India in comparative perspective
- To apply relevant theoretical and conceptual knowledge to examine real-life cases and issues in the global and regional levels

Prerequisites

At least one of the following: COR1003 Contemporary World History and SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories or SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science

Recommended reading

- Acharya, Amitav (ed.). 2016. Why Govern? Rethinking Demand and Progress in Global Governance. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rosenau, James N. and Ernst-Otto Czempiel (eds.). 2009. Governance Without Government: Order and Change in World Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

SSC3059

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [Y.P. Lo](#)

The Economics of Information

Full course description

An information good – such as for instance a book or software – significantly differs from a usual good, since it has a very high fixed cost for producing the first copy and a negligible marginal cost for producing every additional copy. Yet, markets of information goods obey the main principles of economic theory.

The aim of the course is to study the market of information goods. We will analyze topics from the theory of information goods, such as versioning, bundling or lock-in. The requirement for the course is a solid background in microeconomics.

Course objectives

- To understand and analyze the markets of information goods

Prerequisites

SSC1027 Principles of Economics

- [Principles of Economics](#)

Recommended reading

Compulsory textbook

- Shapiro, C., & Hal R. V. (1999). Information Rules: A Strategic Guide to the Network Economy. Harvard Business School Press.

Background literature

- Perlof J.M. (2012) - Microeconomics, Pearson, 6th Edition.
- Pindyck R. & Rubinfeld D. (2012) - Microeconomics, Pearson, 8th Edition.

SSC2020

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- To be announced
- [C.J. Woolnough](#)
- [S. Terstiege](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Introduction to Psychology

Full course description

Psychology is all around us. Psychology permeates our everyday lives. It is therefore not surprising that the science of psychology has received great interest from behavioral scientists and the general public alike. We are all amateur psychologists. We all want to know what makes us and other people tick! However, our common sense understanding of how people think, feel and act is often misguided. The self-referential nature of psychology has caused some people to believe that psychology is not a science at all! This course will show you that psychology is a science, and that it encompasses the collaborative efforts of scientists from many different disciplines. Psychology is the study of behaviour and mental processes, and as psychologists we aim to describe, understand, predict, and sometimes change behaviour. Psychologists study human behaviour and mental life from different perspectives (i.e. biological, individual and social) and at different levels of analysis (from genes and the brain up to the social and cultural level). We will consider what these different approaches have to offer in our quest for an understanding of the human mind, the brain, and behaviour. Along the way, scientific methods of psychological research will be introduced by addressing some of the main questions that drive contemporary psychology: How do we experience fear or happiness? How do we (think we) see the world around us? How do we learn, remember and forget things? Where should we draw the line between normal and abnormal behaviour? How social

are humans? When do people harm or help others?

Course objectives

- To engage students in scientific inquiry about psychological processes.
- To introduce students to the various subfields of psychology as an academic discipline.
- To gain a basic understanding of the methods of psychological research.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Gray, P. & Bjorklund, D.F. (2014), Psychology (7th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.
- E-reader.

SSC1005

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.H. van der Lugt](#)
- [M.G.F. Colombi](#)
- [N.S. Harutyunyan](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Organization Theory

Full course description

Organization theory is a field of social science that has traditionally been occupied by various disciplines. Economists, sociologists, (social) psychologists, political scientists and cultural anthropologists all have entered the debate in explaining the role and functioning of organizations and their members.

The course starts off with the fundamental question: Why study organizations? Why study theories about organizations and organizing? Is there any immediate practical value to such studies?

University College Maastricht

From then on we deal with variety of topics such as design thinking, basic organizational design configurations; organizational culture; environmental contingencies; radical versus continuous change; the impact of institutions; managing innovation in and between organizations; and new organizational forms such as virtual and meta-organizations.

Course objectives

- To provide a birds'eye view of organization theory from its historical roots to the main contemporary issues and controversies.
- To give students an insight into recent theoretical developments in organization theory to bear on organizational management and professional practice.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Academic journal articles, (business) press articles, case texts, etc,

SSC2008

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.T.M. van Iterson](#)
- [I.D. Nikolova](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Human Rights: Principles and Polemics

Full course description

There is the expectation that in an increasingly multicultural and postsecular world, human rights provide us with some common ground: however turbulent and changeable social life may be, we can all demand and enjoy the protection of human rights. This expectation might turn out to be misguided. Even within the "West", there is intractable disagreement as to the content and implications of human rights. Activities that are seen as human rights violations by some legal systems are tolerated by others. Even more, activities that are seen to be human rights violations by some legal systems are seen to be rightful exercises of freedom by others. How deep are

these disagreements? Can they be overcome? This course will provide students an advanced introduction to the field of human rights by exploring and parsing out disagreement on divisive and polemical issues. The course analyzes how a variety of key issues of legal concern, such as hate speech, social welfare, dignity, the death penalty and discrimination, are addressed by a variety of domestic and international institutions, such as the European Court of Human Rights, the UN and the Supreme Court of the United States.

This course is predominantly legal in character. That means that social scientific explanation and understanding will not be the focus of the course. Rather, the course will concentrate on analyzing the justification of legal decisions in accordance with legal rules and principles.

Course objectives

- Provides students with an advanced introduction into human rights.
- Introduces key concepts that are used within all forms of human rights discourse.
- Familiarizes students with polemics in the field of human rights
- Provides students and opportunity to engage with the intricacies of legal reasoning.
- To encourage critical thinking and appreciation of differences within the field of human rights.

Prerequisites

SSC2024 International Law or SSC1007 Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning

- [International Law](#)

Recommended reading

- E-Reader

SSC3049

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [G.M. Arosemena Solorzano](#)

Psychology and Law

Full course description

This course focuses on applications of psychology to the legal system. It will provide students with insights and knowledge about typical themes within legal psychology. Such themes range from how reliable eyewitness testimonies in court are to whether criminals have a brain dysfunction making them permanently dangerous to society, to the role of experts in court. The role of psychologists within these themes is to ask questions that have a direct relevance to the legal arena and to conduct research to address these questions.

University College Maastricht

Through working with cases, students will be familiarized with various issues in the field in this course, for example police procedures, legal backgrounds, psychological experiments and the disputes that arise when psychology is applied to the law. Moreover, several small exercises in class will give students the opportunity to get a small taste of which tests and procedures are used by academics and professionals working in the field.

Drawing from areas of social, cognitive, developmental, clinical, and neuropsychology this course will deal with questions such as: How dangerous are sex offenders? Are all criminals competent to stand trial? How reliable are lie-detector tests? What is the role of expert witnesses in court? What are the dangers of bias in expert testimonies?

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge about the application of psychology to the legal system. By the end of the course, students should

- be able to identify current issues and controversies in the field of Psychology and Law;
- be able to describe methods and tools typically used in this field and experiments that have been conducted;
- be able to list ethical dilemmas that occur when collecting data and running experiments with human participants;
- be able to provide reasons why raising awareness about the problems that arise when psychology is applied to law in practice are crucial;
- be able to describe and analyze cases by applying various tools and methods.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology.

Recommended

SSC1007 Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning and/or an interest in Law.

- [Introduction to Psychology](#)

Recommended reading

- Book: To be announced.
- E-reader.

SSC2050

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [J.M. Schell - Leugers](#)

Teaching methods:

Principles of Economics

Full course description

According to a classic definition, economics is the study of the use of scarce resources that have alternative uses. This course introduces basic economic ideas and concepts. In the lectures, we first study markets, the most common allocation mechanism for scarce resources of any kind in many economies. We analyze behaviour on markets, outcomes of markets, and different market forms. Here, we also introduce game theory to study situations with strategic interaction (e.g., oligopolistic competition). We then turn to the idea of comparative advantage as an explanation of trade patterns. While the first part of the course mainly covers microeconomic topics, the second part is devoted to macroeconomics. Here, we first consider macroeconomic indicators (e.g., GDP) and then study economic fluctuations (e.g., the Great Recession of 2007–2009) as well as economic policy. Further topics (e.g., the monetary system) will be covered in the tutorials. Through presentations and special debates (e.g., on Behavioral Economics), the tutorials give the opportunity to apply and reflect on some of the contents of the course.

The course provides a foundation for many other economics courses at UCM. It is a strict or recommended prerequisite for courses such as SSC2020 (The Economics of Information), SSC2038 (International Macroeconomics), SSC2043 (Development Economics), or SSC2048 (Intermediate Microeconomics).

Course objectives

- Get acquainted with basic ideas and concepts to understand economic debates and be prepared for possible further economics courses.

Prerequisites

Standard high school knowledge of basic mathematical concepts such as solving equations, reading and working with graphs, and manipulating inequalities is expected. Students who lack this knowledge are advised to take SCI1010 (Basic Mathematical Tools) first.

In economics, no prior knowledge is assumed.

Recommended reading

- Acemoglu, D., D. Laibson, and J.A. List, Economics, global edition. Pearson.
- The edition will be stated in the course manual.

SSC1027

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

University College Maastricht

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [S. Terstiege](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Statistics I

Full course description

The course Statistics I provides a general introduction to quantitative research methods commonly used in social and life sciences. Emphasis is on methods of data collection and types of data, descriptive statistics, regression modeling, discrete and continuous random variables, and inferential statistics: the construction of confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, null and alternative hypotheses, p-values. The structure of the course is based on a new paradigm in teaching statistics: that of a simulation and randomization based approach (please see http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5Dnw46eC-0o for an intuitive motivation). This instructional principle departs from the classical statistics curriculum of first covering descriptive statistics, next discuss probability theory and models of random variables, continue with sampling theory, to deal with inferential statistics only in the very end of the course. Randomization-based courses make a drastical change, and start with inferential statistics from the very beginning. A crucial element in the new approach are the applets you will find in the internet, and that allow you to simulate many samples from a hypothesized population, or from a known population, in order to visually clarify statistical concepts. Active learning is based on solving 5 or 6 statistical explorations from the text: four collaboratively, in the two tutorial sessions, and 1 or 2 individually, at the end of the week. Next, an important role in this course is for the student project. This project starts in the first weeks, with students working with surveys, and in doing so, collecting data on student characteristics, such as mathematical and statistical prior knowledge, metacognitive abilities and general study styles and habits. In the Student project, you will perform a statistical analysis of your own data, and after collecting the data of all students, you will develop a statistical model that explains students' achievements in terms of background variables and input factors.

Course objectives

- To perform your own (first) research using quantitative techniques.
- To develop the abilities to read, understand and criticize scientific articles in the domain you study or work, that use quantitative techniques.
- To gain experience in actively performing such a quantitative analysis yourself, making use of applets provided through the internet.

Prerequisites

SCI1010 Basic Mathematical Tools .Students with substantial high school experience in Mathematics (For an indication of the relevant topics, see SCI-M, p. vi-viii) can contact the

University College Maastricht
coordinator to request a waiver.

Recommended reading

Introduction to Statistical Investigations, Preliminary Edition, by Nathan Tintle, Beth L. Chance, George W. Cobb, Allan J. Rossman, Soma Roy, Todd Swanson, Jill VanderStoep (tentatively).

SSC2061

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [J.B.A. Raymaekers](#)
- [V. Penders](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Computertest, Written exam

Chinese International Relations and Foreign Policy

Full course description

The economic and political reforms of the 1980s and 1990s transformed China into the world's second-largest economy in less than a generation. Its economic growth has allowed the country to seek a greater role in shaping world politics. In this advanced-level undergraduate course we are trying to make sense of Chinese foreign policy—how China approaches the world and what shapes its external behaviors—in the contemporary era. This course begins with an introduction, laying out the overall course structure, introducing key theoretical perspectives and approaches to Chinese International Relations, historical overview, principles and goals of Chinese Foreign Policy, as well as the main domestic debates on foreign policy. The domestic and international determinants for a changing Chinese Foreign Policy are examined as is China's relationships with its neighbours, the US and other international institutions.

Course objectives

- To teach students the main Chinese Foreign Policy challenges in the 21st century.
- To teach students to analyze theoretical approaches in the examination of Chinese Foreign Policy issues through data interpretation and information gathering.
- Students should have a more nuanced understanding of Chinese foreign policy and be able to use some of the theories in the discipline to explain the logic behind the decision-making of foreign policy in China.

- Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluating the nature and process of foreign policy making in China.

Prerequisites

At least one of the following SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories or SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science and COR1003 Contemporary World History.

Recommended reading

- Alastair Iain Johnston and Robert S. Ross (eds.). *New Directions in the Study of China's Foreign Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006.
- Shao Binhong (eds.). *The World in 2020 According to China: Chinese Foreign Policy Elites Discuss Emerging Trends in International Politics*. Leiden, Koninklijke Brill, 2014.

SSC3055

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [M. Stout](#)
- [Y.P. Lo](#)

International Relations: Themes and Theories

Full course description

Please note that this course used to be titled the SSC1006 Introduction to International Relations. Some content and literature of the course and its assessments have been modified to meet the requirements of a 2000-level course. The first part of the course discusses several mainstream International Relations (IR) theories and issues including neoliberalism, neorealism and debates about the liberal world system. Moreover the problematics of soft versus hard power, absolute versus relative gain, cooperating versus cheating, war versus peace will be discussed. In this part, we will not go through the world history, contemporary history, main international institutions or the history of nation-states. We will immediately start studying contemporary IR. The second part of the course covers less mainstream approaches, some 'new' theories and some neglected issues about the 'other' side of world politics. In this part normative and ideational structures, environmental issues, problems of the developing world, gendered-biases, economic inequalities, the construction of partial knowledge, the legitimization of power politics, the representation of images, establishment of stereotypes and the reproduction of hegemony will be studied critically. Moreover, new IR approaches like Queer theory and Asian IR approaches will be discussed. In this part, we aim at asking important questions and try to find reflective answers about the role of power and hegemony, how to make IR more Green, how to de-colonialise knowledge about the world, how to make IR and politics more gender- sensitive. It is important that students become aware of the theoretical richness of the discipline, and that there is not a single 'right' way to answer questions

University College Maastricht

about what is happening around us in the world. Students are given a chance to discuss and to apply those theories to different and more specific cases and issues. For this reason, this course is an opportunity to learn and apply international relations theories, concepts and models to the daily news and real time developments in the world. Case studies or specific issues are provided by the course literature. Thus, the course is based on active student participation

Course objectives

- To provide students with an in-depth understanding of the main theories and critical approaches in International Relations.
- To analyse foundational concepts of international politics, such as system, states and security.
- To discuss many key historical and contemporary issues, transformations, actors and events in International Relations.

Prerequisites

Political Science OR Contemporary World History OR Philosophy of Science.

Students who already took SSC1006 Introduction to International Relations cannot take this course.

SSC2002

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [B. Erdogan](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Economics and Society in Contemporary Asia

Full course description

This course focusses on the intersection of economics, politics and culture in Asia societies. The course transcends the borders of academic disciplines and includes topics such as long-run economic development, intra-regional cooperation, social change, political and economic institutions, and the changing global role of Asian countries. We pay attention to topical issues such as the trade and the financial relations between China and the rest of the world

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to understand economic issues and economic developments in

Prerequisites

Principles of Economics.

Recommended

International macroeconomics

Recommended reading

Collection of articles and book chapters

SSC3041

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [A.P. van Veen](#)
- [K. Mau](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Law and Society

Full course description

Legal scholars generally focus their attention on the law as it appears in books. They look at formal manifestations of the law, such as constitutions, statutes, legal rulings and court structures. While this is certainly an important aspect of studying law, we would miss quite a lot if we limited our attention to the formal structures of law, and ignored the larger society in which law functions. While law in action bears some resemblance to law in books, law as a social phenomenon is often far more complex than is apparent from the formal manifestations of law alone. This course looks at the law in action: it studies law as a social phenomenon. Only when we understand how the major elements of a legal system function together in a specific social context, can we really understand how law affects society and how society in turn shapes law. The first part of the course will introduce the sociological study of law. We will give an overview of the field, discuss several prominent theoretical approaches and examine various methods of researching socio-legal questions. The second part of the course will examine several legal processes in detail, using the tools that were developed in the first half of the course. In particular, we will look at the organization of law, the making of law, law as a means of social control, dispute resolution and law as a means of social change.

Course objectives

- To study law as a social phenomenon and discuss several theoretical approaches to law and society.
- To examine a variety of legal processes, such as conflict resolution, lawmaking, social control and change, and to seek to understand how they function empirically.

Prerequisites

SSC1003 Theories of Social Order (SSC1001 Macro Sociology) or SSC1007 Introduction to Law.

- [Introduction to Law](#)

Recommended reading

- Sutton, J.R. (2001) Law/Society: Origins, Interactions, and Change. Pine Forge Press, Thousand Oaks - London.
- A number of articles, available on EleUM.

Instructional format

Tutorial group meetings and lectures.

Examination

A midterm exam which will consist of open-ended essay on the theories studied and how they can be used to construct explanation and a research paper on a socio-legal topic.

SSC2027

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [S. Hardt](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Development Economics

Full course description

The long-run economic development of countries, as well as inequality within countries are the major topics of this course. The long-run growth part deals with topics such as basic growth theories, including institutions, population, education, health, and migration. The inequality part relates to how the distribution of income, access to education, health services, or infrastructure can be highly uneven and become a major obstacle for economic development. Throughout the course, policy implications and potential actions related to these topics are taken into consideration and

University College Maastricht
discussed.

Course objectives

- To provide participants with an overview of major economic concepts and policies in development issues, such as growth and population dynamics, education, aid, trade and debt.
- To deliver the skills needed to consider development problems and approach them in a rigorous and critical way, using both economic theories and policy analysis.

Prerequisites

SSC1027 Principles of Economics. Knowledge of basic quantitative concepts such as reading and working with graphs and simple equations is also a prerequisite.

- [Principles of Economics](#)

Recommended reading

- Perkins, Radelet, Lindauer, Block: *Economic Development*, 7th edition, Norton, 2013
- Other reading materials will be indicated during the course.

SSC2043

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [H.H.G. Verspagen](#)
- [M.W.J.L. Sanders](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Globalization and Inequality: Perspectives on Development

Full course description

This course critically focuses on structural issues of development on a global scale. Globalization refers to the increasing interdependence of markets, states and civil societies and the resulting effects on people and their environment. By also focusing on inequality, the structural differentiation among actors in terms of access to means, opportunities and resources, issues of (re-)distribution

are taken into account as well. The course investigates inequalities and interdependencies on a global, international, national and local level, while considering the role of public, private and civil society actors. Thus, it aims to understand the underlying development processes and unlock the ongoing debates. The course focuses on the following themes: globalization and development; the Global Goals for Sustainable Development; a history of inequality; the agencies of development; democratization, human rights and development; health and development; global migration and remittances; and food security, natural resources and global crises.

Course objectives

- To understand and analyze issues of globalisation and inequality from several disciplinary perspectives and recognise links between globalisation, inequality, poverty and development.
- To understand theories, concepts and historical roots of global social, political and economic inequality as well as understand contemporary issues in development and the developing world, in particular:
 - Global agencies of development
 - Democratisation, human rights and development
 - Health and development
 - Global migration and remittances
 - Food security, natural resources and global crises
- To gain knowledge of the main global and international actors and networks in the field of development, including their aim, impact and effectiveness
- To analyze changes in 21st century geopolitical perspectives on development, such as the growing impact of BRICS countries.
- To develop insight in the relations between the various global crises and recent development policies
- To use the accumulated understanding and knowledge to envision future development scenarios

Prerequisites

Academic Skills Training or equivalent University-level writing skills preparation.

Recommended reading

- Hopper, P. (2018). *Understanding Development*. Cambridge: Polity
- Relevant academic articles, reports, book chapters and websites.

SSC2046

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- L. Wagner

- [W.W. Nauta](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

The Law of the European Institutions

Full course description

This course focuses on the institutions of the European Union. At the same time, this course provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to legal thinking. Law is central to the process of European integration, and it plays a greater role in European affairs than it does at national or international level. It is accordingly essential for students to become familiar with the ways of legal thought and legal reasoning, if they want to understand fully the European integration process, and European matters more generally.

Course objectives

At the end of the course, students should have acquired adequate knowledge, practical skills and a critical understanding with respect to the following:

- The role and significance of law in the European integration process.
- The legal foundations of the European Union (EU) (as set out in the Treaties).
- The institutions of the EU, their historical evolution and the horizontal relationship between them (as reflected in decision-making procedures).
- The vertical relationship between the EU and the Member States (including the principles of supremacy, legality, subsidiarity, proportionality and loyalty).
- The implementation and enforcement mechanisms of EU law (infringement proceedings, enforcement through national courts, review of EU action).
- The position of the individual as a holder of fundamental rights and a citizen of the Union.

In addition, throughout the course the students should have become familiar with legal thinking and legal reasoning, and should in particular be able to:

- Find legal instruments in paper or electronic format.
- Keep abreast of legal developments.
- Read a legal document and extract the relevant information from it.
- Construct a legal argument on a basic issue of EU law.
- Use EU law to give an opinion on a legal problem.

Prerequisites

SSC1007 Introduction to Law and at least one of the following courses: SSC2060 Comparative Constitutional Law (SSC2012 Comparative Government) or SSC2024 International Law.

- [Introduction to Law](#)

Recommended reading

- A copy of the EU Treaty and of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. These can be downloaded from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties.html> or they can be found in Foster (ed.), Blackstone's EU Treaties and Legislation (last edition).

SSC3030

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [B.I. Petkova](#)
- [S. Roettger - Wirtz](#)
- [P.V.M. Melin](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Social Psychology

Full course description

Social psychology is the scientific study of the ways in which people's behaviour, thoughts, and feelings are influenced by others. This course will cover the core themes from social psychology - such as attitudes and attitude change, conformity, and aggression - and how they can be scientifically investigated. During the course, students will also participate in a "Humans of Maastricht" project. In this project, students will make contact with their self-perceived "out-group," applying social psychological theories and concepts to their experiences and reducing their own stereotypes and prejudice in the process.

Course objectives

- To provide an introduction to social psychology.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology

Recommended reading

Basic books:

University College Maastricht

- Hewstone, M., Stroebe, W., & Jonas, K. (2015). *An introduction to Social Psychology* (6th Ed). Chichester: Wiley. ISBN: 978-1-118-82353-8

Additional readings:

- Dickerson, P. (2011). *Social Psychology: Traditional and Critical Perspectives*. Boston: Pearson Education.
- E-reader.

SSC2019

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [J.M. Alleva](#)
- [A.H. van der Lugt](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Developmental Psychology

Full course description

The development of and changes in psychological functions from birth through adolescence are the topic of this course. These changes will be illustrated with many empirical findings and explained by some theoretical models. Such influential older theories as that of Piaget will be compared to more recent information processing models of development. How does a child reason? How does a child become faster and better in learning? How does a child succeed in developing from almost nothing into an adult? How do children learn to perceive and to think (the so-called cognitive development) ?

In addition to these questions, attention will be paid to language development because it is amazing to see how a newborn baby, who does not understand a word and cannot say anything, learns to talk within a period of two or three years without, incidentally, the use of dictionaries or grammar books. The social-emotional basis for later development will be explored. It concerns the attachment relations to mothers and fathers. How do infants form attachments? Is attachment important? Do our early attachments influence our later emotional development? Other social-emotional topics are temperament and aggression. Not every development ends in a "normal" child. The course will address deviant development too, such as disorders as autism and ADHD. When is an active young boy normal and when do we say that he has ADHD?

Course objectives

- To teach students what kind of changes underlie psychological development.
- To teach students how children develop psychologically in perception, cognition, language, personality and emotions from infancy to adolescence.
- To teach students about developmental disorders such as autism and ADHD.
- To provide students with knowledge on elementary biological processes that underlie psychological development.
- To provide students with knowledge about the learning processes that children have at their disposal such as habituation and social learning.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology

- [Introduction to Psychology](#)

Recommended reading

- To be announced.
- Selected chapters and journal papers.

SSC2006

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [E.J.M. Persoon](#)
- [S.T.P. Meier](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Peace and Conflict Studies

Full course description

In this course, we will focus on contemporary conflict resolution. The course will cover many issues related to the theories, causes and models of violent conflict in the first part, and then conflict resolution, including prevention of conflicts, (issues of early warning and early action), halting ongoing violent conflict, the role and forms of mediation, peacekeeping and how to end violent conflict, build peace and transform societies to reconcile their differences in the second part.

Course objectives

The objectives of this course are to survey the theory and practice of violent conflict and its resolution. The course will discuss some current issues in conflict studies related to the identity, community, belonging, human needs, structural issues, greed and grievances, discourses of violence and conflict, possible causes of communal violence, economic and environmental issues, third-party intervention, mediation, peace-building and reconciliation in the different stages of preventing, containing and ending violent conflict, as well as to gain insight into basic elements of peace and security studies, conflict management and international politics. Specifically objectives of the course is:

- To discuss and learn what conflict means and why groups resort to violence;
- To discuss conflict types and trends in the contemporary world;
- To get familiar with conflict models and conflict studies, such as primordial, constructivist, discursive and cultural approaches;
- To discuss ontological and epistemological issues regarding conflicts studies;
- To apply these models, concepts and theories to several conflicts;
- To understand the main techniques of conflict resolution such as mediation, problem-solving workshops and the efforts of International Organisations such as United Nations;
- To discuss peacekeeping and humanitarian intervention in conflict resolution;
- To get introductory knowledge on ending conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding and reconciliation processes.

Prerequisites

At least two 2000-level courses in Humanities or Social Sciences.

Recommended

Some background knowledge on important conflicts in history, on the current conflicts in the world, on IR theories and methods of social sciences are helpful in this course. International Relations and Philosophy of Science are recommended courses.

Recommended reading

- Jolle Demmers, *Theories of Violent Conflict: An Introduction*, 2nd Edition, 2017
- Additional articles and book chapters.

SSC2037

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [B. Erdogan](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Public Policy Evaluation

Full course description

This course provides students with an academic and at the same time practical and 'hands on' approach to the study of public policy and more in particular, to the professional practice of policy analysis and evaluation. Public policies can be described as "a course of government action or inaction in response to public problems" such as insufficient access to health care or education, environmental degradation, threats to workplace safety, corruption, overcrowded highways or air pollution (Kraft and Furlong 2010:5). Problems range from relatively simple to highly complex and manifest from the local to the national or global levels. They can reflect conflicts over causes, solutions, problem definitions as well as over fundamental human values. Decision-makers that take final decisions on these issues need to be informed by sound evidence based policy analysis and evaluation that has carefully weighted, crafted, prescribed and evaluated the policy alternatives. This is important as the decisions taken do not only affect people's lives, but also influence society's key values. It is the task of the policy analyst / evaluator to provide sound evidence, analysis and advice. To acquaint students with, and prepare them for such undertakings, this course is designed to foster critical thinking and understanding about public policy and possible alternative courses of action by deliberating and analyzing the key concepts, models, approaches and methods of policy analysis & evaluation, and practicing some of its basic skills. In the first week of the course students explore what policy analysis & evaluation actually is. It intends to shed light on the role of power, politics, institutions and actors in the policy making process. Subsequently, in the second week the art of problem structuring is explored. In the third week students will be introduced to working with evaluative criteria and choosing policy options for formulating policy advices. With the knowledge gained in these first three weeks students will work in small groups to prepare and present a 'hands on' a policy advice on a real life country case. Finally, just before the midterm exam, students are introduced to two frequently used methods of policy analysis and evaluation: cost benefit and cost effectiveness analysis. The midterm exam consists of two parts: an individually written policy memorandum on a given topic (part 1) and, on the basis of that memorandum, a team role play (part 2 of midterm). After the midterm the focus shifts from having gained the basic knowledge for policy analysis and evaluation (problem structuring, stakeholder analysis, choosing evaluative criteria and using them to benchmark and weigh the different policy alternatives) to exploring policy evaluation approaches in more depth. Students will be introduced to plan, process and outcome evaluations on the basis of the realist or theory-based evaluation approach. They will work in small groups on another real life case to actually carry out and present a plan (and or) process evaluation themselves. Finally, ethical and accountability aspects of policy analysis and evaluation, as well as the role of the public in this process are explored. The course is built around 7 cases and 7 lectures by both academics and professional practitioners that share their knowledge and experiences with the students. This together with studying academic and policy literature as well as the 'hands on' work on evaluation cases, provide the main guidance for the student's learning process in this policy analysis & evaluation course.

Course objectives

- To develop a critical analytical approach to public policy evaluation, analysis and public policy making.
- To provide students with a basic understanding of the key concepts, approaches, models and methods of public policy analysis & evaluation.
- To develop the basic skills needed to conduct public policy analysis & evaluation and to communicate the results effectively.
- To provide students with an understanding of the roles and ethics of the policy analyst/evaluator in the policy process.

Prerequisites

At least two 2000-level Social Sciences courses.

Recommended reading

The course combines book chapters from state of the art text books on policy analysis with articles from academic journals and real life case study material from practice, next to youtube videos and short documentaries. Textbooks from which partial chapters are used:

- Kraft M.E and Furlong S.R. (2013) Public Policy Politics, Analysis and Alternatives, CQ Press, SAGE
- Guess G.M. and P.G. Farnham (2011), Cases in Public Policy Analysis
- Weimar L. and Vining A. (2011) Policy Analysis, 5th Edition, Longman
- Weiss C.H. (1998) Evaluation (2nd ed.), London: Prentice-Hall.

Next to that book chapters, journal articles, youtube videos and short documentaries will be studied.

SSC3011

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [R.J.M. Speijcken](#)
- [E.W. Lebon - McGregor](#)
- [V. Osei Kwadwo](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Philosophy of Mind

Full course description

The mind-body problem is a legacy from the scientific revolution which started in the 16th century and reached its culmination point with Newtonian physics. Starting with Galileo's and Descartes' formulation of this problem we will discuss different philosophical positions in a more in-depth fashion. In the behavioral- and neurosciences these problems transform into questions about consciousness, conscious experience, and conscious perception. Those topics disappeared from science with the rise of behaviorism in the early twentieth century. But now they are back in the behavioral- and neurosciences again. Only over the past few decades consciousness has reappeared in cognitive science and neuropsychology. We will start this course with some philosophy, then we will scrutinize modern day sciences, especially cognitive science and neuroscience for ideas on mind and consciousness. At the end of the course we will go back to philosophy and we will ask ourselves whether all this empirical knowledge from psychology and neuroscience has brought us further in unraveling the brain-consciousness- (or mind-body) problem.

Course objectives

- To acquaint students with current ideas, philosophical arguments and empirical evidence on the nature of mind and the relationship between mind and body. We focus on modern cognitive and neuropsychological theories in the area of consciousness. Philosophical reflection on the caveats and problems associated with the notion of consciousness will be stimulated.

Prerequisites

COR1002 Philosophy of Science and at least one 2000-level course from either Humanities, Social Sciences or Sciences.

- [Philosophy of Science](#)

Recommended reading

Suggested Literature

- Kim, Jaegwon: Philosophy of Mind, 2011
- Dehaene, Stanislas: Consciousness and the Brain, New York, 2014.

Literature

- E-reader.
- You tube clips.
- Book will be announced.

SSC3023

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

University College Maastricht

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- R.P. de Vries

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Clinical Psychology

Full course description

The course Clinical Psychology is concerned with mental disorders. It is aimed at understanding mental and behavioural distress and/ or dysfunction and thereby learning about how to promote subjective well-being and personal adaptation. On the basis of case descriptions, important clinical pictures of a.o. different anxiety disorders, eating disorders, addictions, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, and personality disorders are examined. Questions that are raised continually during the course are: What is the clinical picture of...? Where is the boundary between no need for care and need for care? What causes such a disorder? And what can be done about the disorder? At the end it will be clear that there is a gap between theory and practice, between scientific thinking and clinical treatment. A number of different theoretical schools will also be examined, and these schools explain/treat psychiatric disorders in keeping with their favorite theory. The choice of theory/treatment in most cases is thus based on ideology and not empirical findings, and the question is whether this situation is so desirable.

Course objectives

- To make students familiar with the most common psychiatric disorders; their clinical pictures, diagnostic criteria, the etiological theories and the empirical findings that either support or refute the theories, current ways of treatment, and the effectiveness of the therapies.
- To give students a basic idea of what clinical interviews are and what it feels like to 'have' a psychiatric disorder by writing a patient role and playing that role.
- To learn basic clinical interview techniques.

Prerequisites

One of the 1000 or 2000 level psychology courses offered at UCM.

- [Introduction to Psychology](#)

Recommended reading

- Various textbooks on clinical psychology (can be found in UM library and UCM)

University College Maastricht

Reading Room).

- E-readers.

SSC2004

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.A.J.F. Heins](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Identities

Full course description

Identity is about one's sense of self, it is about personhood, and it is about what kind of person one is. Identities always involve both sameness and difference. Thus, if you are Dutch, you are like other Dutch people and different from the non-Dutch. There is a tendency to see identities as being fixed or given. Sociologists, however, argue that identities are fluid and changeable and that we can acquire new ones. In this course we will explore theoretical texts on the historical, cultural and political construction of social identities. We will focus on class, gender, race, ethnicity and nation as historically specific, structured relations of oppression and exploitation examining their existence and interaction. Discussions and analyses will be based on how social identities work as overlapping categories of both inclusion and exclusion and how they are used to divide, rank, and discriminate. Some of the questions to be addressed are: What are the main levels of analysis within which we can explore the interplay between these exploitative and oppressive relations? What are their theoretical, cultural, ideological and political implications? The course is designed for students who have a serious interest in the topic and who are open to critically evaluate and understand their own participation within structures of domination and oppression. We will examine and interrogate how heterosexuality, whiteness and class privilege, for instance, function in such a way as to keep systems of oppression intact and discuss how to participate in the struggles against identity-based forms of domination.

Course objectives

- To learn how different categories of social identities operate as categories of socio-structural inequality.
- To discuss perspectives on race, ethnicity, class, gender and national identities in order to get a better understanding of what they are and how they are conceptualized theoretically.
- To learn about and reflect on how you yourself, your thinking and your way of being is affected by these relations of oppression and domination in everyday life.

Prerequisites

At least two of the following courses: SSC1029 Sociological Perspectives, SSC2028 Classical Sociology, HUM1003 Cultural Studies I, SSC2059 Social Movements, HUM2031 Cultural Studies II, HUM2018 Cultural Diversity in a Globalizing World, HUM2003 The Making of Crucial Differences, HUM2014 Philosophers of the 20th Century, HUM2056 Cultural Remembrances.

This course is not recommended for first year students

Recommended reading

- Alcoff, L.M., & Mediate, E. (2003). Identities: Race, Class, Gender, and Nationality

SSC3040

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [U.A. Mueller](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Classical Sociology

Full course description

This course is part one of a sequence of courses tracing back through the historical development of sociological theory. We will engage with the works of early theorists such as Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Antonio Gramsci, George Simmel and George Herbert Mead. Some of the basic lines of inquiry we will pursue include: What were the big questions driving the formation 'classical sociology'? Are these questions still relevant today? What is the basis of social order and structure? How and why do societies change? What are the causes and consequences of conflict in society? What place does the individual hold in the study of society? Throughout the course, we will read original materials accompanied some contemporary interpretations of the classics. This is an essential course for students interested in the foundations of sociology and the social sciences more broadly.

Course objectives

- To become conversant in the theoretical foundations of classical sociology.
- To evaluate and assess these theories in a constructive manner.

University College Maastricht

- To compare and contrast social theories in a critical fashion.
- To be able to apply these theories to the study of contemporary society.
- To understand the socio-historical context from which these theories emerged.
- To reflect on the relevance and utility of social theory more generally.

Prerequisites

SSC1029 Sociological Perspectives, OR SSC1003/SSC2064 Theories of Social Order

Students must have completed Research Methods (SKI1004 + SKI1005) as this course requires basic working knowledge of social scientific methodology.

Recommended

The course coordinator strongly advises students who are still in their first year **not** to take this course.

Recommended reading

- Understanding Classical Sociology (2003) Hughs, J. Sharrock, W. and Martin, P. [eds]
Sage: London
- E-reader.

SSC2028

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [K.A. Heidemann](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Intermediate Microeconomics

Full course description

Economics is the study of exchange and tradeoffs. Questions about what to buy, what to produce and how to allocate time all involve tradeoffs between different alternatives, and economists develop models to better understand the process by which individuals and firms make such decisions. With these models in hand, economists can then develop criteria by which to judge the efficiency and effectiveness of market structures, policies and institutions. This course is a first introduction to microeconomics. It will present an overview of the basic models that constitute the foundations of

modern economics. We will build the theory of the consumer and the producer from the bottom up to create models of market behavior. The goal is not to offer a complete description of the world as it exists; rather, we will seek to simplify reality with the goal of providing a concise description of a broad class of real-world circumstances. As we progress we will touch on examples of theory theory in applied settings to highlight and discuss how these models characterize much of the economic behavior we observe in the real world. After developing models of the market as a whole, we'll explore extensions of the theory to the strategic behavior of firms and individuals. The theory of strategic behavior will then be used to analyze, among other things, competition policy, environmental policy and political competition between parties.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the basics of microeconomic theory.
- To acquire skills in applying its analytical tools to real-life economic problems.

Prerequisites

SSC1027 Principles of Economics.

Recommended

SSC2061 Statistics I.

Students taking this course should be prepared to use and manipulate basic mathematical expressions. A good knowledge of the analysis of common functions and their derivatives will be an asset for the course.

- [Principles of Economics](#)

Recommended reading

- Varian H. *Intermediate Microeconomics*. (9th ed.). W. W. Norton & Company.

SSC2048

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.K. Mackenzie](#)
- [D. Karos](#)

Public Health Policymaking

Full course description

Students will become familiar with the following topics in public health: the epidemiology of mortality and disease; the determinants of health; the ageing of society and its implications for medical care; the unequal distribution of health; moral issues in public health; the economics of public health; health systems analysis; public health genomics; markets and public health; public health disasters.

Students will also become familiar with topics in public policymaking, including: the various components of public policy (values, objectives, instruments, policy paradigm); the concept of the policy cycle (problem recognition and definition, agenda building, policy formation, policy implementation, policy evaluation and feedback); theoretical approaches of public policy making (rational model, political model, institutionalist model); stakeholder and policy community analysis; types of state-society relationships (elitist model, pluralist model, corporatist model, regulatory agency model, communitarian model); the role of power in public policymaking.

Regarding the third objective, students will learn to combine the knowledge gained under the first and second objective. Concretely, they learn to understand the implications of public health issues for public policymaking (e.g. how can we effectively tackle the problem of overweight/obesity or the problem of the unequal distribution of health? which moral issues arise in public policymaking?), and, conversely, the implications of the structure and process of public policymaking for addressing public health issues (e.g. how are public health issues defined? who dominates the agenda building process? what are the implications of the rational, political and institutionalist model for public health policymaking? what about the role of the state and society in public health policymaking?).

Course objectives

- To make students familiar with basic issues in public health.
- To make students familiar with basic issues in public policymaking.
- To make students familiar with basic issues in public policymaking on public health.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- To be announced

SSC2053

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

- [D. Ruwaard](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Written exam

Entrepreneurship

Full course description

Not many will contest the societal impact of enterprising individuals and entrepreneurial ventures on our economies. Entrepreneurs may start-up companies that challenge (and often replace) incumbents. In the process, they create new jobs and apply competitive pressure on established firms. Entrepreneurs supposedly have an important direct and indirect effect on driving innovation. Despite the heroic image of successful entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship is much more about failure than about success. What motivates entrepreneurial types to venture of on a path that (at least statistically) will result in failure? Are they naïve, or are they stupid. In this course you will study factors that drive entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial process. We will focus on new venture gestation: the initial stages of the process that may result in a new company to emerge. Throughout the course you will explore how entrepreneurs not only rely on generic business management principles, but also how they cope with the uncertainty, risk, scarcity of time, capital and other resources that is inherent to all entrepreneurial venturing. Perhaps you will conclude that many entrepreneurs are in fact not really good managers (good entrepreneurs will compensate for this by hiring better managers). We start the course by explore the process dynamics of entrepreneurial activity. We then will explore the origins of entrepreneurial opportunity, review how entrepreneurs screen and develop the opportunities that they discover, and you will unravel how entrepreneurs seek to appropriate the returns from their enterprising behaviour. This is not a “how-to” course, instead the course will introduce you to relevant scholarly insights that provide (future) entrepreneurs, an evidence base for entrepreneurial action. Those students that are ready to enact entrepreneurship may want to register for the LaunchBase Pre-incubation programme that we provide to enterprising students and alumni.

Course objectives

To provide an understanding of the how, where, when, whom and why of entrepreneurial initiative. However, our ambitions go beyond helping you to learn, we also want you to feel (more) empowered to engage in the entrepreneurial process itself:

- You are able to explain and illustrate the unique qualities of the entrepreneurial process.
- You are able to explain and illustrate the unique qualities of entrepreneurs.
- You are able to explain how entrepreneurial opportunities are discovered and created.
- You are able to explain how entrepreneurs select their opportunities.
- You are able to explain how entrepreneurs link value creation to value appropriation.

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology or SSC1029 Sociological Perspectives or SSC1027 Principles

- [Principles of Economics](#)

Recommended reading

- Each student is to select and read a published biography of an entrepreneur.
- E-reader with papers & Reader with cases (You need to pay for your cases at <http://www.thecasecentre.org>, approx. €20).
- Shane, S. A. 2002. The foundations of entrepreneurship. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Pub. (suggested, not required).

SSC2055

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M.A. Carree](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Contemporary Critical Security Studies

Full course description

Security Studies during the Cold War was a rather limited and narrow sub-field of International Relations mainly focusing on state security and defining threat only in military terms. By the end of the Cold War period, new schools of thought have emerged in the field of Security Studies in parallel with the emergence of new kinds of threats against human well-being and security. Today, Contemporary Critical Security Studies represents a large group of scholars, schools, approaches and understandings. This course deals with a number of these schools and approaches. It starts with an introduction to the conventional security (Realism and Liberalism) and explains why these approaches are found unsatisfactory by the academic community at the beginning of the 1990s. Then it explains various theoretical positions from constructivism to Feminism (gender security), Green Theory (environmental security) and Post-Colonialism (security from non-Western perspectives). Then it introduces contemporary concepts like 'Securitisation' which is developed by the Copenhagen School and discusses 'security networks' or 'security apparatus' investigated by the Paris or Sociological school. Another relevant contemporary approach is called 'Human Security,' and the course explains the development of this concept. In general, the course aims at giving an idea to the students of International Relations how Critical Security Studies has developed as a separate sub-field of International Relations, which was the biggest contribution of the Wales or Aberystwyth Schools. The course also discusses several contemporary issues to give a broader understanding to the students about the application of theories and approaches (such as poverty, migration, borders, cyberwar, new technologies and warfare, responsibility to protect, humanitarian intervention, war against terror, and other contemporary security issues).

Course objectives

- To understand 'security' as a complex concept with changing meanings and applications.
- To discuss the consequences of different meanings for security critically.
- To deconstruct the given notions and policies about security and ask questions like what is included, excluded, legitimized and justified in them.
- To illuminate the main theoretical assumptions of the several approaches of security studies by placing the main focus on the more contemporary and critical ones.
- To explore the ways how contemporary or critical security studies challenge traditional security studies.
- To discuss in what ways contemporary security approaches compare and contrast with each other.
- To emphasize the empirical application and practical use of such approaches by discussing each approach with a relevant case study.

Prerequisites

SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories.

Recommended reading

- Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams (2012), *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, 2nd edition Routledge.
- E-reader.

SSC3051

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [B. Erdogan](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Final paper

The Aftermath of Atrocity: A Course on Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Full course description

The course will first introduce and define the field of transitional justice. We will look into its historical evolution and address the rationales underlying it. The introduction furthermore includes an overview of the main mechanisms/components that can be part of the process of transitional justice and how they are interrelated. The course will subsequently address several of these

transitional justice mechanisms and in this analysis we will predominantly focus on the perspectives of the victims. Victims (and survivors) are not only a group, but also individual human beings and their wishes and interests in the aftermath of large scale conflict can be very diverse and even contradict the wishes of other victims or the group as such. What are their interests and what are their views on transitional justice including possibilities of remedy and reparation? In this context specific attention is given to the impact of violent conflict on women and children.

Throughout the course critical attention is paid to the following justice mechanisms: apologies and forgiveness, memorialization and commemoration, truth telling and truth commissions, pardons and amnesties, compensation, restoration, restitution, international and regional criminal courts and tribunals, lustration and vetting. The analysis will be concluded with a discussion of the various justice mechanisms and their potential to contribute to (or jeopardize) sustainable peace. How effective are these approaches in breaking cycles of violence? Can they bring reconciliation?

In addition to issues such as justice and reconciliation, other matters are also significant in post-conflict societies as they greatly affect the consolidation of peace and stability. Justice and reconciliation only form one pillar of reconstruction, but also in other areas constructive action is required. Such other areas of concern include, for instance, security, wellbeing, and governance. The course therefore looks into the process of reconstruction and discusses which actions are required in order to move from the precarious early stages of post conflict transition to a more sustainable situation which allows for the consolidation of peace and stability.

Several lectures will be held during this course. These lectures will be used to illustrate the discussed materials and to provide the participants with a deeper understanding of the subject matter by presenting the linkage between theory and (research) practice. During the lectures, various guest speakers will address the subject matter from the practitioner's perspective. In addition, we will screen a number of documentaries that will be analyzed during the post-discussion. We hope that, through these documentaries, the subject matter of this course will become more accessible and less abstract.

Case studies play an important role throughout the course and we will therefore pay attention to a wide variety of cases including The Holocaust and other cases of genocide (Armenia, Australia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Srebrenica, Darfur, etc.). Although cases of genocide will play an important role in this course, the caseload is certainly not limited to genocide and other violent conflicts will be addressed as well. Here one could think of the following cases, Chili, Argentina, Guatemala, Indonesia, East Timor, Iraq, Syria, Congo, Central African Republic, etc. Not to forget the torture practices of the U.S.

Course objectives

- An understanding of transitional justice and how to deal with grave historical injustices from the past. Although the course addresses the roles of many different actors, the role of the victim will receive more substantial attention.
- To examine different approaches to post-conflict justice (retributive, restorative and transformative approaches) and their policy implications.
- To provide for a critical overview of different instruments for transitional justice, such as, apologies and forgiveness, memorialization and commemoration, truth telling and truth commissions, impunity, pardons and amnesties, compensation, restoration, restitution of property (especially looted and stolen art), international and regional criminal courts and tribunals, lustration and vetting, etc. and to examine their impact and effectiveness.
- An understanding of issues in post-conflict reconstruction which focuses on the challenges

University College Maastricht

(military, political, and social) that post-conflict societies are facing and how they impact on the consolidation of peace and stability.

Prerequisites

Two 2000-level courses in the Social Sciences or Humanities.

Recommended reading

- Handbook (t.b.a)
- E-Reader.

SSC3052

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [C.A.R. Moerland](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Take home exam, Written exam, Assignment

Social and Sustainable Entrepreneurship

Full course description

Interest in the concept of social and sustainable entrepreneurship has been sparked over the last two decades due to frustration with inefficient, ineffective and failed action of government and philanthropic bodies, as well as the socially destructive behaviour of many businesses. An explicit and central social/sustainable mission, innovation, creativity and a strong market orientation are the distinguishing features of social and sustainable entrepreneurship. Social and sustainable entrepreneurs are committed to furthering a social and/or sustainable mission, and rank social, environmental or cultural impact on a par with, or above, profit. At the intersection of business, government and not-for-profit organisations, these social and sustainable entrepreneurs are now visible and having an impact on a global scale.

This course will provide you the opportunity to learn how you can apply your knowledge and skills to address complex sustainability problems. This course is structured around experiential problem-based learning, providing you the opportunity to synthesise theory and practice as you develop an idea for your own social/sustainable enterprises. Topics will include: critically reviewing concepts; user centred-design of social and sustainable enterprises; frameworks for understanding and strategizing; understanding and reporting social and environmental impact; and cross-sector collaboration.

Course objectives

On the successful completion of this course you should be able to:

- Critically reflect on social and sustainable entrepreneurship theory and practice
- Identify and evaluate social and sustainable entrepreneurship opportunities
- Develop a strategy for a social/ sustainable enterprise
- Conduct primary research and analyse primary and secondary data in the field of social and sustainable entrepreneurship
- Prepare and present documentation to pitch a novel enterprise idea
- Learn to cope with the chaos and complexity of doing social and sustainable entrepreneurship in the real world.

Prerequisites

You need to have completed at least ONE of the following course: SSC2055 Entrepreneurship; SSC2036 Introduction to Business Administration OR SCI1016 Sustainable Development

Recommended reading

- eReader with papers & Harvard Business cases (You need to pay for your cases, approx. €15).

SSC3017

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- M. Caree
- [C.M. do Rosário Costa](#)
- [W.E.J. Bodewes](#)
- [A.A. Diaz Gonzalez](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Written exam

Human Reasoning and Complex Cognition

Full course description

The present course is concerned with theoretical (psychological) and empirical perspectives on human reasoning and decision making. Reasoning involves making deductive or inductive inferences and judging them according to current goals, beliefs and knowledge. Decision making refers to choosing between alternatives (e.g. different mental models). Both topics are of central importance to humans and even though some seem to reason better than others or their decisions seem more

sound, thinking remains an important and for some uniquely human feature. Studying humans thought (both reasoning and decision making) belongs to the field of Cognitive Psychology. Like most topics studied by psychologists, both reasoning and decision making include a wide range of explanatory models that emphasize different aspects of human thought.

Eleven topics of the (cognitive) psychology of reasoning and decision making are discussed using a Problem Based Learning format. The topics are: (hypothetical) reasoning, the mental imagery-debate, the psychology of decision making, Signal Detection Theory and vigilance, emotions and reasoning, emotions and decision making (the Somatic Marker hypothesis), subliminal perception, deductive and inductive reasoning (heuristics and biases) and socio-economical decision making (pro-social behavior: risk and trust).

Course objectives

- To help students acquire knowledge of recent (psychological) theories in the field of reasoning, decision making, problem solving, and (moral) judgement.
- To provide an insight into the role of higher cognitive processes have in directing human behaviour; various forms of human reasoning, decision making, problem solving, creativity, etc.
- To explore a given topic in the psychology of thought by writing a client consultancy report (group work).

Prerequisites

SSC1005 Introduction to Psychology or SCI2036 Artificial Intelligence and at least two 2000-level courses.

Recommended reading

- Chapters of several basic cognitive psychology books are made available as e-reader or hardcopy.
- E-Readers.

SSC3019

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [A.H. van der Lugt](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper

Migration Studies: Flows and Concepts

Full course description

This course will examine the following concepts in contemporary migration studies: forced migration, internal displacement and refugees; irregular and transit migration; integration, transnationalism and social cohesion; return migration and reintegration; and migration and development. The course will introduce students to both the complexities and challenges of migration and the potential positive effects of migration. Throughout the course multiple case studies will be examined to highlight different migrant concepts and flows.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a basic overview of migration flows and concepts.
- To give insight into the complexity of human movement.
- To acquaint students with different cases and examples of the various global migration flows.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science or SSC1006 International Relations: Themes and Theories

Recommended reading

- We will consult several journal articles in the reference list.

SSC2064

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [M.J. Siegel](#)
- [T.R. Mortimer Dubow](#)
- [S.A.E. Youssef](#)

Sociological Perspectives

Full course description

This course offers an introduction to the social scientific discipline of sociology. The course focuses on various foundational areas of sociological research and theorizing in order to explore how

sociologists approach the study of various social processes, practices and problems. Some key questions explored include: What is Society? How are individuals shaped by society? To what extent can and do individuals shape society? How have different societies developed historically? How do societies distribute wealth, income and other resources? How do societies establish particular kinds of political authority and power relations? How are cultural identities, values and beliefs reproduced over time? What are the sources of conflict, consensus and change in society? Working from a global comparative perspective, the course will introduce students to different strands of sociological theorizing, the distinctive levels of sociological analysis, and some of the most central areas of sociological investigation, such as class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, culture, media, education, marriage, work and globalization. Periodic attention will be given to applying the sociological lens to the analysis of pressing social issues and problems in the contemporary world, such as inequality and violence.

Course objectives

- To become conversant in the foundations of sociological thought and theory.
- To gain understanding of the primary areas and methods of sociological analysis.
- To be able to apply sociological concepts and theories to the study of pertinent social problems.
- To reflect on the relevance and utility of sociology in the 'everyday' world and public policy-making.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Sociology: A Global Perspective (9th Edition) by Joan Ferrante.
- Selection of E-reader.

SSC1029

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [K.A. Heidemann](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Final paper

International Trade Law: Globalisation Trade and

Development

Full course description

The recent revival of economic nationalism in various parts of the world, including in some of the traditional pillars of trade liberalization such as the United States and United Kingdom, reflect the growing fear, mistrust and hostility of many people in these countries and around the world regarding economic globalisation and international trade. While economic globalisation in general, and international trade in particular, undoubtedly offer the possibility of unprecedented prosperity for people in both developed and developing countries, they also cause numerous problems and give rise to justified concerns. The challenge facing the international community is to manage and regulate the economic globalisation and international trade so that they benefit all of humankind.

The World Trade Organization, established in 1995, is at the forefront of the multilateral effort to manage and regulate economic globalisation in general and international trade in particular. The law of the WTO governs the trade relations between the WTO's 164 Members but also concerns each of us directly, as it affects the price and quality of the goods and services we consume. Moreover, for many of us, our (future) job will be, directly or indirectly, related to (and sometimes threatened by) international trade.

Since 2001, WTO Members have been negotiating in the context of the WTO Doha Development Round on rules for the further liberalisation of international trade. To the disappointment of many, years of negotiations so far have resulted in only limited agreements on new rules for international trade, achieved in Bali in December 2001 and in Nairobi in December 2005. However, the current WTO rules have played an important role in mitigating the consequences of the 2008-9 Global Financial and Economic Crisis. In the face of the dramatic drop in production and exports as well as high unemployment experienced by many countries during the 2008-9 crisis, it was feared that countries would resort to trade protectionist measures to support their domestic industries. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the adoption of such protectionist measures deepened and lengthened the economic crisis considerably, which in turn led to political upheaval and radicalization, international tension and, eventually, war. The WTO and its rules have contributed much to the fact that countries did not - in any significant manner - resort to protectionism in response to the Global Financial and Economic Crisis and that history did not repeat itself. However, continued vigilance is called for because high levels of unemployment persist in many countries leading to pressure on governments by domestic industries calling for protection from foreign competition. Moreover, most present-day protectionist measures no longer take the form of high tariffs or small quotas (both easy to detect) but instead hide in domestic regulation or domestic policy measures.

This introductory course on WTO law and policy is recommended to all students who want to gain a better understanding of the core institutional and substantive rules of the international trading system. This understanding will enable students to also appreciate some other recent developments in the field of international economic law, such as the proliferation of preferential trade agreements. The number and coverage of such agreements have been increasing in response to the failure of the Doha Development Round to reach multilateral consensus, thereby shifting trade negotiations partly away from the WTO. Depending on the political and economic position of the involved states, some of these agreements may well set new standards for future international trade regulation. By taking this course, students will gain understanding of not just the WTO but also of other recent developments in international economic relations.

The course is built around a number of true-to-life international trade problems represented in the form of case studies. The course addresses six themes. It starts by examining the phenomenon of economic globalization and, the arguments for and against free trade, as well as the role of law in international economic and trade relations. Secondly, the course looks at the history, objectives, structure, functions, decision-making and membership of the WTO. Thirdly, the WTO's unique system for the resolution of trade disputes is discussed. Fourthly, the principles of non-discrimination in WTO law (namely the obligations of most-favoured-nation treatment and national treatment) are examined. Fifthly, the WTO rules on market access, dealing with tariff barriers and some non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and services are addressed. Finally, the provisions of WTO law that aim to balance trade liberalization with other societal values (such as health, environment and security) by means of exceptions to WTO obligations are discussed.

Course objectives

- To gain a better understanding of the World Trade Organization and its basic legal framework.

Prerequisites

SSC2024 International Law or SSC2060 Comparative Constitutional Law

Recommended reading

- Van den Bossche, P., *The Law and Policy of the World Trade Organization: Text, Cases and Materials*, Third edition (Cambridge University Press, 2013), selected chapters and/or sections only.
- *The Legal Texts - The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations* (Cambridge University Press, 1999, reprinted 2007). The relevant WTO legal texts can also be found on the WTO website.

SSC3054

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [I. Alexovicova](#)

Middle Eastern Politics

Full course description

Middle East is not only a geographical region or location. It is also a politicised and highly contested concept whose representation sometimes overshadows the actual reality. Middle East has always been a subject in political and academical debates thanks to its controversial history, its demography and its major actors; in economic debates due to its natural resources; in security debates due to the wars and conflicts that affect(ed) the whole global structure. It is infamous with some powerful,

undemocratic and repressive political regimes, while at the same time hosting extremely vivid civil societies, record amount of bloggers and online youth activism. It has been an arena where great powers tried to extend their political, ideological and economic ambitions (even their own fights) and intervened almost regularly. For some, the Middle East is a common and generic name for those societies which share the same religion, language, history and culture. For more careful observers, it is an extremely diverse area where various groups speaking different languages and practicing distinct religions for centuries. For critical minds, the Middle East is not an objective and neutral space but a politically constructed concept which is re-produced through certain discourses, representations and practices. In any ways, the Middle East has always been a birth or meeting place of complex combination of significant political, social, cultural, religious, ideational and economic actors, issues and movements. Our purpose in this course is to shed a light on this incredibly interesting and debated region and discuss its historical, economic, social and most importantly political 'realities'. This course will investigate the past and the present of the region. In the beginning, the course will introduce the concept of Middle East, not only as a geographical place but also a cultural, contextual, discursive and political concept. Then the course will cover the history of the region and its ongoing effect on the current developments. In this context, major events, ideas, issues, (external and internal) actors and political movements that have been shaping the Middle East will be introduced. In the remaining time, specific and contemporary issues such as interventions in the 21st century, Arab Spring, Syrian civil war and rising rivalries between regional powers will be introduced and critically analysed.

Course objectives

- To critically investigate and analyse the historical and political processes and actors in the Middle East and their impacts on the contemporary economic, social, cultural and political landscape in the region.
- To assess the effect of the local, regional and global power relations and rivalries in the Middle Eastern states and societies. To look critically into the role of these relationships in the 'making' and in the 'representation' of Middle East.
- To understand several significant historical issues, actors, ruptures, critical turning points and transformatory processes in the region.
- Linking these historical processes to the study of Middle East today and trying to make sense of contemporary events, conflicts, actors and issues in the Middle East.
- To explore the role of bottom-up and top-down processes, discourses, subjectivities and identities; to bring sub-altern, hidden, silenced, invisible and irrelevant to the surface.

Prerequisites

SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories

Recommended

COR1003 Contemporary World History

Recommended reading

- E-readers, selected texts
- Visual and online resources

SSC3008

University College Maastricht

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [B. Erdogan](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

The Social Study of Environmental Problems: Between Nature, Society and Politics

Full course description

Environmental problems such as chemical pollution, global warming, acid rain or species loss are both material effects of the human interaction with nature and nexuses of social practice and political contestation. This course probes the entanglements of nature, society, and politics through which the environment is formed, experienced, problematized, interpreted, and contested, and governed in different socio-cultural contexts. It helps students to develop a critical perspective on the dominant patterns of industrial production and consumption, and to ask how our societies can be made more sustainable. The course draws on insights from environmental history, environmental sociology, science and technology studies, sustainability studies, and recent debates on the "Anthropocene". Thereby, it seeks to complement the fact-oriented perspective of the natural sciences with a reflective understanding of the politics through which our knowledge (and non-knowledge) of the environment is formed. The course is structured in four sections. The first three each focus on one core domain of nature-society-politics: the risks of industrial production; biodiversity and land; global climate change. The final section reflects on how we can move from these insights towards a comprehensive understanding and transformative politics of the Anthropocene.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to central themes and concepts in the interdisciplinary social study of the environment.
- Enables students to engage in normative reflection and valuation of major socio-ecological challenges.

SSC3006

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [J.D. Lachmund](#)

Social Studies of Finance: The Making (and Taking) of Value in the Financialization of Our Lives

Full course description

What is financial value, and what is the value of finance? In this course we will evaluate the global reach and local impacts of our current financial system, including the financialization of more and more aspects of our everyday lives like housing, education, work, medical care, retirement, and even art. From a variety of perspectives, we will learn about the histories, practices and theories behind the crises-struck but seemingly inevitable rise of finance into the 21st century. The way we know about money and finance today is changing. In fact, a global economic crisis has become a crisis of orthodox Economics. But, what exactly is a crisis, and who decides? In November 2008, only weeks after the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, Queen Elizabeth inaugurated a new building at the London School of Economics. Referring to "the financial crisis", she asked the professors: "Why did nobody notice it?" In a written reply, the scholars explained that the reason "was principally a failure of the collective imagination of many bright people, both in this country and internationally, to understand the risks to the system as a whole." This course introduces attempts to re-imagine our knowledge of money and finance by many "other" bright people, among which anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, historians, philosophers, artists, and even some economists. We will discuss contested notions of public and private ownership, debt and investment, speculation, risk and uncertainty, as well as regulation and taxation. Instead of dealing with business cases, the course explores different fields of finance ethnographically, providing glimpses of the worlds of central banking, corporate- and shadow banking, private wealth management, and new digital financial technologies also known as "fintech". Based on these examples, we will consider the meanings of financial vocabularies (e.g. those of collateral and leverage), as well as the legal codes of financial derivatives (such as credit default swaps). We will analyze capitalist ethics of growth and financial profitability, as well as the ideals and rhetoric of trust and transparency that often clash with opaque realities of corruption and fraud. Projecting the dominant temporalities and politics of finance against an urgent backdrop of global humanitarian and ecological crises, we will learn that price is not to be equated with value(s). But how do the values of finance affect us today, and what are the prices we are willing to pay for the failures of its imagined futures?

Course objectives

- To introduce histories and theories of money and finance
- To critically analyze practices of finance and financialization
- To relate social studies of finance to current issues

SSC2070

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [C. Rausch](#)

Introduction to Business Administration

Full course description

Business administration studies economic problems within the firm and relates to problems in the fields of marketing and logistics, finance, accounting and information management and organization and strategy. Business administration aims to provide an integrated view of all the various (sub) disciplines. This course introduces students in the various topics that are related to business administration so that students have basic knowledge for the more specialized courses in marketing, organization, finance, strategy, supply chain management and accounting. The course will be centered around a real-life management simulation: Market Place live.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to topics in business administration. In addition, the course prepares students for courses in marketing, organization, finance, strategy, supply chain management and accounting.

SSC1030

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [P.W.L. Bollen](#)

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Full course description

In this course we discuss how national income, employment, and prices are determined. We study long-run economic growth as well as short-run fluctuations in economic activity, unemployment, and inflation. We then analyse tools of fiscal and monetary policies. Throughout this course economic data is tightly woven into the discussion of economic theory. By the end of this course we are able to critically assess and contribute to discussions on current economic issues and give an educated assessment on economic commentary, analyses, or policy proposals (for example in publications such as the The Wall Street Journal or The Economist).

Course objectives

- Introduce students to an intermediate level of macroeconomics by linking theory, data, and current policy debates.
- Provide students with theory-based arguments required to understand relevant macroeconomic issues in academic and policy discourse.

SSC2007

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

University College Maastricht

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [L.M. Lieb](#)

Public Economics

Full course description

Public economics (or public finance) is the study of the role of government in the economy. It deals with the formulation, execution, and effects of government policy, or more generally with non-market mediated policies. This study involves answering the following four broad questions: When should the government intervene in the economy? How might the government intervene? What is the effect of those interventions on economic outcomes? Why do governments choose to intervene in the way that they do? The government differs from other organizations because it can use legal instruments to enact policies and may also have different goals than other actors in the economy. The typical allocation mechanism for scarce resources in markets is the price mechanism, which – under particular circumstances – aggregates information and preferences of many different individuals in an efficient way. If these assumptions are not met or Pareto efficiency alone is not a sufficient criterion since a particular allocation is "unfair", there might be room for intervention by the public sector. We will discuss arguments for when government intervention is warranted and whether such intervention is beneficial. This course provides basic knowledge of the functioning and the relevance of the public sector. The topics include (i) market failures such as incomplete information, public goods, and externalities, (ii) issues with fairness, inequality, poverty, redistribution, and taxation, and (iii) political decision-making and elections. These topics will be analyzed from a normative (welfare economic) as well as from a positive (explanatory) perspective, with emphasis on the relevance and limitation of traditional economic theory. After the course, you should be able to reflect and recognize the strength but also some of the limitations of traditional economic theory and interpret some basic empirical evidence. You should also be able to critically assess political and economic discussions pertaining to the public sector.

Course objectives

- Acquire a structured insight into the important function of the state in modern market economies.
- Learn about the functioning and performance of the state and its interactions with markets.
- Understand and critically reflect upon recent developments and discussions concerning issues of the public sector like inequality, taxation, or climate protection.

SSC3009

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M.R. Löffler](#)

Corporate Finance: Behavioural Foundations A Touch of Responsible Investments and Behavioral Economics

Full course description

Today's business environment is more complicated than ever. This is illustrated by the recent financial crisis and its aftermath and emerging topics like climate change and corporate social responsibility increasingly affecting corporate decision making. The field of corporate finance deals with the financing and investment decisions made by the management of companies in the pursuit of shareholder wealth maximization and dealing with the preferences of other stakeholders. This course gives a broad overview of important issues in corporate finance and combines insights from (behavioral) economics and finance. The economic side of corporate finance deals with the maximization of shareholder wealth. Managers aim at securing the greatest possible return in exchange for accepting the smallest amount of risk. For instance, a company can finance itself by borrowing money from banks, by issuing bonds or through issuing equity at the stock market. These types of decisions influence the expected return and risk of the company. Traditional economics assumes that managers and investors are rational, self-interested people. However, there is a large body of evidence from social psychology and behavioral economics that people often act irrationally and behave pro-socially by taking the social impact of (investment) decisions into account. This course also shows how decision making biases managers and investors in their financial decisions and how social preferences of shareholders and stakeholders impact corporate social responsibility. Investors in both equity and debt claims of these companies have (heterogeneous) social preferences. Increasingly, large institutional asset owners such as public pension funds exert pressure on the management of companies with the purpose to increase the governance quality, and the environmental and social performance of their investments. The course is largely based on real-life cases that we discuss in an interactive manner during tutorial groups. Students will debate on topics such as "What amount of risk should companies take?" and "Is it important for firms to put corporate social responsibility high on their agenda?".

Course objectives

- You get a broad overview of the field of finance.
- You will be able to better understand financial articles in newspapers like the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Economist.
- You will be able to apply your knowledge to understand basic financial information of the firm or institutions you will work for.
- You deepen your knowledge on a specific financial topic of your choice on which you will work for your project.

SSC2009

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [S.T. Jongen](#)

Latin America: History, Politics and Cultures

Full course description

What do you know about Latin America? In broad terms, "Latin America" refers to the countries in the Americas that share a historical experience and language. It is a region of growing economic importance, rapid political and economic change, and significant cultural and geographical diversity. Often, movies and media depict Latin America through stereotypes that resemble the exotism with which this region has been looked at from the western perspective: wilderness, indigenous cultures, warm weather and people, but also authoritarian regimes, corruption, and drug economies. This course intends to challenge stereotypes and provide students with no prior knowledge of Latin American history, culture and politics with an overview of the subcontinent's main social issues. A transversal topic during the course will be the connections between Europe, the US and Latin America, from colonial times to the present. We will begin with an exploration of South American human and physical geography and get a quick glimpse of the region before 1492, the year of the "discovery". We will then search for what these diverse people and cultures have in common by exploring the colonial history and the emergence of independent states during the XIX century. We will also look at the relations between Latin America and the industrialized world during the XX century to understand phenomena such as the military regimes, the re-democratization processes and the struggles for a collective memory through cases such as Chile, Argentina and Peru. Then we will discuss the illegal drug economies and its associated violence in countries such as Colombia and Mexico, and we will discuss issues of poverty, inequality, urbanization and slum formation through the case of Brazil. Finally, (6) we will look at well-known artistic and literary manifestations, and discuss how the history and processes that we analyzed during the course influenced Latin American cultures.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to Latin American history, politics and cultural diversity, and to the most pressing issues within that important region of the world.
- To broaden students' perspective about geographies and histories beyond Europe and the industrialized world, while recognizing the interconnectedness between these histories.

SSC2071

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [S. Carmona Castillo](#)

Extractivism and Environmental Justice in Latin America and the Global South

Full course description

This course will explore development and underdevelopment in Latin America with a focus on

contemporary resource extraction i.e. extractivism. We will analyze these problems from an anthropological perspective by focusing on local and indigenous groups experiences, and exploring the concepts, theories and alternatives coming from Latin American political and intellectual scene itself. We will begin by examining how during the second half of the XX century, "Development" became the buzzword that encompassed state intervention, urbanization projects, foreign aid and investments, and intellectual contributions such as Dependence Theory. We will focus on the changes associated with Globalization and Neoliberalism after the 1990s and the implications for Latin American local/indigenous groups. We will then examine the boom of natural resource extraction projects, and discuss case studies, debates and environmental controversies in local/indigenous territories. We will then place attention on social movements and activist networks that emerge in these contexts, and finish the course by discussing key concepts such as "post development" "post extractivism" or "Buen Vivir", proposed by Latin American thought as alternatives to "development".

Course objectives

- To gain an understanding of the tensions and dilemmas faced by Latin American societies concerning resource extraction and development.
- To identify the major social and environmental consequences of resource extraction projects such as mining or monocropping, the triggers of conflict, the demands of environmentalists and indigenous movements, and the portrayed solutions.
- To introduce students to Latin American critical theories concerning development and underdevelopment, neoliberalism, and human- nature relations, and to be able to apply concepts learned through the course to other contexts within the global south.

SSC3060

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [S. Carmona Castillo](#)

Contending Perspectives in Economics: The Case of Inequality

Full course description

In recent years, the issue of rising inequality has dominated the media. People's views on inequality are shaped by their perception of the world. Economists are no different. In this course, we will discuss various perspectives in economics such as Neoclassical, Austrian, Marxism, Post Keynesian, (New) Institutionalism and Feminist Economics. We will both focus on these perspectives within the field of economics as a scientific discipline, and on how these perspectives differ in their view on inequality. According to some scholars, inequality is a natural phenomenon in a capitalist market economy. It is a fair reward for higher education and training. Some other scholars disagree with this view. They observe that the sharpest inequality stems from other sources than education, and it is not justified by individual merits alone. Further, they emphasize that inequality in itself has detrimental effects on societies and therefore it should be prevented as much as possible. Finally, some economists see inequality as the result of economic growth and therefore conclude that

increases in societal wealth cannot be attained without inequality. In this course, we will firstly discuss the main elements within each school of thought, how they emerged and how they differ from each other. Secondly, we accompany these discussions with their view and interpretation of inequality. We discuss various perspectives in which inequality can be regarded such as the distribution of income amongst capitalist versus workers, income inequality between various groups in society and the difference between inequality in income versus inequality in wealth. How can we explain differences in society and are these differences persistent? Thirdly, we also touch upon different measures of inequality by using actual data and applying some (simple) indicators. This all will be discussed in tutorial meetings and students will work on (group) papers. We will present and discuss these papers for which we also include peer feedback

Course objectives

- To provide students with basic insights into the main contending perspectives in economics.
- To acquaint students with various views of inequality and how inequality can be measured.
- To familiarize students with discussions on inequality and how scholars from different economic perspectives can be linked to these discussions

SSC2010

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [H.H.M. Meijers](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

International Economic Relations: the Case of Europe

Full course description

In this course we investigate international economic relations, with a particular focus on the European Union (EU) and the euro area (EA). We discuss channels through which nations are economically connected. This involves analyzing the dynamics of international markets for products and services, labor and finance and the importance of the underlying institutional designs. We study the underlying economic theory and the way such insights have been translated into the institutional arrangements of the European Union. We discuss how effects of macroeconomic policies are transmitted from country to country through these channels and how fiscal and monetary policies can/should be coordinated to contribute to fostering economic integration. We pay attention both to the intra-European dynamics and the relation of Europe with the rest of the world.

Course objectives

- To be able to understand and analyze the institutional design of EU and EA and its role in cross country economic relations.
- To understand theories of economic and financial integration and apply these to understand cross-country dynamics within the EU/EA and between the EU/EA and the rest of the world.
- To understand and use the role and impact of macroeconomic policies on economic and financial integration.

University College Maastricht

SSC3034

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [C.J.M. Kool](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

European Integration: History and Theory

Full course description

This course analyses European integration from the late 1940s until today. In a chronological order, it introduces students to themes such as security, economic integration and enlargement that continue to influence European integration in the present. In parallel, it also provides an overview of the main theories explaining (aspects of) European integration related to these themes, including 'big theories' such as neofunctionalism and neorealism, but also theories dealing with issues such as democratic legitimacy and the EU's normative power. While firmly based in history, the sessions continuously will seek to also reflect on the relation between past processes and current developments, such as Brexit or the Rule of law crisis, as they are unfolding. The course closes with a critical discussion on the main challenges European integration is faced with today and the views developed for its future development.

Course objectives

- To provide students with an in-depth understanding of the developments in European integration during the 20th century.
- To introduce students to the main theories and concepts in the field of European integration.
- To critically examine the way the European Union operates in the 21st century as well as to discuss the problems and challenges it currently faces.

SSC2011

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [C.W. van Leeuwen](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Concentration: Humanities

Narrative Media

Full course description

The first part of the course introduces main concepts from narratology, such as story, discourse, authorship, and narration. In addition, students will learn the differences between a structuralist and a postclassical approach to narratology.

During the second part of the course, narrativity in different media will be subject of investigation. We ask how different media construct stories and to what extent these stories are medium-specific. The media under study are the short story, the fixed image and series of images, comics, film, hyperfiction and digital games. For students with particular interest in literature, the *Handbook of Narrative Analysis* (2005) will be most instructive, while *Narrative across Media* will be most useful to students who are more oriented towards other media. We will read chapters from both books in this course as well as other literature that addresses the narrativity of media.

The final essay has to show that students are able to apply the methods introduced during the course to a case study they are free to choose. Examples are the novel *House of Leaves*, the short story collection *Olive Kitteridge*, the comic *Deadpool* and its film adaptation, the graphic novel *Persepolis*, the film *5x2*, and the game *L.A. Noire*. As this is a course in the humanities, an approach to storytelling from the social sciences or psychology is only possible in comparison to methods from the humanities.

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with the methods of narratology (the study of storytelling) and important theories revolving around narratology.
- To analyze different media such as literature, paintings, photographs, comics, film, film music, digital literature and computer games.

Prerequisites

At least two 2000-level courses in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Recommended reading

The following handbooks are the most crucial:

- Herman, L. and Vervaeck, B. (2005). *Handbook of Narrative Analysis*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Ryan, M.-L. (2004). *Narrative across Media*. Lincoln, London: University of Nebraska Press.

University College Maastricht

We will also make use of excerpts from other sources, such as:

- Hutcheon, L. with S. O’Flynn (2013). *A Theory of Adaptation* (second edition). New York: Routledge.
- McCloud, S. (1993). *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. New York: HarperCollins.
- Ryan, M.-L. (eds.). *Intermediality and Storytelling*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Verstraten, P. (2009). *Film Narratology*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

HUM3036

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.S. Ausmeier](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Introduction to Philosophy

Full course description

One of the greatest and most influential Ancient philosophers, Aristotle of Stageira (384-322 BC) once remarked, “Wonder is the beginning of philosophy”. What he was referring to is our habit of asking fundamental questions about our every-day life, such as, “Suppose I am certain that I am right about something, what is that certainty based upon?”; “Suppose I am engaged in a discussion with someone (for example about some controversial matter), what can objectively guarantee the stringency of my argument?” Thinking about and discussing such questions will force us to reconsider the things we have always taken for granted. And ultimately they will lead us to more fundamental questions about the proper nature of Truth and Knowledge as such.

Assignments during the course include the following: the nature of philosophical enquiry, problems of knowledge and truth (including the understanding and evaluation of arguments), ethics.

Course objectives

- To teach students how to “think philosophically”.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Blackburn, S. (1999). *Think. A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Blackburn, S. (2001). *Being Good*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Horner, C., & Westacott, E. (2000). *Thinking through Philosophy. An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

HUM1007

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [R.H. Gabriels](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Written exam

Cultural Diversity in a Globalizing World

Full course description

What is cultural diversity; when and where does cultural diversity become salient? This course focuses on cultural difference and identity in an era in which the nation seems to lose its unifying significance in matters of personal identity and group identity formation. It seeks to analyze how globalization influences identity and culture and the ways in which these interact with social differences, gender, ethnicity, religion and nationality. Its orientation is both practical and theoretical. Students will get acquainted with different theories of globalization and culture such as Hybridization (Nederveen Pieterse), McDonaldization (Ritzer), or the Clash of Civilizations (Huntington), concepts such as Orientalism (Said), Occidentalism (Margalit and Buruma), and Multiculturalism. Throughout the course theoretical discussions are linked to real life, actual and sometimes pressing practical debates and examples such as multicultural dilemmas, national identity formation, fundamentalist terrorism, and migration.

Themes: Cultural Diversity; Gender and Ethnicity; National Identity; Multiculturalism; Orientalism; Occidentalism; Fundamentalism.

Disciplinary perspectives: Cultural Studies, Migration Studies, Gender and Diversity Studies, Sociology

Course objectives

- To teach students to reflect upon issues of globalization and cultural diversity from several

disciplinary perspectives and connect these issues with their major field of academic study.

Prerequisites

At least one Humanities course.

Recommended

HUM1003 Cultural Studies I, HUM2031 Cultural Studies II or SSC2046 Globalization and Inequality.

Recommended reading

- E-reader.

HUM2018

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [F.A.N. Hamadah](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Ancient Philosophy

Full course description

Why would anyone choose to study philosophers who lived and wrote (more than) two millennia ago? One obvious answer is: to learn about one's roots; to better understand Western culture and heritage. Up to this day, the ancient Greeks and Romans constitute a major influence on our ideas about critical thinking, about the fundamental character of Reality, about Science, Ethics, and Art, and last not least: about what it is to be human and about what it means for humans to flourish, to live truly good lives. Ancient philosophy provides an inexhaustible source of inspiration for contemporary philosophy. "The European philosophical tradition", the philosopher Whitehead once remarked, "consists in a series of footnotes to Plato". Slightly overstated, but not untrue.

In this course we will return to the sources and study the texts that helped us become who we are today. We will study a range of canonical philosophical texts from Antiquity, ranging from the Ionian Philosophers of Nature to Aristotle. Although we will attempt to position these treatises in their historical and geographic contexts, our main concern will be: what have these ancient thinkers still to say to us today?

University College Maastricht

One warning: even if you have some prior knowledge of ancient Greek philosophy, that doesn't make this an easy course. Only choose this course if you are genuinely interested in reading ancient philosophical texts that do not always yield their secrets easily.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a basic introduction to ancient Greek philosophy;
- To teach students how to explore the meaning of philosophical texts by situating them in their historical contexts;
- To explore how our culture, and we as part of it, has been shaped by these ancient thinkers.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy.

Recommended reading

Required

- Copleston, F.C. (1993 [1962]). A History of Philosophy. Vol. I: Greece and Rome: From the Pre-Socratics to Plotinus (rev. ed.). New York, etc.: Image.
- Guthrie, W.K.C. (2013 [1950]). The Greek Philosophers from Thales to Aristotle. Abingdon and New York, NY: Routledge Classics. (ISBN: 978-0-415-52228-1)
- Reeve, C.D.C. and P. Lee Miller (eds.) (2006). Introductory readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy. Indianapolis / Cambridge: Hackett.

Recommended:

- Naerebout, Frederick G. & Singor, Henk W. (2014). Antiquity: Greeks and Romans in Context. Chichester, West Sussex / Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

HUM2008

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.S.J.M. Kardaun](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Totalitarian Temptation

Full course description

This course is a history course that will study 20th century totalitarianism over a broad front. Attention is paid to both theories on totalitarianism as on totalitarian movements and regimes during the previous century. All the different variants of totalitarianism will be studied: national socialism in Germany, fascism in Italy, as well as communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Postwar phenomena such as right-wing extremism, populism, and Apartheid in South Africa will be given attention as well. In each case we will see whether and in how far the different forms of totalitarianism can be understood from the perspective of the different theories about it. Special attention is given to the 'politics of memory' - collective remembrance and historical writing - and problems related to political transformation processes in various countries (Germany, Eastern Europe, South Africa).

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the general theories on totalitarianism and familiarize students with various 20th century totalitarian regimes and movements.

Prerequisites

At least two of the following courses : HUM1013 The Idea of Europe: The Intellectual History of Europe, COR1003 Contemporary World History, HUM2007 States and Nations in Europe, from the Middle Ages to the First World War.

Recommended reading

- Todorov, T. (2003). Hope and Memory. Lessons from the Twentieth Century.
- E-Readers.

HUM3019

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [F.L. Laczó](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Literature, Art and Psychology

Full course description

In the first part of the course students will become familiar with the basic elements of psychoanalysis (Freud) and analytical psychology (Jung). Special attention will be paid to depth psychological theories on art and literature.

In the second part we shall read a number of widely diverging depth psychological interpretations of literary texts, such as Sophocles's *Oedipus rex*, Saint-Exupéry's *Le petit prince*, Goncharov's *Oblomov*, Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, several fairy tales, myths, poems, and short stories.

The last part of the course is devoted to some epistemological aspects of depth psychological literary criticism. We will go into three main questions: What types of rules are to be observed when interpreting literary texts? To what extent does depth psychological literary criticism qualify as an academic discipline? And, finally, to what extent do depth psychological theories like psychoanalysis and analytical psychology qualify as academic disciplines?

Course objectives

- To introduce depth psychological literary criticism.
- To help students develop their sensitivity for depth psychological dimensions that works of art and literature may have.
- To provide the means to distinguish adequate literary interpretations from less adequate ones: on what reasonable grounds, if at all, can we decide that one (depth psychological) interpretation of a work of literature does more justice to the text than a competing one?

Prerequisites

SKI2084 Writing in an Academic Context: Improving Argumentation and Style.

Recommended

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy

Recommended reading

- Bruno Bettelheim, *The Uses of Enchantment* (2nd, 1991).
- Umberto Eco, *The Limits of Interpretation* (2nd, 1991).
- Marie-Louise von Franz, *Puer aeternus* (3rd, 2000).
- Sigmund Freud, *Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming* (1908).
- C.G. Jung, *Psychology and Literature* (1930).
- Karl Popper, *Conjectures and Refutations, the Growth of Scientific Knowledge*. London: Routledge. (1963).
- Adolf Grünbaum, *The Foundations of Psychoanalysis. A Philosophical Critique* (1984).

University College Maastricht

HUM3029

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M.S.J.M. Kardaun](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Living in a Technological Culture: Introduction to Science and Technology Studies Part 1

Full course description

While modern culture relies heavily on sophisticated instruments, techniques, and systems, most people think that the actual making of science and technology is the exclusive domain of scientists, inventors, engineers, and technicians: people who are fascinated by “how things work” and “making things work”. Those not directly involved in the design or development of science and technology (“users” or “consumers”) are thought to have little interest in the facts, materials, principles, or procedures found in the world of scientists and technicians. The only thing they seem to care about is the use of the scientific output and technology. However, people who do not spend much thought on the making of science and technology commonly do not merit its use serious reflection either. Once things have been made or discovered, our interaction with them is understood to be a straightforward matter. We pick up our mobile phone, make some funny pictures with it, listen to music, twitter some details about what we do and where we are and chat with our friends. We board an airplane, fly from point A to point B, and then we get off the airplane. Although we are surrounded by the results of scientific endeavor and technologies of various kinds, they have become almost invisible and we take them for granted.

However, we live in a technological culture. Technology and science shape society, from the shaping of mobility patterns and gender and sexual identities, to the standardization of practices in health care. Mobile phones have changed what it means ‘to be alone’; organ transplantation has redefined our understanding of life; ‘scientific planning’ has reshaped our policy-making practices.

Technologies do not merely assist us in our everyday lives; they are also powerful forces acting to reshape our activities and their meanings. There is, vice versa, a cultural influence on science and technology too. Thus we can only hope to understand science and technology when we acknowledge their socio-cultural base. Historical and comparative studies have shown how different socio-cultural circumstances yield very different forms and contents of science and technology. Science and technology are, finally, also cultures themselves.

In this course we will analyze techno-science as a socio-cultural phenomenon. This course offers an introduction to Science and Technology Studies (STS). It will introduce you to the multiple ways in

University College Maastricht

which science and technology, individuals and institutions mutually shape one another to the benefit and sometimes detriment of society. In this course, we take a “critical” approach to science and engineering. By this, we don’t mean being negative about science nor technology. But like a good movie critic, you will think critically but constructive about aspects of science and technology by focusing on different empirical domains such as human enhancement (e.g. Google glasses, Ritalin, Blade runner), disasters [e.g. Fukushima, Hurricane Katerina], the gene revolution (Monsanto) and the politics of artifacts (e.g. park benches, the UCM building and nuclear plants) while using a set of principles and approaches from the field of Science and Technology Studies.

Course objectives

- To provide an introduction into the social studies of science, society and technology.
- To provide a basis for a critical reflection on our high-tech society.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- E-reader and material from the UM Library.

HUM2046

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [J. Mesman](#)

Philosophical Ethics

Full course description

In this course, we explore the field of philosophical ethics. We study the grand narratives in ethics, such as the three leading normative ethical approaches (virtue ethics, utilitarianism, and deontological ethics). We read original texts written by thinkers from the great traditions of philosophy: ancient philosophy, Christian philosophy, modern philosophy, and postmodern philosophy. We discuss Aristotelian virtue ethics, Stoic wisdom, the Christianised life as taught by Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, utilitarianism (Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill), Immanuel Kant’s moral philosophy, the ‘grand style’ of Friedrich Nietzsche, Carol Gilligan her ethics of care, Hans Jonas his ethics for the technological age, and the ‘banality of evil’ by Hannah Arendt. The challenge is to interpret these texts, especially the non-contemporary ones, from the perspective of the authors and their audience. A pitfall that has to be prevented is to read and interpret these texts

University College Maastricht

merely from our own perspective. You are also very much encouraged to read texts in their original language (e.g. Kant; Nietzsche). Also, we encourage you to look for similarities and differences between the texts, concepts, and authors.

Course objectives

- To explore the most important ethical approaches and to gain increased understanding of essential philosophical concepts, theories, and authors.
- To study primary texts of ethics written by the most eminent philosophers of the past millennia.
- To evaluate and discuss cases through the lens of different ethical perspectives.
- To compare and contrast different philosophical concepts, theories, and authors.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

E-reader (KeyLinks University Library)

Ferry, L. (2019, paperback edition, translated from French). *A Brief History of Thought. A Philosophical Guide to Living*. Edinburgh: Canongate Books.

Gottlieb, A. (2016). *The Dream of Reason. A History of Western Philosophy from the Greeks to the Renaissance*. Penguin Book (paperback).

Gottlieb, A. (2017). *The Dream of Enlightenment. The Rise of Modern Philosophy*. Penguin Book (paperback).

Rogers, G. (2012/2018). *21st Century Ethics. An Introduction to Moral Philosophy*. Texas: Simpson & Brook.

Russell, B. (originally 1945). *A History of Western Philosophy*. Simon & Schuster.

Timmons, M. (2013). *Moral Theory. An Introduction (Second Edition)*. Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

HUM2051

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

University College Maastricht

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [K. Gabriels](#)

States and Nations in Europe, from the Middle Ages to the First World War

Full course description

The states and nations as we know them today have not always been around. In fact, they are both products of history, which emerged as a result of specific circumstances. This course analyses the emergence and development of state, nation and nationalism in Europe since the Middle Ages.

In addition, it introduces the students to the development of international relations and diplomacy from the High Middle Ages until the year 1919. As the course proceeds chronologically from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, it provides the students with an overview of European political history.

Course objectives

- To examine nation-building and nationalism in early-modern and modern Europe.
- To discuss the development of “the state” as well as the diversity in state- and nation-building since the Middle Ages.
- To introduce the students to the history of international relations since the fifteenth century until 1919.

Prerequisites

HUM1013 The Idea of Europe: The Intellectual History of Europe or any other 1000-level Humanities course.

Recommended reading

- Craig, G., & George, A.L. (2007). Force and Statecraft. Diplomatic Problems of our Time. (3rd ed.). New York: Oxford UP.
- Opello, W.C., & Rosow, S.J. (2004). The Nation-State and Global Order. A Historical
- Introduction to Contemporary Politics (2nd edition). London: Lynne Rienner.
- Palmer, R.R., and Joel Colton. (1995, 2002, 2006). A History of the Modern World. 8th, 9th, or 10th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- E-reader.

HUM2007

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

- [V.G. Bijman](#)
- [P. del Hierro](#)

Media and Technology; Philosophical Perspectives

Full course description

Discussions about the changes media and technology bring to culture, and whether these are to be judged good or bad, are as old as philosophy itself. Examining the ideas of Plato, Kierkegaard, and Marx we will see how these debates have evolved over the centuries. With the development and spread of media and technology in the 20th and 21st century, debates about the relationship between the social and the technical have intensified and so it has become necessary to consider a variety of approaches to this relationship.

In this course, we will concentrate on a number of philosophical approaches that help us understand the relationship between media and technology and our lived experience. We will discuss media theory (McLuhan, Innis, Kittler) and discuss whether specific technologies and media, like writing and print, provoke structural changes in patterns of thought, action and experience. We will also deal with the critical philosophies of technology in the Marxist tradition (Marcuse; Feenberg), the hermeneutic tradition (Heidegger; Ihde) and the feminist tradition (Cockburn) as well as contemporary debates about speed, ethics, labour, and non-Western ideas about technology. These topics encourage us to think about how, to paraphrase the historian Melvin Kranzberg, media and technology are neither good nor bad nor are they neutral. Across these philosophical approaches we will also consider a variety of different media and technical artifacts, including AI, health care technologies, files, the alphabet, and education.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to a number of central themes in the philosophy of media and technology.
- To investigate what is at stake in different philosophical methodologies and approaches to media and technology

Prerequisites

At least one 2000-level Humanities course

Recommended reading

- Readers in Reading Room.
- Books in Reading Room
- Online sources

University College Maastricht

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [D.E. Meacham](#)
- [T. Viola](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Take home exam

Cultural Studies II: Visual Cultures

Full course description

This course will explore the variety of visual cultures and the theoretical insights garnered by the study of this interdisciplinary field. Straddling cultural studies, art history, museum studies, media studies, performance studies, literary studies, and science studies, the field of visual culture at its most expansive combines theories and methods from across the academy. We will investigate visual cultures from these exciting and challenging (inter)disciplinary perspectives.

The course presents visual culture as a ubiquitous facet of modern life that perhaps more than any other component shapes and informs our understanding of self, society, and the world. Hence, it demands our careful attention and critical parsing of its workings at all levels of daily life. Our foray into the field will include examining the benefits of this inclusive mode of analysis, for instance in the range of objects available for study, as well as the drawbacks, particularly in terms of methodological rigor and the overinvestment in ocularcentric forms of knowledge. The student will be invited to scrutinize their disciplinary assumptions, to develop their toolbox of concepts, and to analyse objects that are rarely considered inside the university.

Starting with an introduction to visual culture, we'll investigate the terms vision, visibility, and image in conjunction with varying conceptualizations of culture. Each subsequent unit will deal with a "site" of visual culture that offers an object of study, a theoretical problem, and an interdisciplinary opportunity. We will study visual cultures from high to low, and examine how these forms are quickly transforming and breaking barriers of category and genre. The principle sites of inquiry traverse fashion, gaming, museum exhibitions, medical imaging, comics, and cinema. The methods from visual culture studies we will experiment with include cultural materialism, psychoanalysis, semiotics, poststructuralism, narratology, phenomenology, affect theory, feminism and cultural analysis.

Course objectives

- To understand the way in which visual culture is conceptualized in relation to its disciplinary, historical, and theoretical context.
- To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theories of visual culture.
- To select the appropriate theor(ies) and methodological tool(s) for analysis that best suits the

University College Maastricht

material and argument.

- To communicate the way in which different approaches to visual culture mobilize disciplinary points of view using specialized terms.
- To demonstrate awareness of the larger social, political, and sexual issues involved in the academic study of visual culture as it relates to the body/subjectivity.
- To recognize the interdisciplinary nature of visual culture in its historical and contemporary overlap with scientific, artistic, and economic imaginaries.

Prerequisites

At least one Humanities course.

Recommended reading

- E-reader.
- Nicholas Mirzoeff (2009). *An Introduction to Visual Culture* (second edition). London, Routledge.
- Nicholas Mirzoeff (2012). *The Visual Culture Reader* (second edition). London, Routledge.

HUM2031

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [R.S. Ausmeier](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Presentation, Written exam, Take home exam

Cultural Memory and the Politics of Visualizing the Past

Full course description

In the course “Cultural memory and the politics of visualizing the past,” students will learn to become aware of how what is considered ‘past’ has been filtered through structures of power. Which voices, sources, events and people are remembered, and which are lost to oblivion, is a highly political question. We will explore how aesthetic and artistic narrations of history speak to counter-archives of memory, including the afterlife of slavery, embodied trauma, and legacies of crisis such as with AIDS. Our interest will be in reading along with scholars who have developed methods for grasping deposits of marginalized lived experience through listening to images (Campt), contrapuntal reading (Said), unlearning imperialism (Azoulay), wake work (Sharpe), reading queer ephemera (Muñoz), and distilling structures of feeling (Williams) such as feeling brown and down, queer and backwards. We will apply these methods to cases of diary writing, poetry, performance, painting, music, photography, and scraps of archival records.

Some of the examples of cultural memory work we will encounter include:

- Juliette Singh, *No Archive can Restore You*. Punctum Books, 2018
- Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward lives, beautiful experiments: Intimate histories of riotous Black girls, troublesome women, and queer radicals*. WW Norton & Company, 2019.
- Eliis Martin and Zach Ozma, eds. *We Both Laughed in Pleasure: The Selected Diaries of Lou Sullivan (1961-1991)*. Nightboat, 2019.
- Tourmaline and Sasha Wortzel, dirs. *Happy Birthday, Marsha!*, Frameline, 2018.
- Morgan M. Page, *One from the Vaults: A Trans History Podcast*, SoundCloud, 2017-present.
- NourbeSe Philip, *Zong!* Wesleyan University Press, 2008.
- Koleke Putuma, *Collective Amnesia*. Cape Town: uHlanga, 2017
- Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*. Minneapolis: Grey Wolf Press, 2014.
- Morrigan Phillips, "The Long Memory," in *Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements*, eds. Adrienne Maree Brown and Walidah Imarisha. Oakland: AK Press, 2015, pp. 57-78.
- *Crip Camp (2020)* Directed by James Lebrecht, Nicole Newnham. Available via Netflix or for free here. <https://youtu.be/OFS8SpwioZ4>

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with theoretical approaches and methodological components within cultural memory studies concerned with minoritarian groups and affect/emotion: e.g. Nora, Stoler, Trouillot, Said, Azoulay, Sharpe, Hartman, Muñoz, Mbembe, Campt, Arondekar.
- To provide students with an introduction into archives (theory) and memory, especially in relation to power.
- To introduce students to the (political) debate and the post-colonial dimension around the paradigms of archive and repertoire as concepts of cultural memory, and the queer dimension of ephemera and evidence as concepts of historical scholarship
- To introduce students to conceptual analysis and provide them with the necessary analytical skills.
- To enable students to identify and analyze the role of race, sexuality, gender, ability in constructions of cultural remembrance (related to imperialism, heterosexism, cisgenderism, ableism)
- To analyze debates connected to contested memorial monuments, literature and the arts

Prerequisites

HUM1003 Cultural Studies I or HUM2003 The Making of Crucial Differences, and some knowledge/interest in close reading of literary and/or visual texts

HUM2056

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [E.A. Steinbock](#)

University College Maastricht

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Presentation

Medical Humanities: Bodies & Minds, Histories of the Normal and the Pathological

Full course description

Medical humanities acknowledge that instead of being fixed entities, health and illness are constantly changing, ambiguous phenomena. What is called healthy (sane) or ill (insane) depends indeed on a large variety of issues and dynamics: cultural, socio-economical, and religious aspects; moral system; legal system; science; technology; art and media etc. This course approaches the question of health and illness through a philosophical, anthropological and sociological exploration of “bodies” and “minds”. Through a historical and cross-cultural perspective it will discuss various concepts of body and mind. We will discuss how and why some bodies and minds are considered as normal and others as abnormal or pathological. For this we will draw on scientific, social, cultural and economic contexts, but also on how bodies and minds are represented in art and (popular) culture. Cases include cosmetic surgery; the modern hospital; boxing in the ghetto; organ transplantation; depression; menopause; prostheses in Paralympic athletes; medical imaging technologies; the war on cancer; depression.

Course objectives

- To gain knowledge of different influential conceptions of ‘body’ and ‘mind’, ‘healthy’ and ‘sick’, ‘normal’ and ‘pathological’, ‘regular’ and ‘deviant’.
- To gain understanding of how cultural, social, economic, legal, scientific and religious contexts play a role in the construction and consequences of these distinctions.

Prerequisites

NB: This course is highly interdisciplinary (philosophy, history, cultural studies, medical anthropology & sociology, several branches of medicine). It is situated at the crossroads of Social Sciences, Humanities and Science.

Prerequisite

COR1002 philosophy of science

Recommended reading

- E-Reader. (Articles that are not included in the E-Reader will be made available for photocopying during the course). A book on a special topic in this field, selected by you from a list offered.

HUM3051

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

- [J. Slatman](#)
- [M.T. Brancaccio](#)

Acts of Literature: The Role of Prose, Poetry and Plays in a Changing World

Full course description

As stated in Eleonora Belfiore's and Oliver Bennett's *The social impact of the arts: An intellectual history* (2008) the question of what the function of literature could be - or should be - produced from Aristotle on many answers that could roughly be grouped under the following overarching concepts: **catharsis** (emotional, didactical, or intellectual), **personal well-being** (literature as therapy, play, or experience), **education and self-development** (basically the humanist's view of literature as, in Stephen Spender's words, 'central medium for the realization of man's search for significance in life'), **moral improvement and civilization** (French Enlightenment, Kant, Martha Nussbaum), **political instrument** (Brecht, social realism, nazi and fascist literature, feminist, postcolonial, and minority literature, often also in the sense of the unmasking of literature as vehicles for accepting hierarchies in society: Orwell, Foucault, Said, Judith Butler, the Frankfurt School), **social stratification** (Weber, Simmel, Bourdieu), and the **rejection** of any of these functions (Kant again, *l'art pour l'art*). However, the starting point of the course is the notion that literature exists only in the readings given to it: literature has no existence outside these readings. The work of literature is an **event** or, from the reader's position, an **experience**, both set in a particular **culture** that is made up by habits, norms, values, representations, beliefs, expectations, and prejudices. With the recent merging of literature's functions of education and moral improvement in mind (e.g. for the benefit of democracy, see Martha Nussbaum's work), the main challenge of the course is trying to find out in what way the ethical and political demand made by a literary work is to be found in what makes it literature, as an event and as an experience, rather than in properties it shares with other discourses, such as historical writing, biographies, and journalistic work. In other words: what is it that makes acts of literature in society **literary acts**?

Course objectives

The main aims of this course are:

- To acquaint the students with the history of ideas on possible functions of literature.
- To familiarize the students with the notion of the work of literature as an event and as an experience
- To introduce students to periods of societal change in western and non-western societies and the role of literature played in it.

University College Maastricht

- To provide the students with analytical tools for contextualizing (historicizing, situating, comparing) the case studies in the course.
- To teach the students to present their own case studies as possible contributions to the course of the next year's edition.

Prerequisites

At least one relevant 2000-level course in the Humanities or at least one relevant 2000-level course in the Social Sciences.

HUM3043

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [J.H. de Roder](#)

Enlightenment and Romanticism

Full course description

The debate between Enlightenment and Romanticism has an enduring impact on discussions of today in art, politics, science, human identity and social values. We can hardly understand the Western world without knowledge of these two decisive periods. This course is a systematical introduction to these two, formative, opposed intellectual traditions.

First, a historical context will be presented to the political and ideological ambitions of the Enlightenment (enlightened despotism, Voltaire at the court of Frederick the Great, censorship and the diffusion of the Enlightenment).

Secondly the opposed approach to 'Nature' will be introduced; the influence of Newton, the rise of modern science, the Encyclopédie vs. Romantic science (e.g. Goethe's criticism on Newton's Theory of Colour) and the role of the arts in the new approach to Nature (such as landscape painting and romantic poetry).

Then, the changes in the visual arts will illustrate continuity and discontinuity in cultural history (Romanticism and Neo-Classicism).

In the fourth place human subjectivity in the Enlightenment (based on Lockean psychology and Self-love) will be confronted to new approaches to the romantic soul (the unconsciousness, irrationality, Weltschmerz). This will also be discussed with an analysis of the classic movie *Dangerous Liaisons* (Stephen Frears, 1988).

Finally, discussions about morals and politics will be presented (Rousseau, the Social Contract, the slogans of the French Revolution vs. Romantic values concerning the State and personal relationships like love and friendship, nationalism).

Course objectives

- To provide students with a historical and philosophical introduction to Enlightenment and Romanticism.
- To understand these periods as opposed worldviews in social, philosophical, scientific and political perspective.
- To learn how much our life and culture is structured by enlightened and romantic views and values; our obsession with authenticity, nationalism, our attitude to science and technology, belief in democracy, our emotional life, personal relationships like love and friendship, the importance of Nature, universal human (and animal) rights, etc.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Dorinda Outram, *The Enlightenment*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge/New York 2011.
- Norman Hampson, *The Enlightenment*. An evaluation of its assumptions, attitudes and values. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth 1990.
- Maurice Cranston, *The Romantic Movement*. Blackwell, Oxford/Cambridge (Mass.) 1995.

HUM2005

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [F.M. Doorman](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam

Crucial Differences in the 21st Century

Full course description

This course considers a variety of contemporary configurations of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, age, religion, and other categories of difference. You will learn to examine the way in which these 'crucial differences' are constituted in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century, as well as to analyze the ways in which they function on social, cultural, political, and symbolic levels. The emergence of the various social movements during the 1960s and 1970s, such as the women's movement, the civil rights movement, and gay and lesbian liberation, and their lasting impact on society today, serves as a starting point of the course. We will examine how these diverse movements have shaped and reshaped the form and content of the identity of various minority groups on individual and collective levels. Special attention will be directed to the notion of intersectionality, which refers to the interaction between multiple categories of difference in cultural, social and individual practices, and the effects of these interactions in terms of power and inequality.

Subsequently, we will take a closer look at the complexity of such multiple differences and inequalities by tracing the entangled workings of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, class, age, and religion through a variety of topical cases. We will look at the way in which such categories realign in various contexts of crisis and conflict, ranging from the late twentieth century wars in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia to the complex force-fields of (neo-)nationalism, populism, and xenophobia today. We will examine the rapidly shifting status of the human body in technologically advanced societies, zooming in, for example, on the role of cosmetic surgery as a 'technology' of gender, race, and class. We will theorize and analyze the complex relations between norms of gender and sexuality in the structuring of contemporary performances of identity in a variety of social, cultural, and institutional environments. We will critically examine contemporary constructions of whiteness and the role of race in the construction of national identity. We will direct special attention to the emergence of sexual nationalisms across and beyond Europe today, focussing on the prominent place that women's sexual liberation and gay rights occupy in contemporary debates about Islam and multicultural citizenship.

As these cases indicate, the course draws on a variety of geographical and cultural locations and contexts. Diversity is also exemplified in the interdisciplinarity that characterizes gender and diversity studies as a scholarly field. The texts used in this course draw on theories and methods from disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies, as well as from the fields of feminist theory, postcolonial theory, and queer studies. Through critical inquiry into concrete cases as well as major texts - including modern classics in the field such as Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* and Joan Scott's *The Politics of the Veil* - this course dynamically re-conceptualizes the intersections between the various 'crucial differences' by examining the multiple ways in which processes of identity and difference, inclusion and exclusion, equality and inequality are produced and reproduced in ongoing flows of negotiation and transformation.

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course students are able:

- To examine how contemporary configurations of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and other 'crucial differences' structure contemporary cultural discourses and practices, as well as social and individual identities and institutions.
- To identify and take part in topical academic and societal debates within contemporary gender and diversity studies.
- To explain how multiple identities and experiences of difference and inequality interact by

adopting intersectionality as a critical theory and method.

- To apply the analytical and critical skills needed to examine the dynamics through which identity and difference, inclusion and exclusion, equality and inequality are continuously produced and reproduced.
- To construct an effective research design for an undergraduate research paper within the field of gender and diversity studies.

Prerequisites

HUM2003 The Making of Crucial Differences (strongly recommended!) or another relevant 2000-level course in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Recommended reading

- E-Readers.

HUM3040

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [L.B.N. van den Hengel](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Distributive Justice in Contemporary Political Philosophy

Full course description

Distributive Justice concerns the morally correct way of distributing the burdens and benefits of social cooperation among citizens. In the wake of the publication of John Rawls's monumental *A Theory of Justice*, there has been an explosion of political philosophizing about this issue, one that continues to

this day. This course will examine the work of some of today's most prominent political philosophers working in the field of justice. In doing so we will study several topics that are related to some of the issues discussed in COR1004 (Political Philosophy). As such the course is designed to be a sequel to

that course, and familiarity with the concepts and authors discussed in that course is presumed.

Having said that, this course is distinctive in several respects. First of all, the course will strictly focus on debates within academia, rather than hot political debates within the wider community.

University College Maastricht

Secondly, the course will exclusively use original primary texts, i.e. original scientific articles and book chapters. Thirdly, the course will be particularly concerned with the construction and evaluation of the minutia of argument. We will be looking at the strengths and weakness of the arguments presented for certain ethical claims and positions, with the aim of figuring out whether we agree with them, and to determine what our own conception of justice is.

Course objectives

- To examine some recent developments in political philosophy in the field of distributive justice.
- To engage with the work of today's leading political philosophers in this field and critically evaluate their arguments.
- To discover one's preferred conception of justice.

Prerequisites

COR1004 Political Philosophy

Recommended

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy and/or HUM2051 Philosophical Ethics.

- [Political Philosophy](#)

Recommended reading

- E-Readers containing contemporary papers and chapters.

HUM3045

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [T.J. Dekker](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Cultural Studies I: Doing Cultural Studies

Full course description

Cultural Studies is a wide-ranging interdisciplinary inquiry into the ways in which contemporary culture, especially popular culture, operates and functions. It explores how cultural processes and artefacts are produced, distributed, and consumed, and traces the diverse ways in which people shape and transform culture particularly in relation to issues of identity, difference, and power. In contrast to more traditional approaches to culture, Cultural Studies focuses not merely on 'elevated' cultural objects such as 'great' works of art and literature, but also - and primarily - deals with more mundane cultural phenomena. Addressing topics that range from fashion advertisements to Facebook, and from the iPhone to Lady Gaga, Cultural Studies zooms in on seemingly familiar, yet highly complex, practices of everyday life.

This course introduces you to the key thinkers, topics, and critical frameworks in Cultural Studies. It starts with some of the foundational texts and formative debates within the field, most notably the work of Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, Walter Benjamin, and Stuart Hall, associated with the Frankfurt School and Birmingham School respectively. Subsequently, we will take a closer look at several topical debates and conceptual approaches within contemporary Cultural Studies. We will address themes such as consumer culture, advertising, and social networks; the power and politics of representation; material culture and identity; cultural performances of gender; and the transnational cultural flows of globalization. By reading the work of major theorists such as Zygmunt Bauman, Henry Giroux, and Joanna Zylinska, you will familiarize yourself with a variety of critical approaches to cultural theory. Lastly, by looking at the interrelated topics of posthumanism, art, and technoscience, the final tasks of the course will explore some of the most stirring debates within Cultural Studies today, setting out new directions for the future development of the field.

Course objectives

- To introduce students to the foundational texts and formative debates that have shaped Cultural Studies as an academic field of inquiry.
- To familiarize students with key concepts, themes, and topical debates within contemporary Cultural Studies.
- To introduce students to some of the central theoretical approaches within Cultural Studies, including critical theory, semiotics, material culture studies, gender theory, and critical posthumanism.
- To provide students with the analytical skills to develop their own examination of cultural objects and processes.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- E-Readers. (Articles that are not included in the E-Reader will be made available for photocopying during the course).

HUM1003

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

University College Maastricht

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C. Höne](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Medieval Civilization: Making the Middle Ages Relevant

Full course description

The Middle Ages are often seen as a grim period in European history, riddled with famine, disease, warfare and intellectual stagnation. From the 'Dark Ages' of the Early Middle Ages to the calamitous 14th century -when the Great Famine, the Hundred Years' War and the Black Death consecutively wreaked havoc on Europe- the Medieval period seems like an alien, hazardous world that is of little relevance for today's world. Yet the Middle Ages also gave us some of the most impressive feats of human engineering as well as timeless works of art and literature. More importantly, the Medieval period heralded in momentous societal changes that have shaped contemporary society.

In late 2019 Chris Jones, Conor Kostick and Klaus Oschema published an edited volume titled 'Making the Medieval relevant' in which they stated that the Medieval past informs the present in a myriad of ways. This course aims to do exactly that, make the Middle Ages relevant by drawing parallels between modern day societal, economic and political occurrences and the Medieval past. The closing topic of the course will be 'modern reflections on Medieval pandemics' in which we will discuss societal and cultural parallels between the Black Death and the Corona pandemic.

During the middle of the course, students will also be given a chance to explore Medieval Maastricht and get a behind-the-scenes view of some Medieval artefacts and documents.

Course objectives

The goal of this course is to introduce students to Medieval history and to teach them how to use the Middle Ages as a tool to reflect on societal, cultural and socio-economic events in contemporary society. The course aims to do so by focusing on a number of themes/topics, such as:

- The (mis)use of medieval themes and imagery in modern society
- Carnival and popular culture in The Middle Ages
- Modern reflections on Medieval pandemics
- The Medieval city
- Minorities and prosecution in the Middle Ages

Prerequisites

Any course in history or sociology, including COR1003 Contemporary World History or SSC1003/SSC2065 Theories of Social Order, or substantial high school knowledge in history.

Recommended reading

- Rubin, M. (2014). *The Middle Ages: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP Oxford.
- Jones, C., Kostick, C., & Oschema, K. (Eds.). (2019). *Making the Medieval Relevant: How Medieval Studies Contribute to Improving Our Understanding of the Present (Vol. 6)*. Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG.

HUM2021

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [J. Roosen](#)

Teaching methods:

Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam

World History

Full course description

Flowing from this objective, the course deals with the over all history of mankind, and a number of the decisive transformations involved in that history.

What sort of creatures are we? How have we evolved from and lived before we became homo sapiens? What sort of animals are our ancestors?

Important topics nearer in time are the agricultural and industrial revolutions. The agricultural or neolithic revolution has changed us and the world permanently. In a relatively brief period we went from hunting and gathering to tilling the soil and domesticating plants and animals. Why and how did we do this? Since the agricultural revolution our numbers have multiplied beyond comprehension. Societies became increasingly complex and stratified.

The industrial revolution lifted everything to a new unprecedented plane. A type of society arose, driven by industrial innovation and run on fossil fuels. We are still living in that kind of society today, so it is interesting to know how it came about.

The course will also deal with topics like the role of war, disease, religion, worldviews and finance in

University College Maastricht

shaping history. Take disease. Their ways of life brought men in contact with all sorts of diseases. Especially after the agricultural revolution we had to adapt to diseases we caught from our domesticated animals. We still have to do this. Look at present day threats like bird flu. Living in some form of armed peace with diseases has always been a major characteristic of societies. How did we do this?

Finally the course also touches upon the 'Rise of the West'. The contentious rise of Western Europe and North America as a dominant factor in worldhistory over the last 5 centuries will be the closing topic of the course.

Course objectives

- To understand some of the major issues and episodes that have shaped the history of mankind. The focus will be on themes and topics that have had or are still having long term influences on historical development.

Prerequisites

Any course in history or sociology, COR1003 Contemporary World History, or SSC1003/SSC2065 Theories of Social Order.

Recommended reading

- Material to be distributed at the beginning of the course.

HUM3034

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.J. Boon](#)
- [M. Stout](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Great Novels 1850 - Present

Full course description

In this course, you will read five key novels by British, Dutch, French, and American authors. The reading and discussion of the primary works is the main objective for this course. Besides that, the

course will introduce you into the scholarly analysis of literary works. It will acquaint you with major developments in the history of Western literature since 1850, and provide you with a vocabulary/toolkit to discuss and analyze novels. You will gain experience in reading, analyzing and writing about novels.

However, what exactly is a novel - Virginia Woolf described it as 'the most pliable of forms'? As its name testifies, the novel was a 'new' genre. For centuries, the body of work referred to as 'literature' would first entail drama and poetry, but in the course of the nineteenth century, the novel took flight. Why did it become such a dominant genre? Some have argued that the novel was so successful because it became the medium of the middle class, and the vehicle of its emancipation. To be sure, the novel helped shaping ideas about modern society, about what an individual is or can be, about self and other, about love, sex, marriage and property. Nevertheless, even if all those functions can be attributed to the 19th century novel, can the same be said about the 20th century novel? How did the novel as a genre change over time? This course will address these and other questions, primarily by reading novels from the Western tradition from 1850 onwards.

Course objectives

- You are acquainted with a number of key novels from the western tradition.
- You have a basic understanding of periodization in literary history.
- You know the basic concepts in literary theory.
- You are able to apply theoretical concepts in analysing a novel.
- You can formulate a research question as a starting point for a literary analysis
- You have mastered the basics of writing effectively and academically about literature.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- 5 novels:
 - Flaubert, G. (1857). *Madame Bovary*.
 - Couperus, L. (1900). *The hidden force*.
 - Woolf, V. (1925). *Mrs Dalloway*.
 - Fitzgerald, F.S. (1925). *The great Gatsby*.
 - Cunningham, M. (1998). *The Hours*.
- Bennett, A. & Royle, N. (2009). *An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory*. Routledge, 3rd, 4th or 5th ed.
- E-reader

HUM1014

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

Science, Power and the Construction of Facts: Introduction to Science and Technology Studies Part 2

Full course description

Science is the system of knowledge production through which truths are constructed in much of Western societies, and as a consequence is an incredibly powerful institution that requires critical examination. At the same point in time, significant contemporary movements of “alternative facts” (Conway 2017) and “post-truth politics” are underway (Roberts, 2010). What is the relationship between these two phenomenon, and how is power enacted through the establishment of “facts”? In order to understand the power Science enacts in its production of “facts” this course looks to the social, cultural, historical, political, and economic contexts through which science is practiced and scientific knowledge is circulated through society. In doing so we will take a closer look at the production and dissemination of technoscience outputs, and will study science in action in its immediate environment as well as in its role and position in society. To do so we consider science and its scientists as ‘a tribe’. To take this idea seriously we need to critically analyze notions of objectivity, expertise, commercialisation, integrity, and credibility that are central to scientific knowledge production. This perspective will help us to understand how science operates in today’s complex world. To gain insight in science we zoom in on the organization of knowledge production and its collaborative character. We also study processes in which credible facts are established and published. Furthermore, this course also pays attention to the integrity of science and in particular its grey areas. Beside the immediate context in which scientific facts are established (i.e. the lab), the course also takes into account the wider socio-economic context in which science operates. This involves not only the commercialization of science, but also the way its promises and expectations are related to our hopes and fears. Finally, you will gain insights into the way the cultural-historical contexts affects the interpretation of facts. It is along these lines that we enter the world of the scientists. Based on discussions and analyses of these topics the course aims to make you reflect critically on ‘common sense’ views of the making and use of scientific claims. Besides tutorial meetings, the course also involves lectures, discussion meetings, video analysis, and a visit to a scientific lab for an interview.

Course objectives

By the end of this course students should be able:

- To describe the contemporary challenges and dynamics of knowledge production in the sciences.
- To identify the complexities of how scientific knowledge is distributed and communicated in society.
- To critically analyze ‘common sense’ views of the making and use of scientific claims.

Prerequisites

HUM2046 Living in a Technological Culture I: Introduction to Science and Technology Studies.

Recommended reading

- E-Reader containing diverse academic journal articles.

HUM3049

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [J. Mesman](#)

History of Contemporary Spirituality

Full course description

This course delves into the socio-historical contexts of non-institutionalized ideologies at the intercultural and inter-disciplinary crossroads of "eastern" and "western" religious, philosophical, psychological and scientific discourses in modern western cultures. It focuses on alternative beliefs and practices of eastern and western charismatic leaders and new religious movements—popularly referred to as "spiritual teachers" or "gurus" and "cults"—in Europe and North America, after 1800. This includes Ralph Waldo Emerson's American Transcendentalism, Helena Blavatsky's Theosophy, Phineas Quimby's New Thought, Vivekananda's Neo-Hinduism, D.T. Suzuki's Neo-Buddhism, Inayat Khan's Neo-Sufism, Count Keyserling's Darmstadt School, C.G. Jung's Eranos Circle and various New Age movements. Students will critically reflect on such alternative quests for meaning outside conventional sciences and religions. In doing so, they will learn more about post-Enlightenment responses to the "age of reason," post-colonial encounters between "eastern" and "western" traditions in a globalizing world, and post-modern blends of methods and theories from different academic and societal domains, which have culminated in a growing "cultic milieu" of "seekers" across modern western cultures. "Seekers" are individuals who collectively identify as "spiritual, but not religious." During this course, students will reflect on questions such as: Why have so many seekers in modern western cultures turned away from conventional western religions and sciences? Why are they turning to eastern and alternative western traditions instead? How are they selectively combining eastern and western methods and theories into new sources of meaning? What combinations have we seen in the recent past and which ones do we see around today? By the end of this course, students will have a better understanding of the history behind contemporary spirituality.

Course objectives

- To inform students of the general social and historical background underlying contemporary spirituality.
- To demonstrate how this background concretely influences contemporary spiritual beliefs and practices.
- To teach students to reflect critically on popular and academic sources about those beliefs and practices.

Prerequisites

None.

HUM2058

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [D. Vliegthart](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Poetry, Poetry Theory and Poetry Practices

Full course description

Poetry usually falls under the general heading of literature. Literature however is a relatively recent concept as well as a recent cultural institution and it seems that one of the main goals of poetry theory of the last centuries has been to give poetry a firm literary profile. Looking at western modern poetry and its reception this goal has certainly been reached, even to an extent that what poetry could and should be is realized in this western modern tradition that turned poetry into words-on-the-page, while writing was never indispensable for poetry before. However, this western modern tradition is just another practice of poetry in the sense that it is a result of a particular merge of two totally independent structures: human language and rhythm. Whereas rhythm in itself seems to defy any literary consideration, in modern western poetry it is usually treated as an icon of the alleged meaning of a poem, thereby safeguarding modern western poetry as a literary genre. But if we take poetry in terms of Wittgenstein's family resemblance we are able to see different practices world-wide that share more than one feature with modern western poetry, or just one, like rhythm, and we see unexpected lineages of features, like non-human animal lineages of, again, rhythm (birdsong is the obvious example). But it's not just a question of lineage, in other words the diachronic aspect of the family of poetry. Synchronically speaking many practices should be considered as part of the family of poetry too. Practices that do not need to be able to function the literary set of principles and conventions that fixed a western understanding of poetry. In this course we will first identify and study the different features of poetry, like rhythm, metre, rhyme, texture, syntax, grammar, imagery, etc. Then we will explore and study practices, western and non-western, synchronic and diachronic, as members of the family of poetry

Course objectives

The main aims of this course are: • To acquaint the students with the theory and practice of modern western poetry. • To introduce students to a view on poetry in terms of Wittgenstein's family resemblance, in the sense that poetry is made up by formal features that practices share in different combinations. • To provide students with analytical tools for studying different poetry practices, not only in literary, but also in ritualistic, religious, or other relevant contexts. • To teach the students to present their own case studies of poetry practices

University College Maastricht

HUM2060

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [J.H. de Roder](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL

Lifting the Iron Curtain. Modern and Contemporary Eastern Europe

Full course description

Lifting the Iron Curtain studies the political, social and economic transformation of Eastern Europe from the end of the First World War till today. This multidisciplinary course can be divided into two major parts: a historical one devoted to the short twentieth century until 1989-91 and a more contemporary one exploring the achievements and shortcomings of the three decades since. The first half of the course starts by examining East-West relations in Europe on a material and discursive level. It continues with discussing the emergence and characteristics of the post-imperial order after the First World War. It also focuses on the practically simultaneous imposition of the Bolshevik regime in the (newly created) Soviet Union as well as the brutal development of this regime under Lenin and Stalin. The course subsequently includes four meetings on the post-war (Soviet) era west of the Soviet Union, respectively devoted to the origins of Soviet-type regimes in Eastern Europe; the major challenges these regimes had to face, such the Hungarian uprising or the Prague Spring, and how they responded to them; the reasons behind their unexpected and sudden collapse in 1989-91; and, last but not least, continental and global perspectives on these developments. As mentioned, the second half of the course assesses the political and economic transformation of Eastern Europe since 1989-91. Questions regarding democratization and the quality of democracy in the region as well as the European opening and the related expectations, hopes and frustrations will be in the center of our attention. We shall also dissect the memory regimes characterizing the post-dictatorial countries of Eastern Europe and zoom in on the origins and unfolding of the two major violent conflicts in the region since, that in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and the ongoing one in Ukraine. The course closes with a discussion of the major challenges Eastern Europe has to confront today.

Course objectives

The course surveys key developments in Eastern Europe over the past hundred years. It explores the recent past of this diverse region with a special focus on communist regimes (discipline of history and field of Soviet studies) and contemporary trends, such as democratization and Europeanization, economic transformation and crises since 1989-91, recent and ongoing violent conflicts as well as attempts to deal with the past (comparative politics and international relations, peace and conflict studies, memory studies). The course thus seeks to equip students with the tools to analyze developments in Eastern Europe from a multidisciplinary perspective. It also aims to broaden

University College Maastricht

students' geographic horizons to a region which – though understudied – has been central to numerous recent transformations and cataclysms in Europe.

Prerequisites

COR1003 Contemporary World History and one of the following: HUM1013 The Idea of Europe: The Intellectual History of Europe, HUM2007 States and Nations in Europe. From the Middle Ages to the First World War, SSC1006/SSC2002 International Relations: Themes and Theories, SSC1025 Introduction to Political Science.

Recommended reading

- Judt, Tony (2005). Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945. London: Penguin.
- Klimó, Árpád von and Livezeanu, Irina, eds. (2017). The Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700. London: Routledge.

HUM3052

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [F.L. Laczo](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Introduction to Art: Representations, Performances and Interactions

Full course description

The traditional term for the many ways in which artworks represent reality is mimesis. The mimetic talent for imitation and representation has been the subject of admiration, study and debate throughout the history of Western art. The notion of mimesis is employed to describe painting, literature, music, theater, dance, and more; it is still used to characterize the domain of the arts in general.

In engaging with the concept of mimesis, this course focuses on three central themes and approaches. The first part of the course is concerned with representations of reality in nineteenth and early twentieth century literature, painting, and music. The second part deals with modern and contemporary performance art. The academic field of Performance Studies is introduced in an attempt at dealing with the blurring of genres, cultures and conventions that are typical for contemporary art shaped by mass media and processes of globalization. The third and last part of the course discusses sociological perspectives on art as a social practice and a collective activity.

This course, through its emphasis on representations, performances and interactions, constitutes a

University College Maastricht

basis for courses on the arts in all their diversity, as well as courses on culture and cultural studies in general. The course includes a practical, creative exercise on the role of style in representation and an excursion to a cultural institution in Maastricht.

Course objectives

- To provide students with an advanced introduction to the visual and performing arts.
- To broaden the students' theoretical understanding of art.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Auerbach, E. (2003). *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*. Fiftieth-anniversary edition with a new introduction by Edward Said. Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Gombrich, E. (2000). *Art and Illusion. A Study in the Psychology of Pictorial Representation*. Princeton University Press, Princeton
- Schechner, R. (2013). *Performance Studies: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Routledge, London
- Becker, H. S. (1984). *Art Worlds*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

HUM1011

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [I.T.H. Römgens](#)
- [C. Rausch](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Participation, Presentation, Written exam

The Making of Crucial Differences: 'Race', Sexuality, Gender and Class in Historical Perspective

Full 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 will reconstruct the paradoxes of a 'dialectic of Enlightenment' (Adorno), that means the dark side behind its claim for reason, equality, brotherhood and freedom.

It aims to trace and illustrate 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 will introduce into critical theories, like discourse analysis and the history of knowledge, postcolonial and gender/sexuality studies and studies on Orientalism (Said). Thus, it will examine the dynamic processes of the "history of sexualities", their formation and contradictions, which emerged out of these processes. It will reconstruct how 'masculinity' and the 'image of man' (Mosse) became a central trope of nationalism and colonialism. Last but not least, it will ask 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.

Course objectives

- To acquaint students with a critical perspective on modern, mostly European history and the 'dialectic of Enlightenment', that means to show how the achievements of Enlightened ideals etc. were intertwined with colonialism, the 'Jewish question', gender and class inequalities.
- To familiarize students with a historical perspective and historical knowledge on the production and impact of configurations of 'race', class, gender and sexuality from the Enlightenment until the Shoa/Holocaust.
- To introduce students to canonical philosophical, theoretical texts on 'race' and 'gender', 'anti-Semitism' and 'orientalism', and to major texts in the field of historical gender and diversity studies like Foucault's "History of Sexuality".
- To acquaint students with the way in which these configurations like gender, race and religion have structured cultural scripts and practices, stereotypes, individual identities, and European and North American developments, like slavery.
- To introduce students into the (critical) role literature can play within the dynamics of social change and cultural discourse.
- To provide students with the analytical skills to examine the dynamics of the production and reproduction of identity and difference, inclusion and exclusion, equality and inequality.

Prerequisites

Interest in historical research, gender studies and critical theoretical reflection.

Recommended reading

- E-reader and the novel “Heart of Darkness” (Joseph Conrad).

HUM2003

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [E. Wesseling](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Take home exam

The Presence of Art: Reinterpreting Modern and Contemporary Art

Full course description

Since the late 19th century and certainly up until the mid-20th century artists have issued avant-garde manifestoes of change, claiming their art to be ahead of the times. Critical of conventions and traditions, they regarded art as a revolutionary means to social, political, cultural, and intellectual emancipation and progress. Through what has been called the “shock of the new,” by making tabula rasa with the existing, art was to create a better world. Were it not for the fact that art effectively served the ideologies of both the socialist and fascist totalitarianisms of the last century, such radical ambitions might even sound a bit naïve, nowadays. Indeed, as yesterday’s future has become today’s past, the utopias of a bygone era seem to have been disappointed, at last - or have they not? Do we need to rescue avant-garde virtues and ideals for the sake of the relevance of contemporary art? What precisely is the legacy of the modern avant-garde besides its success on the global art market? In the early 21st century and under the spell of a “new spirit of capitalism”, is there any hope left for effective artistic critique? Or do current “economies of enrichment” simply reduce the value of art to financial speculation?

This course considers histories and theories of modern and contemporary art. It provides an overview of the heterogeneous and experimental development of modern and contemporary art. Artistic responses to society, politics, science, and technology are discussed. The module emphasizes the practices governing institutions of the contemporary art world, such as art markets and museums. Furthermore, the course features excursions to local art institutions in Maastricht, including the Bonnefantenmuseum.

Course objectives

- To study historical and theoretical approaches to modern and contemporary art.
- To enable critical reflection and debate on the meaning and relevance of artistic practices.
- To learn how to write an art review.

Prerequisites

Interest in art theory and critical theoretical reflection. At least one Humanities course should have been completed.

Recommended

HUM1011 Introduction to Art; Representations, Performances and Interactions or HUM1003 Cultural Studies I: Doing Cultural Studies.

Recommended reading

- Foster, H. Krauss, R. Bois, Y-A, Buchloh, B.H.D, Joselit, D. (2016). *Art Since 1900: Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism*. 3rd edition. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Thornton, S. (2008), *Seven Days in the Art World*. London: Granta.
- Adam, G. (2014). *Big Bucks: The Explosion of the Art Market in the 21st Century*. Farnham: Lund Humphries
- Adam, G. (2017). *Dark Side of the Boom: the excesses of the art market in the 21st century*. Farnham: Lund Humphries
- Williams, G. (2014). *How to Write about Contemporary Art*. London: Thames and Hudson.

HUM2013

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- I. Römgers
- [I.T.H. Römgers](#)
- [C. Rausch](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Digital Media: Digitalization, Digital Cultures and User

Practices

Full course description

Students in this course will be introduced into the broad field of digital media and discuss in detail computer based practices (both from the humanities and qualitative social sciences). The topics discussed range from transformations in our digital cultures based on technological developments to artistic practices in digital literature and art. While popular debates usually focus on general discussions on the impact of digital media, this course will deal with the complexity, history and diversity of our contemporary culture.

Over the course of the past decades digital devices have become omnipresent in Western society. Every day we type on computers, make calls with our mobile phones, log in to numerous websites and social networks. Perhaps more importantly, we are able to keep extensive, precise records of our everyday lives. From internet cookies to video camera surveillance feeds, along with the information users, companies and governments store in clouds, more and more data is generated and archived. In the digital age, information circulates faster and faster, sometimes without the knowledge of the parties from which the data originate. The consequences have been differently valued. The optimistic account stresses the new media's inherent possibilities for active cultural and social participation beyond the reach of existing political or commercial institutions. Liberation is a term discussed when we follow discussions about the use of social media to support processes of democratisation.

When we investigate the use and abuse of user data and surveillance strategies both from governments and marketing institutions exploitation of users is central in the debate. We willingly help to spread information on social media, often without an awareness of the information politics involved. The cultural transformations of and through new media technologies, the impact they have on their users and the politics of information that form the basis of both exploitation and liberation will be investigated in this course.

The course will be structured as follows:

1. Transformations: the digital and the social, digital citizenship, the culture of surveillance.
2. Disruptions: new social credit systems, blockchain, AI and robots.
3. practices: digital literature and art. gaming, hacking.

Course objectives

The aims of this course are to familiarize students with topics relevant for digital culture and society such as:

- Different uses of digital media in the fields of netactivism, gaming, digital literature and digital art.
- The relation between technological development, technomoral change and user practices as e.g. blockchain, hacking, sharing practices.
- Relevant topics related to digitalization as e.g. information politics, surveillance and privacy will be discussed.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- E-reader.
- Online sources.

HUM2022

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [J.H. de Roder](#)
- [K. Wenz](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Common Foundations of Law in Europe

Full course description

What do Europeans have in common? Part of the answer to this question is: their law. Currently, approximately 50% of all new legislation in the member states of the European Union has a non-national, European origin. This international outlook of law in Europe is not a new phenomenon. Even when concentrating on the so-called 'national laws' of the various European nations, it must be admitted that these laws find a strong foundation in a non-national, truly European tradition. This tradition dates back to the Middle Ages. Since it is the conviction of the course coordinator that a true understanding of the growing importance of the European institutions and policies can only be achieved by understanding the common legal history of Europe, the present course concentrates on this shared (legal) past. In doing so, it takes as its focal point the *ius commune*, i.e. the common, scholarly European approach to the law that originated in the Middle Ages and that was strongly based on Roman Law. This medieval tradition forms the common ground on which the present national legal systems in Europe have developed. It has strongly contributed to the creation of the idea of a common European culture.

In a manner that is highly relevant for an audience of non-lawyers and lawyers alike, the course starts with discussing Roman Law. The so-called *Corpus Iuris Civilis* will be used as the point of departure since most of what we know about Roman Law derives from this compilation of legal materials that was made in the 6th century AD on the orders of the Byzantine emperor Justinian. The texts that this emperor included in his collection were the product of a thousand years of unbroken

University College Maastricht

legal development. During this millennium, roughly from 500 BC to 550 AD, Rome expanded from a small city-state to a world empire. While Roman law was adapted to cope with the changing society, the idea was maintained that it was essentially the same law that had been part of the early Roman way of life.

The course will also concentrate on the different approach to the law that existed and still exists in Anglo-American jurisdictions. It will try to explain the legal differences today between continental Europe and the British Isles. Additionally, some elements of American legal history will be studied. In doing so, the many similarities that lie beneath the seemingly radically different outward appearance of law in Anglo-American jurisdictions will come to light. This exercise will demonstrate that Anglo-American law is not so different from continental European law as some writers would like us to believe.

The course will conclude with a study of a selection of similarities and differences that exist in today's European legal landscape.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a better notion of law as a harmonising phenomenon in European culture.
- To provide students with a basic notion of similarities and differences in the approach to law in the various member states of the European Union (and the USA).
- To give students a better understanding of basic legal notions such as property, contract and delict.
- To provide students with a greater ability to evaluate the significance of the transfer of law making powers from the national to the European institutions.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- O.F. Robinson, T.D. Fergus, W.M. Gordon, European Legal History, London etc., 2000 or later edition.
- Additional materials, to be announced during the course.

HUM1010

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.H. van Rhee](#)

Teaching methods:

University College Maastricht

PBL

Assessment methods:

Oral exam, Presentation

Biopoetics: An Evolutionary Approach to Art, Literature and Music and Religion

Full course description

Students will familiarize themselves with the basic concepts of evolutionary theory and cognitive science in order to be able to evaluate the controversies and debates within the framework of an evolutionary perspective on art, literature and music. Several themes will be discussed, such as: the mating mind; artistic universals; human nature: blank or pre-wired, the rhythm of poetry; the science of art; the origins of music, grooming, gossip, and the novel; art as adaptation vs. art as by-product; etc.

Course objectives

- To be able to evaluate and apply Darwinist approaches to practices in art, literature, music and religion.

Prerequisites

At least two 2000-level courses in the Humanities or at least two 2000-level courses in the Sciences.

Recommended reading

- Charlesworth, B., & Charlesworth, D. (2003). *Evolution: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Carroll, J. (2004). *Literary Darwinism: Evolution, Human Nature, and Literature*. London: Routledge.
- Gotschall, J., & Wilson, D.S. (2005). *The Literary Animal: Evolution and the Nature of Narrative*. Northwestern University Press.
- Turner, M. (2006). *The Artful Mind: Cognitive Science and the Riddle of Human Creativity*. Oxford University Press.

HUM3042

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [J.H. de Roder](#)

University College Maastricht

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

The Idea of Europe: The Intellectual History of Europe

Full course description

This course deals with some of the most fundamental questions concerning the development of the European Identity. What have been the decisive common experiences that have fostered a sense of European community and identity, and how have they evolved over time? Tracing those events and experiences in the past that have helped to shape some sense of European community and identity means establishing the factors that have contributed to the difference between Europe and the non-European world. The concept of identity logically consists of two components: the notion of historical continuity and a marked sense of difference between the “in-group” and one or more significant others. If we accept that there is some sort of European identity, albeit complex and multifaceted, we should ask which factors have generated it. To put it more specifically: Which factors contributed to Europe’s Sonderweg in world history? Or, to use the words of one author, the historian E.L. Jones: how did “the European miracle” come about?

From the angle of world history, the European experience constitutes a major deviation from an almost universal pattern of social and political organization. Europe is the first region in the world that has changed into a large-scale industrial and urban society. This so called process of modernization has turned European civilization into something of a historical anomaly - the kind of anomaly, however, that forced itself on other continents, thus becoming a new kind of standard in the end after all. To ask for the factors that have contributed to the modern sense of European community and identity is, at least for a large part, to ask for the factors that have produced this phenomenon of modernization, including the blatant economic disparities between European civilization (including North-America) and the rest of the world.

Course objectives

- To provide students with an overview of the concept of Europe and the development of European identity.
- To highlight the specific characteristics of European political/social/cultural history, notably in comparison with that of other (non-European) societies, that contributed to a sense of European community and the European identity.
- To demonstrate how a sense of community could evolve from the many shared historical cultural factors.
- To provide students with an introduction to a range of theories which are fundamental to a range of courses at UCM.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Rietbergen, P.J. (1998). *Europe: a Cultural History*. London/New York: Routledge.
- Delanty, G.D. (1995). *Inventing Europe; Idea, Identity and Reality*. Macmillan Press, Basingstoke.

HUM1013

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M. Stout](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Take home exam

The Future of Literature?

Full course description

This course examines the multifaceted character of literature at the start of the twenty-first century. As many commentators have argued, the basic features of literary culture seem to be changing. In a world of screens and e-readers, does literature still coincide with print or has it become a more expansive notion that overlaps with other media? Should our conception of literature include the 'quality tv' associated with HBO, for instance? At the same time, contemporary society is changing rapidly too. We now live in a world shaped by Big Data, the war on terror and climate change. That is why the course does not just explore changes in the field of literature but also investigates how fiction is responding to new social questions. Literature continues to play a vital role in public debate, after all, serving 'as an "antenna" ... for a range of opinions, attitudes, and intuitions that have not yet fully congealed in public discourse', as Caren Irr puts it (*Toward the Geopolitical Novel*, 15). More specifically, the course addresses the following themes: 1) translation and the spatial boundaries of contemporary literature, 2) the afterlife of postmodernism and the turn toward history and memory, 3) the intense interaction between literature and other media, especially the internet and 'quality' television, 4) the fictional reflection on war, terror and human rights, 5) literature's response to species extinction and climate change. In the final analysis, all of these topics deal with the future or with different imagined futures, be that the future of English, the future of the past, the future of writing, the future of human communities, and the future of the environment. Differently put, they examine different 'ways of being we', to use a phrase from Peter Boxall's introduction to contemporary literature (177). These topics are the subject of this course.

Course objectives

- To reflect upon the distinctive features of the contemporary literary field by reflecting critically on the salient themes and forms of contemporary (Anglophone) fiction;
- To introduce students to academic debates on translation and postmodernism, print and post-

print media ecologies, human rights and global war, and environmental problems including climate change;

- To familiarize students with concepts such as world literature, post-postmodernism, intermediality, anthropocene and petroculture;
- To introduce students to relevant methodological insights that will enable them to process and respond to current debates in literary studies and contemporary society.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

HUM1014 Great Novels 1850 – Present, HUM2022 Digital Media and HUM3036 Narrative Media.

Recommended reading

- A reader of recent articles and book chapters;
- Handbook: Peter Boxall, *Twenty-First Century Fiction: A Critical Introduction* (Cambridge UP, 2013).

HUM2047

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [J.H. de Roder](#)

Pop Songs and Poetry: Theory and Analysis

Full course description

In the course *Poetry and Pop Songs*, we will be reading English and American poetry from the 20th and 21st century. We will also unravel the work from a variety of older and newer music artists, ranging for example from U2 and Coldplay to Rihanna and P!nk. Moreover, you are encouraged to look for additional examples of poems and songs to discuss and analyze in class.

In this course, you will learn how to interpret poetry and popular music in a systematic and sophisticated way, and to write an in-depth analysis of a song or poem. The focus rests with the analysis of the lyrics or 'text' of the poems and songs. First, you will learn how to make use of insights and tools from literary theory in order to find out how (specific) poems work, which effects they evoke, and what they mean. You will also learn how to apply these tools to the analysis of song texts.

In this course, we use a broad definition of pop songs, focusing on contemporary popular music,

University College Maastricht

which means including other genres than just conventional pop music, such as rap, hip-hop, and rock. We will also pay some (albeit limited) attention to musical aspects - such as rhythm - of the songs at hand, to see how they interact with the lyrics. Once you have become familiar with the analysis of the lyrics, we will expand our focus to include an analysis of performance (including music videos) in the last week of the course.

In this course, you will also experience the creative process that underlies all poetry and song, in a variety of ways:

- you will learn to recite or sing a poem or song;
- you will hear from experienced artists how they approach writing a poem or song;
- you will write a poem or a song of your own.

Throughout the course, we will pay close attention to issues of gender and diversity. We will address the question of how gender, ethnicity and sexuality can be integrated into an analysis of the lyric.

Course objectives

- You have a basic understanding of the literary theory of poetry analysis.
- You are able to apply this theory to both poems as song texts.
- You are able to analyze songs and poems in a sophisticated way, and to discuss lyrical texts and songs systematically.
- You are able to integrate gender and other axes of difference into the study of poems and popular songs.
- You are able to express your analysis of poems and songs in academic writing.
- You are familiar with a number of classic Anglo-American poems.
- You know at least one poem or song by heart, and know how to recite/sing it.
- You have written a poem or song, thereby experiencing the creative process that is involved firsthand.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Primary sources (poems and songs)
- Vendler, H. (2009). *Poems, Poets, Poetry: An Introduction and Anthology*. (3rd ed.). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.
- E-Reader.

HUM1012

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

- [J.L. Weusten](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Attendance, Final paper, Presentation

Back to the Philosophers Themselves!

Full course description

How can an absurd novel like Voltaire's *Candide* (1759) be understood as 'philosophy'? Why did Plato use a dialogue with Socrates and a myth (the allegory of the cave) instead of just presenting his theories in an orderly presented written argument? And why can philosophical texts be written quite systematically (Spinoza) as well as in the form of seemingly associative notes and comments (as in Wittgenstein's famous *Philosophical Investigations*)?

In this course well known philosophical texts will be read and analyzed in detail. Reading philosophers, that is, the reading of some of their primary texts, is not only a pleasure in itself: most of the more interesting philosophers are also famous stylists. Therefore it is important to read the original texts instead of always relying on handbooks or (internet) encyclopedia texts to acquaint oneself with the central ideas of these philosophers.

Moreover, there is a lot to learn from reading philosophers themselves, to see how they are positioned in the tradition of philosophy and in the contemporary intellectual debate, to determine what interesting problems are, and how one could go about searching for some answers, solutions or new questions for our time.

Reading philosophers themselves also has merit for another reason: it turns out that philosophers use a variety of writing styles and publication media like a scientific treatise, a monograph, an essay, a collection of aphorisms or even a novel. And last but not least: they provide the best introduction into some of the classical philosophical problems like: What can we know? How should we value? What is justice? Is there something like moral sense? Are we free? How does language work?

In the course we single out a group of 6 philosophers: Plato, Spinoza, Voltaire, Schopenhauer, Wittgenstein and Margalit. They are responsible for some of the best work that has been produced in the philosophical tradition.

Course objectives

- To acquaint students with pivotal philosophical texts.
- To help students read primary texts of important philosophers and get intellectual pleasure from it.
- To introduce some classical philosophical problems.
- To become aware of different styles and sorts of philosophy.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy and/or COR1004 Political Philosophy

Recommended reading

- Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII 514a-520a (The allegory of the cave) and Book VIII.
- Benedict de Spinoza, *A Theologico-Political Treatise (and A Political Treatise)*.
- Voltaire, *Candide,; or, Optimism*. Orig. *Candide ou l'Optimisme*.
- Arthur Schopenhauer, *On the Freedom of the Will* (except the fourth chapter). Orig. *Preisschrift über die Freiheit des Willens*.
- Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*. §§ 1-108.
- Avishai Margalit *The Decent Society*, Part III. Decency as a social concept. Harvard University Press, Cambridge (Mass.) 1996, pp. 115-186.

HUM2054

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [F.M. Doorman](#)

Religion, Myth and Secularization

Full course description

The course provides a broad approach to religion as a cultural phenomenon. It focuses on the following groups of questions and topics:

1. Defining religion

What is religion about? How does religion differ from the sciences and the arts? What do secularization processes involve? In this part of the course we will look into some significant philosophical perspectives on the nature of religion and secularism.

2. On the contents of religion

We will briefly consider the most important characteristics of the major world religions. Against this background we will discuss a number of key narratives and themes from the Judeo-Christian heritage, taken from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament (such as the creation story, book of Job, death and resurrection of Christ, epistles by Paul).

3. On the politics of religion

The last part of the course will look at the role of religion and religious institutions within political power structures, ranging from the Vatican to the Middle-East.

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with the academic study of religion as a cultural phenomenon against the background of a secularizing world.
- To provide an insight into key ideas, themes and arguments on the nature, function, and politics of religion.

Prerequisites

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy *or* HUM2008 Ancient Philosophy *or* HUM2021 Medieval Civilization *or* COR1002 Philosophy of Science *or* HUM2055 History of Psychology.

Recommended reading

- Immanuel Kant, *Religion within the Bounds of bare Reason* (1793)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Antichrist* (1895).
- Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (1927).
- C.G. Jung, *Answer to Job* (1952).
- Karen Armstrong, *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (1993).
- Ole Wæver, *Fear and Faith: Religion as an International Security Issue* (2006).
- Maria Kardaun, *Fighting the Angel* (2011).
- Frans de Waal, *The Bonobo and the Atheist: In Search of Humanism among the Primates* (2013)

HUM2057

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M.S.J.M. Kardaun](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Lecture(s)

Assessment methods:

Assignment, Final paper

A Cultural Critique of Our Aging Society

Full course description

If you have enjoyed courses in crucial differences, cultural studies, and identities, this course will be another eye-opener. It focuses on age as identity marker and is set up in true interdisciplinary

fashion encompassing perspectives from economy, history, the arts, globalisation and gender studies, amongst others. If you believe aging is a far removed from your personal sphere – think twice and continue reading!

Headlines everywhere tell us that ours is a graying world and that population aging will be a defining influence on our twenty-first century, radically affecting public health and national economies. These demographic predictions—the result of the trends of declining mortality and increasing longevity—are typically accompanied by dire warnings of the challenges ahead: unsustainable pension systems which will encumber younger generations, the critical need for more caregivers and more resources to care for the increasing numbers of those who are frail and dependent, concerns about maintaining technological progress and competitive workforces with an aging labor force, etc. Rarely are such numbers presented in terms of the possible benefits that population aging might bring, such as in experienced leadership, informal caregiving, and a more flexible labor force less hampered by child care. Also often excluded from these projections is any sense of what life is actually like for the diverse millions of people who grow into old age. How do we know what these numbers will mean for our economies, our social structures, our loved ones, and ourselves? To begin to address that question, we need to understand better what it means to grow old in the twenty first century and how this meaning may have developed or changed over the course of history or be differently shaped by national and transnational cultures. Also, it requires research into the many images and stories of aging that circulate in popular culture and influence the way we think about older people. This, then, will form the heart of the inquiry we will make in this course. We will explore what aging is and means from different disciplinary, historical and (trans)national perspectives, examining the concerns raised about aging societies and the causes and consequences of ageism, which is prejudice or discrimination based upon a person's age.

Aging is a topic that we all have a stake in. On one level, this stake is very personal. If we live the long lives we desire, we will all become older, whether or not the label “old” is one we fear or desire. On a larger scale, the concerns of population aging cross every discipline and ageism pervades all parts of our social and personal lives, even when we don't recognize it. Whatever occupation you pursue, a deeper understanding of aging will have relevance. This course will prepare you to engage critically in the current and future debates about our aging society and to interrogate your hopes and fears for your own aging experiences. Theoretically and methodologically, this course is part of diversity studies as it adds the category of age to other identity markers, such as gender, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and religion.

Course objectives

- To understand age as an identity category that intersects with other categories like gender, sexuality, disability, and ethnicity.
- To distinguish between multiple, disciplinarily-influenced ways of defining 'age' including chronologically, functionally, subjectively, and culturally.
- To recognize ageist discourses (cf. the reduction of aging to physical and mental decline) and practices and to reflect on attitudes towards age.
- To distinguish between realistic concerns and the alarmist hype surrounding global population aging.
- To understand different methods that are implemented in aging research, ranging from visual analysis to ethnographic approaches.

Prerequisites

A 1000- or 2000-level course in humanities or social sciences, for instance HUM1003 Cultural Studies I: Doing Cultural Studies, HUM2003 The Making of Crucial Differences, SSC1029 Sociological Perspectives or SSC1003/2065 Theories of Social Order.

Recommended reading

- E-reader containing excerpts from books and relevant journals.

HUM3050

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [A.M.C. Swinnen](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Assessment methods:

Assignment

Data Analysis and Visualization for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Full course description

This course is designed for students interested in the relationship between how digital objects (with a focus on the historical and cultural) are created and consumed, as well as how novel tools and methods provide opportunities for new types of analysis, research, and dissemination. By introducing you to the basics of digitisation, data analysis, and representation, this course will also explore the theoretical underpinnings, biases, and lacunae of working with data, while teaching you to be more critically reflective of digital tools, processes and products. Ultimately, this course is an introduction to the field of Digital Humanities which explores the impact, opportunities, and affordances of the digitisation of our cultural heritage, providing innovative means to approach traditional fields of expertise. The course will explore digitalisation from three perspectives: Digitisation, Analysis, and Representation. The first half of the course will focus on digitisation, with particular reference to 3D, placing emphasis on the field of computational imaging; a field in computer science that studies the computational extraction of information from digital photographs. You will develop 3D recording skills by completing a mini group project, and reflect on the process in terms of what is gained and lost by representing physical objects within virtual computer interfaces. The second half of the course will focus on text analysis. A mini big data project will provide you with hands-on experience and understanding of the affordances and limitations of text analysis methods. We will explore how the representation of text in more visual formats which are typically removed from its semantic contexts, offers opportunities for both new insights as well as misrepresentation. An overarching goal of the course is to help you become more savvy users of

digital information: the implications and challenges that methods and technologies pose to conventional research, analysis and publication in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, including issues such as copyright, transparency, authenticity, and bias.

Course objectives

- To demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of using digital tools and methods to digitise, analyse, and present data;
- To understand and critically discuss theoretical debates and challenges in the field and situate their practices in the wider context of theoretical traditions;
- To introduce students to the field of Digital Humanities.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Graham, S., Milligan, I and Weingart, S. (2015). Exploring big data: the Historian's microscope. Imperial College Press
- Schreibman, S., Siemens, R., and Unsworth, J. (eds) (2016). A New Companion to Digital Humanities. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

HUM2059

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [S. Schreibman](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

The Idea of Africa

Full course description

This comprehensive course - the title of which is taken from Valentin-Yves Mudimbe - provides students with an overview of African history and politics ranging from pre-colonialism to contemporary debates on African politics. Course readings are predominantly based on writings that are produced either on the African continent or by African writers and/or scholars. We start out the course with an interrogation into how we imagine the continent from within and outside of Africa. Does the "single story" narrative, i.e. stereotypical representations that involve images of poverty, starvation and war, influence our imagination as outlined by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie or is our imagination more multilayered? We then look into African epistemologies of knowledge to explore how African knowledge is constructed and organized. Focusing on Mudimbe's *The Invention of*

Africa, we explore what he refers to as “African gnosis,” i.e. a term he uses to include African traditional systems of thought into what is generally denoted as African philosophy. We look into the argument in which he states that the colonizing structure has resulted in dichotomizing structures where the traditional is juxtaposed with the modern, the oral with the written, the agrarian with the urban and the subsistence economy with the highly productive economy. This, in turn, has produced marginal societies, cultures and human beings. From there we look into the era of pre-colonialism via Chinua Achebe’s novel *Things fall Apart* before we dive into the history of colonialism as well as anticolonial rebellion. These two themes we investigate via excerpts from Saidya Hartmann’s study on the transatlantic slave route as well as Rosalind Shaw’s anthropological study on how the slave trade has been “forgotten” and “remembered” in Sierra Leone. Shaw examines non-verbal forms of remembering among the Temne-speaking communities in northern Sierra Leone. This is followed by exploring how movements such as Pan-Africanism and the Black consciousness movement have affected the African experience. We conclude the course by delving into contemporary African political themes such as, for example, African feminism, religion, queer politics and economic debates under the slogan African solutions for African problems. The last tutorial involves a debate on Valentin-Yves Mudimbe’s ideas on decolonizing the curriculum. More specifically, we discuss the colonial legacy and its impact on South African university students.

Course objectives

- To become critically reflexive about Western ideas and images of Africa and to dismantle European constructions of the African continent.
- The course will provide students with a first-hand experience of reading works by and learning from African scholars from within and outside of the continent.

Prerequisites

One 1000 level course in either the Humanities or the Social Sciences. Two 2000 level courses within the following fields: philosophy, sociology, international relations, cultural studies, history, media-and art studies and political science.

Recommended reading

- Course readings are mostly, but not exclusively, based on African writers in-and outside of the African continent. Among the writers and scholars we read are V.Y. Mudimbe, Chinua Achebe, Saidiya Hartman, Rosalind Shaw, Desmond Tutu and Steve Biko.

HUM3053

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [U.A. Mueller](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Heritage Studies: Preserving Our Natural and Cultural Pasts (and Futures)

Full course description

Heritage is often thought of as a material reality to be preserved – pristine landscapes or monumental architecture, for instance. However, in this course we do not exclusively approach heritage as material culture cast in monumental form, or as isolated ecosystems to be protected in reserves. Instead, we approach heritage as human practices of values, such as authenticity, integrity, or sustainability. A premise of the course is that heritage, whether tangible or intangible, always denotes the creation and recreation of a range of political, technological and ethical relations and meanings regarding the past, present and future. In other words, heritage is something that is done. In this course, we ask who does what, how and why? We will inquire into the histories, theories and practices of natural and cultural heritage preservation, learn about relevant national legislations and international conventions, and consider the emergence of new economies around heritage valorizations. We will encounter authoritative governmental and non-governmental heritage institutions and meet experts and managers of heritage in their fields. Critically analyzing the ways heritage values are constructed and legitimized, the course situates contemporary heritage practices in global heritage assemblages: groupings of administrative apparatuses, technical infrastructures and value regimes that revolve around contested notions of heritage and that may transcend the nation state. The Past is a Foreign Country, as the title of one of the founding texts of the field of critical heritage studies from the 1980's goes. But, where on earth shall we look for "the past" in our anthropocentric 21st century, if anywhere at all? Is there a place for nostalgia in current times of global humanitarian and ecological crises, marked by simultaneous yet conflicting appeals to development and conservation? How can we do justice to the diversity of our pasts, while preserving possible heritage futures, today?

Course objectives

- To introduce histories and theories of heritage preservation
- To critically analyze heritage practices
- To relate heritage studies to current issues

HUM2016

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [C. Rausch](#)

Skills

Skills

Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing II

Full course description

This is the second of a three module course on qualitative research methods. This module builds on what students have learned in part I and is designed to guide them through the steps of data collection for their own qualitative study. Students will work on gaining access to their research site and will begin the interview process and/or their observations and conversations with their research participants as participant observers. Students will be introduced to the process of transcribing the interviews, coding the data and memo writing. All three steps are part of qualitative data analysis. As students develop their research projects, they will be challenged to link their specific research questions to larger processes and forces. They will also be asked to consider who might find their research useful and how the results of their investigations might be utilized to promote social change. In-depth analysis of the intricacies underlying contemporary social, cultural, and political discourses and practices, provides the basis for good social research.

Note: This is a time and labor intensive skills training, especially once you have begun data collection. Most of the work that you are required to accomplish for the training will occur outside of the class setting. Students are expected to work independently and should count on having to invest an extra two to four hours per week for interviewing, transcribing the interviews and working on the data collection.

Course objectives

- To provide students with hands-on experience in collecting data for their own study, i.e. students will gain experience in “doing observations”, taking fieldnotes, and qualitative interviewing.
- To experience transcribing interviews.
- To become familiar with qualitative data analysis.

Prerequisites

SKI2085 Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing I.

- [Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing I](#)

Recommended reading

- Hesse-Biber, S.N. (2011). *The Practice of Qualitative Research*. Sage Publication, Thousand Oaks, California, Second Edition.
- Burawoy, M. (2000). *Global Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Excerpts from several books on qualitative research that are available at the UCM Reading Room, for example, Silverman, D. (2005). *Doing Qualitative Research* Robin, H. (2005). *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data* and Ritchie, J. (2003). *Qualitative Research Practice*.

SKI3052

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

- [U.A. Mueller](#)

Argumentation II

Full course description

In this sequel to SKI2049 Argumentation I, we will zoom in on the structure of arguments. In the first part of the skills training we will take the step to a strictly formal, almost mathematical approach, to argument analysis and explore basic sentential logic. Sentential logic introduces a simple set of rules and procedures that allow us to test whether an argument is formally valid, i.e. if its structure is correct independent of its content. To test for the validity of an argument in this way, the structure of English sentences will be separated from their content by translating the sentences into symbols; afterwards formal rules will be applied (by using truth tables and semantic tableaux) to check whether an argument logically works or not.

While the first part of the skills training concentrates on skills related to logical reasoning, the second part aims to demonstrate how such skills can be used even if a strictly formal way of argument analysis is not applicable. This is done by introducing the Toulmin model of argumentation. This model goes beyond the basic distinction of premises and conclusions as constituent parts of arguments by distinguishing different functions premises can fulfill. The Toulmin model is more flexible than argumentative analysis based on formal logic, but also more specific than the tools introduced in Argumentation I. Therefore it can be a powerful tool for specific and sophisticated argumentative analysis. Such analyses will be conducted during the course, first on small, simplified academic arguments and afterwards on a larger scale, analyzing an academic paper. Finally, in the final assignment, students are asked to apply the Toulmin model to design an argument themselves.

Course objectives

Argumentation II is the sequel to Argumentation I. In this respect the main objective of Argumentation II is to further develop the skills of argument analysis and design. The particular focus of this skills training will be on the structure of arguments. At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Formally evaluate the validity of arguments by applying the basic methods of sentential logic.
- Identify and assess the different functions different parts of an argument fulfill according to the Toulmin model.
- Build and present arguments of their own according to the Toulmin model.

Prerequisites

SKI2049 Argumentation I.

- [Argumentation I](#)

Recommended reading

- E-Reader

SKI3002

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [P. Vermeer](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Research Methods I

Full course description

Research is “creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge [...]”. This goal can be achieved in a wide variety of ways. We can count “things”, add them up, calculate statistics about them, and get a reliable overview of “things”. We can also describe those “things” in great detail and question why they are the “things” that they are, and what that means in the context of those “things”. Which approach is better? The answer is that this depends on what you want to learn about those “things”. In other words, if we want to “increase the stock of knowledge”, it partly depends on which knowledge you are interested in increasing (your “puzzle” and specific questions), and partly also on what you consider “knowledge” to be in the first place. In Research Methods I, we will address these issues in great detail, and we will go into how a research project can be set up in alignment with the answers to these questions.

Research Methods I (SKI1004), Research Methods II (SKI1005), and the Research Project (PRO1012) form one coherent semester-long block of courses in which you will start from scratch and end with your own finished research project. Along the way, we will discuss a wide variety of research approaches frequently used in the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences. Another goal of this sequence of courses is for UCM as an academic community to further develop its multi/interdisciplinary character, and for students to be able to reflect and comment on each other’s work, no matter how diverse that may become in the course of the next three years.

The first component of this three-course block is Research Methods I. Within this block, you will learn the basics of research: about the systematic and logical aspects that are (virtually) universal across research styles, and about the differences that define them. We will develop a common vocabulary to evaluate and talk about research, and we will work on where it all begins: asking the right questions. From there, we will consider the sub-questions and hypotheses that flow from the central research questions, the data (broadly defined) that we would need to find answers, and how we can analyze that data.

Course objectives

After taking Research Methods I, you will know about:

- What research is, its philosophical foundations, and what the concepts are by which to evaluate it.
- Formulating a good research question, and matching it to a systematic research design.
- Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods, and what their respective advantages are.
- Interpreting research outcomes from a wide variety of approaches.
- Basic statistics, sampling strategies, and survey question design.
- Working with SPSS and executing basic commands.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Gray, D. E. (2014). *Doing Research in the Real World* (Third ed.). London: SAGE Publications.

SKI1004

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [J.G.T.M. Moes](#)
- [E.F.L. Maegherman](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

International Negotiation

Full course description

Strategy and negotiation are central to almost every area of life, from the seminar room to the boardroom. Individuals strive to further various interests by persuasion and careful planning. The formulation of strategy is refined by use of a range of analytical tools and these need to be learnt

University College Maastricht

and practised. Much the same can be said for carrying out negotiations. This course aims to make students aware of the importance and relevance of negotiation and strategy and to provide the tools necessary to be effective negotiators.

Course objectives

- To provide students with knowledge of the theories relating to strategy and negotiation.
- To train students in negotiation and strategy making.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- Saner, R., The Expert Negotiator, 4th Revised Edition (2012) Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

SKI2083

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [M. Stout](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Lab Skills: Genetics

Full course description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles and techniques in genetics, to develop basic competences in the planning and performance of experiments and the evaluation of results, as well as writing reports. The course consists of 6 sessions of approx. 4 hours and covers topics such as DNA and RNA isolation/purification, spectrophotometry for nucleic acid quantification, amplification of specific genetic regions, gel electrophoresis and basic bioinformatics (commonly used databases, finding the genetic location of a specific gene and its gene sequences, design amplification primers for a specific genetic region, etc) using online available tools. The emphasis will be on genetic variation, which is relevant for human clinical diagnostic setting, evolution studies, etc. Furthermore, this course provides basic knowledge on Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and Laboratory Safety Regulations. Besides the 4 hours hands-on time in the lab, each session requires 1-2 hrs of preparation beforehand and 1-2 hrs for reporting afterwards.

University College Maastricht

Students will work in pairs. Lab experience is not required, although biological and chemical background knowledge at secondary school level is recommendable for full understanding of the provided techniques. If necessary, in the first lab session, pipetting skills will be trained.

Course objectives

- To develop basic laboratory skills in the field of genetics.

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SCI2022 Genetics and Evolution. Students who wish to take this course should concurrently enroll in SCI2022 Genetics and Evolution or have taken SCI2022 Genetics and Evolution before.

Recommended reading

A course manual containing background information on the experiments and experimental protocols will be provided. For each training session the manual will contain questions that will help the student to prepare the experiments.

SKI2088

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Coordinators:

- S.J.C. Stevens
- [J.L.V. Broers](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Introduction to Discourse Analysis

Full course description

Many discourse analytical approaches start from the assumption that a discourse is socially constructed. A "discourse" is an ensemble of verbal and non-verbal practices, which reciprocally structure and are structured by our perceptions of the world around us. A discourse does not just translate reality into language, but influences how we see reality. Discourse analysis provides the methodology for challenging tacit knowledge underlying our perceptions of reality.

This course makes abstract theories about discourse analysis more concrete by examining how specific discourses about, for instance, religion, secularization, globalization, orientalism, occidentalism, gender, etc. emerge from texts.

Course objectives

In this introduction to discourse analysis, students will acquire:

- basic knowledge of some discourse analytical theories;
- basic methods for investigating the socially constructed nature of perceptions of "reality";
- basic skills for applying multi-level discourse analysis.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- Gee, J.P. (1999). *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method* (2nd Ed.). Oxon: Routledge.
- E-reader.

SKI2048

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Coordinator:

- [V. Lifrieri](#)

Presentation Skills

Full course description

This course will help you to prepare for future presentations during your studies as well as in your professional career. Apart from a general introduction to fundamental presentation skills in the opening lecture, this course is based on learning-by-doing. Each student will give four presentations: one 5-minute presentation on an informal topic determined by the course coordinator and three 15-minute presentations of an academic nature. Students choose their own topics for their academic presentations; preferably topics they are interested in and have already researched. Fellow students provide extensive oral and written feedback after each presentation.

Students will receive feedback on their presentations from their peers and their tutor, with regards to e.g.

- *Delivery*: speech pace and pauses; tone of voice; body language such as posture, gestures, movement.
- *Structure*: providing an introduction, body and conclusion, with clear transitions between different sections of a presentation, using a logical sequence of information, with main points and subpoints.
- *Content*: providing sound descriptions and interpretations of the main topics, supported by

relevant academic methods and theories and other reliable sources, and clarified with examples or metaphors.

- *Visual Aids*: using slideware that supports, and does not distract from, the content of the presentation, including key words, clarifying images such as (photo)graphs, and entertaining touches like cartoons.
- *Audience*: tailoring the form and content of one's message to the audience; interacting with the audience during the presentation as well as adequately responding to their questions afterwards.
- *Feedback*: providing and receiving constructive feedback on presentations to/from fellow students.

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to improve your (academic) presentation skills, by learning how to:

- Identify fundamental components of an academic presentation.
- Structure a message in a clear, concise and convincing manner.
- Convey complex information clearly, both verbally and visually.
- Explore ways to engage an audience and make your message stick.
- Cope with nervous tension and increase your confidence as a presenter.
- To give and receive constructive feedback on an academic presentation.

Prerequisites

Students must be familiar with slideware, such as PowerPoint or Prezi.

Recommended reading

- E-reader.

SKI2007

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [D. Vliegthart](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Back to the Sources

Full course description

Reading history is not the same as researching it. Researching history means pursuing one's own enquiry into the past, rather than following another historian's argument about the past. Above all, researching history implies not relying on "second-hand" information. Instead, it involves going back to the primary historical sources as much as possible. However, going back to the sources is not as simple and straightforward as it may sound. There are all sorts of difficulties involved, intellectual as well as practical.

This skills training offers a first introduction to the ways historians deal with these difficulties. During the course, students will discuss the information value of several historical sources, especially public political statements, archival records and public opinion sources. The sources that will be discussed are all related to one specific theme: the first European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), established in 1952 (and the first that ceased to exist, in 2002). This early episode in the history of European integration is particularly well-suited for an introduction to historical research because a variety of archival and other primary sources is readily available. It is also an interesting topic because it has led to much controversy among historians. What was the role of the leading politicians and officials involved, especially Schuman and Monnet? To what extent did existing idealism about European unity play a role? Or was the initiative to establish the ECSC rather inspired by national self-interest of the states involved?

This skills training will be a useful guide to students who are keen on doing historical research in the future. But it will also prove to be of value to those with a general interest in history and in the history of the European integration process in particular. By offering knowledge and insights on how the historian works, it will mentally equip students to assess the strong and the weak aspects of the histories they will be reading. This will enable them to inform themselves on specific topics, especially topics concerned with the process of European integration.

Course objectives

- To familiarize students with the most important types of primary sources (esp. on the history of the EU) and the ways to find these sources (heuristic objective).
- To stimulate a critical and methodical attitude towards sources (critical objective).
- To differentiate between primary and secondary sources.
- To appreciate the importance of primary sources for the study of historical phenomena in general.
- To recognize the different characteristics and pitfalls of the several types of primary sources.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- E-Readers.

SKI2005

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [O. Melsted](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Lab Skills MLS: Human Anatomy & Histology

Full course description

The aim of this skills training is to familiarize students with skills and knowledge concerning human anatomy and histology. The histology part entails a practical introduction to virtual microscopy, followed by microscopic studies of the histology of blood vessels, individual cell types and structures in diverse tissues of the circulatory, urinary, respiratory and digestive tract where the computer serves as microscope. Each “virtual microscopy” session start with a short 10- minute lecture introducing the topic. During the sessions, students use a handbook (Powerpoint file) with tasks and questions. At the end of each session students will have produced their own booklet, complete with annotated histology pictures. If you have a histology book, it is highly advisable to bring it to the course. Students are encouraged to work in groups of two (in the histology section of the course) or more (in the anatomy section of the course) to discuss their findings. The macroscopy part of the course entails an introduction to the autopsy room. Students will perform observatory studies on corpses, models and human plastinates guided by a list of tasks and questions, part of which needs to be studied in advance at home.

Both for the histology sessions and the anatomy sessions, a self-study manual and a manual for the actual practical session are provided. Students are expected to prepare the self-study manuals at home - and questions on those manuals will be asked at the beginning of each session.

Course objectives

- To gain knowledge and experience in microscopic studies of the histology of blood vessels, tissue types and organs.
- To gain knowledge and experience in macroscopic studies on corpses with regard to the anatomy of the thorax and abdomen.
- To gain knowledge and experience in macroscopic studies on human plastinates and models with regard to the anatomy of the kidney, lungs, heart, vessels and the digestive tract.

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SCI2009 Human Physiology. Students who wish to take this course should concurrently enroll in SCI2009 Human Physiology or have taken it or SCI2008 Homeostatic Principles of Human Physiology prior to enrolling in SKI2079.

Recommended reading

- Gartner, L.P. & Hiatt, J.L. (2007). Color Textbook of Histology. (3rd ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier. (UM-Library).
- Junqueira, Basic histology, a text and atlas. (13th ed.). Online edition: <http://accessmedicine.mhmedical.com/content.aspx?bookid=574§ionid=42524590>
- Kierszenbaum, A. (2001). Histology and Cell Biology. (1st ed.). Philadelphia: Mosby. (UM-Library).
- Ross, M.H. & Pawlina, W. (2011) Histology, a text and atlas. (6th ed.). Philadelphia, Wolters Kluwer.
- Netter, F. (2006) Atlas of Human Anatomy. (4th ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier. (UM-Library).
- Sobotta, J., Putz, R., Pabst, R., Putz, R., Bedoui, S. (2006). Atlas of Human Anatomy. (14th ed.). München: Elsevier. (UM-Library).
- Drake, R.L., Vogl, W., Mitchell, A.W.M., Shaw, A.-M., Gray, H. (2005). Gray's Anatomy for Students. Philadelphia: Elsevier. (UM-Library).
- Agur, A.M.R., Dailey, A. F. (2013) Grant's Atlas of Anatomy. (13th ed.) Philadelphia, Wolters Kluwer.A
- Practical instruction manuals and short atlases (E-reader).

SKI2079

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [L.M. Bevers](#)
- [S.E. Köhler](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Introduction to Academic Skills II

Full course description

The transition from secondary to tertiary education is often experienced as a rather challenging one for students, especially considering the expectations at university with regard to students' academic skills, such as essay writing, critical and analytical thinking, or skills such as argumentation. It is therefore imperative to support and train students right from the start to take on a professional ethos with regard to their university studies and their personal and academic development.

The second part of the Introduction to Academic Skills series will focus on honing the skills learned during ItAS I, and exploring skills necessary to surviving not just the first period but an entire semester at UCM. For this, we will continue exploring study skills, fine-tuning academic writing skills, and practicing information literacy skills. In the final part of the course, students will come together in groups to set up their research and writing project in anticipation of the Introducing Academic Communication: A Writing Project.

Course objectives

- The aim of this project is to acquaint Liberal Arts & Science students with the process and practice of writing an interdisciplinary research paper. Furthermore, the goal is to familiarize students with working in an interdisciplinary group.

Prerequisites

This course is not open to exchange students

SKI1008 Introduction to Academic Skills I.

- [Introduction to Academic Skills I](#)

Recommended reading

- Required reading material will be available in on Student Portal.

SKI1009

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.K. Wellum](#)

- [A. Foster](#)

Introduction to Academic Skills I

Full course description

The transition from secondary to tertiary education is often experienced as a rather challenging one for students, especially considering the expectations at university with regard to students' academic skills, such as essay writing, critical and analytical thinking, or skills such as argumentation. It is therefore imperative to support and train students right from the start to take on a professional ethos with regard to their university studies and their personal and academic development. The skills course Introduction to Academic Skills consists of a semester-long program spanning three periods. In this skills course students are encouraged to take their academic development into their own hands. Seminars, practical sessions and (written) assignments will focus on acquainting students with the core academic skills needed to be successful at university. Moreover, the sessions are set up in such a way that students will be able to put their newly acquired skills and insights into practice in the courses that run parallel to this skills course. Through continuous reflection on their personal learning process in combination with periodical assessment of this process, students will be able to conclude this course with a clear overview of their competencies with regards to general academic skills as well as specific skills such as: academic study skills, research skills, analytical and critical thinking skills, academic writing skills, (time) management and organizational skills. Successful completion of SKI1008 is essential to be able to register for SKI1009 Introduction to Academic Skills II.

Course objectives

- To acquaint students with the academic skills necessary.

Prerequisites

This course is not open to exchange students.

Recommended reading

- Required reading material will be available in on Student Portal.

SKI1008

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

- [A.K. Wellum](#)
- [A. Foster](#)

Writing in an Academic Context: Improving Argumentation and Style

Full course description

This course is designed to help students polish their academic writing skills. Since an important aspect of good writing is the ability to convey ideas as clearly as possible to the reader, we will examine the nuts and bolts of writing that are essential to this. This may include rules of syntax and how to make your writing more accessible, paragraphing and overall coherence, a closer look at the structural parts of an academic paper, and how to improve conciseness and coherence in your paper. Furthermore, we will practice using proofreading tools such as the reverse outline and creating a personal checklist.

During the course, we will look beyond the general ideas of academic articles and papers to see the mechanisms of how these papers work, especially on a technical level. This will be done in the form of weekly exercises that you will prepare in advance and discuss in class, and by giving in-depth feedback to your peer's writing during in-class evaluations. Additionally, you will put what we discuss in class into practice by reviewing an your own paper and critiquing other students' papers.

It is safe to say this course is interactive and writing intensive and that you will be reading and writing both inside and outside of class. Although sharing your writing with others can seem intimidating, rest assured that this writing course is a safe space for you to work, make mistakes, and improve your writing.

Course objectives

- To develop awareness of the conventions of academic writing.
- To understand how to write clearly and coherently in an academic context.
- To develop writing through peer- and tutor feedback.
- To practice pre-writing and proofreading techniques.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- E-readers on student portal

SKI2084

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

University College Maastricht

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.K. Wellum](#)
- [A. Foster](#)

Lab Skills: Cell Biology

Full course description

The aim of this course is to develop competences in the planning and performance of experiments and in the evaluation of results using common techniques in molecular genetics and cell biology. The skills training starts with an introductory lecture providing information on the assignments as well as an introduction into Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and Safe Laboratory Practice (SLP). Students perform experiments on several different topics.

Course objectives

- To develop laboratory skills in the field of cell biology.

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SCI2037 Cell Biology. Students who wish to take this course should concurrently enroll in SCI2037 Cell Biology or have taken it or SCI2003 Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology prior to enrolling in SKI2077.

Recommended reading

- There is no main book for this course. A list of the books in which these suggested readings can be found is provided; these books are all available in the Reading Room at UCM and/or in the library at the UNS50. In addition to the books, E-reader will be posted in the Student Portal.

SKI2077

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

Argumentation I

Full course description

In this skills training we work from two fundamental assumptions regarding arguments:

1. They have a specific structure, which can be made visible and evaluated.
2. The quality of an argument depends on its structure as much as it depends on its content.

In order to “get a grip” on arguments the course is divided into four parts that introduce information and exercises to gradually develop the skill of argument analysis. The first part will serve as an introduction discussing the general characteristics and typology of arguments. Furthermore, in this part students learn how arguments can be standardized and how argumentative structures can be visualized by drawing patterns. The core question this part of the course seeks to answer is: What is the structure of arguments and how can one reveal this structure? This part of the course will also contain an introductory lecture, entitled “Standardizing Arguments”.

In part two an informal but systematic method for evaluating the quality of arguments, the ARG-method, is introduced. By assessing the acceptability of premises, the relevance of premises with regards to the conclusion they are supposed to support, and the logical connection between premises and the following conclusion, the ARG-method enables us to examine both structure and content of an argument. During this part of the course an introduction to bad arguments, so-called fallacies, is provided as well. A Lecture, “Evaluating Arguments”, will accompany this part of the course.

In the third part the knowledge and skills provided in the first two parts will be applied to complete texts, seeking to isolate the arguments they present in a systematic way and evaluate whether or not they are good arguments.

Part four moves beyond the analysis of already existing arguments. In this part, standardization and patterns of arguments, as well as the ARG-method, will be used to construct arguments. Furthermore it will be practiced how the skills learned throughout the course can be applied for the purpose of writing academic papers.

Note: Students considering enrolling for the skill trainings in argumentation should be aware that the course will not focus on rhetoric and debating skills (although it can be assumed that the analytical skills acquired in this course will be helpful for debates).

Course objectives

This skills training provides a general introduction to the analysis of arguments. At the end of the skills training students should be able to:

- Identify and carve out the underlying structures and logical connections of written and verbal arguments.
- Translate these structures into a visual representation by drawing patterns of these arguments.
- Evaluate arguments with regards to their structure and content by applying Govier’s “ARG

University College Maastricht

method” (this entails the ability to identify fallacies).

- Build and present own arguments in a structured and cogent fashion, taking the evaluative criteria of the “ARG method” into account.
- Improve their approach to structure papers, exam answers and presentations.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended reading

- E-Readers with various articles and chapters on argument analysis and logic.

SKI2049

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [W. Giernalczyk](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Preparing Conference

Full course description

A conference is a platform for scholars or professionals to meet and share ideas, to present new discoveries and to connect to fellow academics. At a conference papers and research posters are presented, workshops are offered for skill development, and seminars are held to familiarise the scientific community with current academic topics and new developments. As an academic you visit a conference to present your own work, see others’ work and to start possible collaborations.

This skills training focuses on the preparation and planning of a conference. Students will write an extensive plan for the annual UCM Liberal Arts and Sciences conference to be held in the third period of this semester. Students will do the following in order to develop the conference plan and blueprint:

1. Discuss the shared assumptions, values and goals of Liberal Arts and Sciences and an open curriculum and turn that into a subtheme for the conference.

2. Discuss and compare individual interests within the group to find similarities and differences and turn that into illustrative examples of Liberal Arts and Sciences that can be used for workshops and informative sessions at the conference.
3. Conduct an analysis of the target audience for the conference.
4. Discuss instructional design (teaching and learning) in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes and use that to work out lesson plans for the conference for workshops and informative sessions.

Note that this skills training is not only about presentation and organisation skills. It also aims at giving students the opportunity to learn more about education and teaching and instructional design.

The skills training relies heavily on students' personal experiences from having been in a liberal arts and sciences program for several semesters and on being able to make that explicit to others. On the one hand, this will be used while preparing the conference and to inform first semester UCM students. On the other hand, participating students will benefit from the skills training and its follow-ups by fostering a preparation for e.g. Capstone and master's applications for which a profound understanding and expression of a student's academic interest will be necessary.

The skills training puts a strong emphasis on instructional design. Individual contributions to the conference are considered to be educational units and approached as such. For participating students, this will be an opportunity to gain experience with developing and designing intended learning objectives and then implementing teaching and learning activities for a target group and audience. Students will inform themselves on different approaches to teaching and apply them to - preparing lesson plans for the informative sessions, workshops and plenary sessions offered at the conference.

A wide variety of individual interests in the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities is welcomed in order to offer a diverse conference. This skills training fosters an interdisciplinary approach among the participating students.

Course objectives

- To train students in skills required for preparing an academic conference.
- To give students the opportunity to position their interest within a field of their choice and academic fields in general and express that by means of activities at a conference such as lectures and workshops.
- To train students in reviewing a topic in their field of interest and turn that into an informative session and workshop for the conference.
- To train students to work together and set up a plan for a conference.
- To train students in using a framework for instructional design and apply its principles to their individual contributions to the conference.
- To train students in writing lesson plans for their individual contributions to the conference and the plenary sessions that will be offered.
- To train students in working together on preparing a conference.

Prerequisites

NB: Students who register for SKI3050 Preparing Conference must also take PRO3006 Conference. It is not possible to take either of these modules separately due to the specific nature of this skills training and the project.

Prerequisite

Students should be at least in their fourth semester at UCM, i.e. it is necessary that students have passed several courses, skills trainings and projects on a 2000 level and/or a 3000 level in Humanities, Sciences and/or Social Sciences. This is necessary, since students will base their individual contribution to the conference on their UCM curriculum.

- [Presentation Skills](#)

Recommended reading

- E-Reader

SKI3050

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.W. van Dellen](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Research Methods II

Full course description

Research is “creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge [...]”. This goal can be achieved in a wide variety of ways. We can count “things”, add them up, calculate statistics about them, and get a reliable overview of “things”. We can also describe those “things” in great detail and question why they are the “things” that they are, and what that means in the context of those “things”. Which approach is better? The answer is that this depends on what you want to learn about those “things”. In other words, if we want to “increase the stock of knowledge”, it partly depends on which knowledge you are interested in increasing (your “puzzle” and specific questions), and partly also on what you consider “knowledge” to be in the first place. In Research Methods I, we will address these issues in great detail, and we will go into how a research project can be set up in alignment with the answers to these questions.

Research Methods I (SKI1004), Research Methods II (SKI1005), and the Research Project (PRO1012) form one coherent semester-long block of courses in which you will start from scratch and end with your own finished research project. Along the way, we will discuss a wide variety of research approaches frequently used in the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences. Another goal of this sequence of courses is for UCM as an academic community to further develop its multi/interdisciplinary character, and for students to be able to reflect and comment on each other’s

work, no matter how diverse that may become in the course of the next three years.

In Research Methods II, we will build on the foundation laid out in Research Methods I to work towards your own research proposal at the end of this course. Along the way, we will work on designing a research project that is feasible with limited resources in terms of time and money, but more importantly, we will work on some specific skills and techniques that will allow you to actually go out and do research. In the research methods Project in period 3 or 6 you will execute that proposal and finish with a paper presentation about your findings.

Course objectives

After taking Research Methods II, you will know about:

- Designing a realistic research project.
- Interviewing techniques and conducting basic qualitative research.
- Designing and executing a basic survey.
- Presenting your ideas in a poster format.
- Basic methods in the sciences, and how a lab works.
- Intermediate statistics, sampling strategies, and intermediate commands in SPSS.

Prerequisites

SKI1004 Research Methods I.

Recommended reading

- Gray, D. E. (2014). *Doing Research in the Real World* (Third ed.). London: SAGE Publications.

SKI1005

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [J.G.T.M. Moes](#)
- [E.F.L. Maegherman](#)

Teaching methods:

Assignment(s), Lecture(s), Paper(s), PBL, Presentation(s)

Assessment methods:

Attendance, Final paper, Oral exam, Participation, Take home exam, Written exam

Lab Skills: Biochemistry

Full course description

Laboratory skills are essential for students who want to pursue a Life Science oriented master study. In this skills training you will get acquainted with the basic laboratory skills in biochemistry. Training involves safety and Good Laboratory Practice, as well as some essential biochemistry techniques like DNA isolation, enzyme kinetics, adsorption/fluorescence spectroscopy, gel electrophoresis, and protein purification. You will work in teams of two and prepare your own protocol for each practical.

Course objectives

- To develop laboratory skills in the field of biochemistry.

Prerequisites

This course is designed to be taken in combination with SCI2035 Biochemistry. Students who wish to take this course should concurrently enroll in SCI2035 Biochemistry or have taken SCI2035 Biochemistry prior to enrolling in SKI2086.

Recommended reading

- Reed, R., Holmes, D., Weyers, J., Jones, A. (2007). *Practical Skills in Biomolecular Sciences*. (3rd ed.). Essex: Pearson Education Limited (Reading Room).
- Practical instructions and background texts (E-reader).

SKI2086

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [N.M. Deckers](#)
- [A.M.G. Jaminon](#)

Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing I

Full course description

Qualitative Research is an overarching term for a diverse range of approaches and methods within different research disciplines. Qualitative researchers essentially “study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people

bring to them” (Ritchie 2003: 3). Ethnography is one form of qualitative research and means literally “writing culture” (Hesse-Biber 2006: 230). Often called “participant observation”, ethnography is based on the simple idea, that in order to understand what people are up to, it is best to observe them by interacting with them up close and personal within their everyday lives. Ethnographers provide detailed accounts of the everyday practices of a culture, subculture, organisation or group by “hanging out”, observing and recording the ongoing social life by taking fieldnotes and/or providing “thick descriptions” (Hesse-Biber 2006: 230).

This is part one of an overall sequence of three skills trainings within which students design and implement their own study, analyze the data collected, and report on their research findings. In this first module students will learn about various research tools, such as participant observation and qualitative interviewing. Students will learn how to take fieldnotes and will be introduced to various forms of interviewing, such as the structured interview, the in-depth interview, focus groups and life history interviews. Taking fieldnotes and interviewing will be practiced in and outside of the classroom. Moreover, students will be guided through the process of crafting a feasible research question and the appropriate design for the study that they will pursue in the follow up modules of this course. The research questions will provide the basis for students’ investigations. What is to be investigated is entirely up to the student(s). However they will be provided with guidance in the formulation of their topics.

In this course, students will have to conduct at least one interview, thus you will need to have access to a tape recorder and/or video camera.

Note: This is a time and labor intensive skills training, especially once you have begun data collection in the second module of the course. Most of the work that you are required to accomplish will occur outside of the class setting. Students are expected to work independently and should count on having to invest an extra two to four hours per week for interviewing, transcribing the interviews and working on the data analysis.

Course objectives

- To get a general impression of the qualitative research process and its fundamental differences to quantitative data analysis.
- To become familiar with the “art” of qualitative interviewing.
- To practice taking fieldnotes.
- To provide students with hands-on experience in crafting their own study and writing a feasible research proposal.

Prerequisites

SKI1004 Research Methods I, SKI1005 Research Methods II and PRO1012 Research Project.

Recommended

This course is for students with a background or sincere interest in sociology, anthropology and/or cultural studies.

- [Research Methods I](#)
- [Research Methods II](#)

Recommended reading

- Hesse-Biber, S.N. (2011). *The Practice of Qualitative Research*. Sage Publication, Thousand Oaks, California, Second Edition.
- Burawoy, M. (2000). *Global Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Excerpts from several books on qualitative research that are available at the UCM reading room, for example, Silverman, D. (2005). *Doing Qualitative Research*, Rubin, H. (2005). *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data* and Ritchie, J. (2003). *Qualitative Research Practice*.

SKI2085

Period 1

5 Sep 2022

28 Oct 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [U.A. Mueller](#)

Research Studio, Introduction to Applying an Art Practice as Research Method

Full course description

The two modules of Research Studio invite to explore conducting research in an interdisciplinary team consisting of theatre artists and academics. Bridging the domains of art and academia, Research Studio challenges students to get out of their 'comfort zone' and transfer their academic knowledge and skills to a new working environment. This interdisciplinary view on research is underpinned by the idea that art and academia are not separate domains, but 'particular kinds of experimental practices in a more general experimental culture' (Gere, 2010). Taken together, the skills training and project trigger creativity, require adaptability and endorse critical reflection on established research practices, methods and ways of knowing. They challenge to critically consider the questions how do we know what we know? And what for? Participants in Research Studio are part of an interdisciplinary team. Together they work on a topical issue, guided by both a theatre professional and an academic researcher. The aim is not to turn UCM students into theatre artists or to 'make theatre'. Instead, the aim is to explore ways in which practices and insights from theatre can help to get to know about the topic of the research. Hence, the project welcomes students from all concentrations. All team-members contribute based on their personal backgrounds, expertise and interests. No specific experience in theatre or any other art practice is expected. Students should be open to experimenting with new or unfamiliar ways of conducting research, using for instance the body as a research instrument. Instructional format and assessment As an introduction to research incorporating an art practice, the project involves a variety of activities from both theatre and academia. Examples are discussion / brainstorm sessions, lectures, practical workshops, fieldtrips and individual reading and writing. During the first part (skills training) the focus is on how an art practice can contribute to getting to know about the world, for example as a research method or by providing insight in what questions could be asked or how to come up with research questions.

Assessment focuses on documentation of and reflection on the learning process. For this students start a personal research portfolio, which they continue in period 3. Additionally, they work towards creating a research plan of their own in which they include (insights from) an art practice they learned about. The research plan will be implemented in period 3.

Course objectives

The learning objectives addressed in the skills training part of Research Studio are as follows. Students will learn: 1. To familiarize themselves and engage with a variety of (artistic) research methodologies. This includes being able to recognize different forms of artistic research, being able to critically reflect on their application in different contexts and being able to relate them to (and potentially pair them with) academic methods of research. 2. Ways to engage in and discuss an art practice. This includes the use of artistic methods to generate knowledge (see objective 1) and the ability to distinguish between an art practice and artistic research. 3. Collaboration in a diverse and interdisciplinary team. This includes teamwork and communication skills as well as adaptability and reflection on one's strengths and weaknesses in contributing to the team-effort. 4. To transfer their knowledge and skills to a practical issue of societal concern. This includes critical analysis of the topic, recognizing what questions can be raised and what approaches can be taken to address these questions.

SKI3003

Period 2

31 Oct 2022

23 Dec 2022

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Coordinator:

- [I.T.H. Römgens](#)

Gaining Racial Literacy

Full course description

In this skills training, we will examine how racism works structurally and individually and how, this, in turn, affects us in our everyday lives. If we want to bring about fundamental change in our societies we need to become racially literate which means to develop the ability to discover racism in all its forms - subtle and overt, every day and institutional - and we need to learn how it impacts ourselves and others. The course builds on the premise that although white and BIPOC persons are affected differently by racism, all groups are affected deeply. Although the focus will be on racial identities we look at this through an intersectional lens, i.e. how does race intersect with other social categories such as class, gender and sexuality. By making use of a variety of different tools such as storytelling, role-play, empathic listening and small writing assignments, we will develop skills that will make us better equipped to deal with issues of racial injustice. Through role-playing exercises, for instance, we will stage situations we may have experienced and, collectively, we will find alternative re-enactments that will provide workable solutions for these racial situations. This process will take place via emotional involvement into the original situation and it will be followed by a discussion, which will, in turn, allow participants to gain analytical distance. This process might have to be repeated several times. By engaging in dialogues of race, we will relearn and reprocess emotions, thoughts, and perhaps, ways of being in the world that come with the social construction

of our racial identities. The recognition of racial codes and racialized practices will be refined through racial justice logs. Through detailed recordings of racialized situations in their everyday lives, participants will exercise their ability to recognize that they live in a racialized environment. Their day may start, for instance, by opening the newspaper where Blackness is underrepresented and it may end with a film where Blackness is represented in biased ways. Excerpts from their ongoing racial justice logs will be shared in class intermittently, followed by a discussion. The Digital Story project as the culmination of the course will allow us to retell aspects of our biographies and/or family history from a racial justice perspective. If history is present in everything that we do, as James Baldwin argues, then where better to start than in our own family history? This is when an investigation into how race has been done throughout our lives becomes meaningful. Participants will use this multimedia platform to re-evaluate their lives using the tools and concepts they have learned in this course. As the study of larger racial discourses such as colorblindness for instance, is an important aspect of anti-racism work, we will begin the process of unlearning practices that we have picked up since childhood. Throughout the course, we will grapple with France Twine's contention that racial identities are changeable and movable - at least to some extent. This may help us to get away from monolithic ways of conceptualizing racial identities and, instead, adopt more fluid practices of speaking, writing, seeing and perceiving. The course is open to all UCM students, particularly to those who aspire careers in international politics, NGO work along the North-South divide and international relations.

Course objectives

- To gain the ability to recognize and interpret racial codes and racialized practices.
- To learn to be empathetic to multiple lifestyles, experiences, needs and viewpoints.
- To sharpen intercultural communication skills that are necessary to operate and work in a multi-racial environment.
- To learn a racial grammar and vocabulary that enables you to discuss race, racism, and the need for antiracism work with people who do not normally recognize it.

SKI2047

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Coordinator:

- [U.A. Mueller](#)

Teaching methods:

Lecture(s), PBL

Evidence Synthesis 1: Study Designs in Systematic Reviewing

SKI3010

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

7 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

- [M.P.A. Zeegers](#)

Evidence Synthesis 2: Statistics in Systematic Reviewing

SKI3011

Period 5

10 Apr 2023

9 Jun 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

2.5

Coordinator:

- [M.P.A. Zeegers](#)

Projects

Projects

Conference

Full course description

In this project, students will finalize and offer the conference that has been prepared in the second period of this semester. The purpose of the conference will be to provide a platform for an audience of approximately 200 first semester students, scholars and professionals. The conference will allow people to meet and share ideas, present findings and discoveries and connect to fellow academics.

The project consists of three parts, being:

1. Final preparations for the conference, including dress rehearsals, peer feedback and dealing with the organisation of the conference.
2. Offering the conference to the target audience, organisation on the conference day(s) and gathering information for evaluation of the conference.
3. Evaluating the conference and writing a report with evaluations and recommendations for future editions

A wide variety of individual interests in the Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities is welcomed in order to offer a diverse conference. The project fosters an interdisciplinary approach among the participating students.

Course objectives

- To train students in skills required for preparing an academic conference.
- To train students in rehearsing, adapting and fine-tuning their contributions to a conference.
- To train students in offering a conference.
- To train students in evaluating a conference.

Prerequisites

SKI3050 Preparing Conference.

Recommended

SKI2007 Presentation Skills

- [Preparing Conference](#)

PRO3006

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C.W. van Dellen](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing III

Full course description

This is the third of a three module course on qualitative research methods. In this module students will be mainly engaged in writing the final analysis of their research findings. The relevance of their findings must be contextualized within the larger social and political forces within which the research is embedded. The course will end with a symposium where students will have the opportunity to present their research.

Course objectives

- To produce a comprehensive narrative of their research findings.

Prerequisites

SKI2085 Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing I and SKI3052 Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing II

- [Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing I](#)
- [Ethnography and Qualitative Interviewing II](#)

Recommended reading

- Hesse-Biber, S.N. (2011). *The Practice of Qualitative Research*. Sage Publication, Thousand Oaks, California, Second Edition.
- Burawoy, M. (2000). *Global Ethnography*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Excerpts from several books on qualitative research that are available at the UCM reading room, for example, Silverman, D. (2005). *Doing Qualitative Research* Robin, H. (2005). *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data* and Ritchie, J. (2003). *Qualitative Research Practice*.

PRO3009

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [U.A. Mueller](#)

Writing Project: "The Journal"

Full course description

The overall format of the project is that of a fictitious academic, peer reviewed journal, for which the members of a tutorial group serve both as editors and contributors. Students will select a tutorial group dedicated to a particular topic. Under the guidance of the tutors and aided by the feedback from their peers, students will write a research paper in which they explore the topic of their group, and use, refer to and compare several sources dealing with the topic. The general topic is the same for all members of a group but students may examine their own specific research question within the broader topic. During the process of researching and writing, the work of all group members will be evaluated by their peers, on the basis of criteria agreed upon by the group as relevant and fitting for their journal (in addition to a set of basic criteria given beforehand). The final papers will be bundled in the journal of that tutorial group.

Course objectives

- To further enhance academic writing skills, as well as systematic literature research skills and editing skills.
- To do an in-depth analysis of a topic, using the knowledge (theoretical framework, factual context, overall interpretations and analyses) acquired during regular content courses.
- To learn how to set up an writing review workshop, write an academic review of a paper, and how to respond to such reviews in a professional manner.
- To gain familiarity with academic journals and their mode of operation.

Prerequisites

Either SKI2084 Writing in an Academic Context OR SKI2049 Argumentation I.

- [Introducing Academic Communication: A Writing Project](#)
- [Introduction to Academic Skills II](#)
- [Introduction to Academic Skills I](#)

Recommended reading

- Reading lists from tutors of each tutorial group.
- Independent literature research.

PRO2003

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [V. Lifreri](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Introducing Academic Communication: A Writing Project

Full course description

To be a Liberal Arts & Sciences student means to have a broad interest and to be able to approach problems from different perspectives. Working together with students from different disciplines on the same problem, is a crucial part of being a true Liberal Arts & Sciences student.

Furthermore, while communication plays an important part in everyday life, within academia it is essential. Having good communication skills involves being able to express your ideas and findings in a clear and concise manner, within the guidelines set by the academic community.

In this project, students will practice writing an academic piece in an interdisciplinary team. Students will be expected to put the skills learned in Introduction to Academic Skills I & II into practice and write an extensive research paper. The project is mainly based on peer-to-peer education; by writing a paper in a small, interdisciplinary group, students will be able to both share their skills and knowledge and learn from each other.

Course objectives

- The aim of this project is to acquaint Liberal Arts & Sciences students with the process and practice of writing an interdisciplinary research paper. Furthermore, the goal is to familiarize students with working in an interdisciplinary group. The tutor will assist students in this process and will be available to offer support, guidance and feedback. The emphasis of this project, however, will lie upon students' own input, planning and group work.

Prerequisites

This course is not open to exchange students.

SKI1008 Introduction to Academic Skills I and SKI1009 Introduction to Academic Skills II.

- [Introduction to Academic Skills II](#)
- [Introduction to Academic Skills I](#)

Recommended reading

- Required reading material will be available in PDF format on Student Portal.

PRO1010

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [A.K. Wellum](#)
- [A. Foster](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Project Deep Reading

Full course description

In this project students will engage in a deep reading of a seminal text linked to the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences. Deep reading is a process of thoughtful and deliberate reading through which a reader actively works to critically contemplate, understand and ultimately enjoy a

particular text to the fullest extent possible. Rather than selectively skimming for facts or speed-reading for summaries, the process of deep reading means slowing down, re-reading and even stopping periodically to more fully contemplate specific pages or passages. Having considered and recognized what a text says, deep reading goes a step further and strives to reflect upon the broader implications or consequences of the text; i.e. what does the text 'do'? Although deep reading is a profoundly personal experience, within the context of problem-based learning the process of deep reading also rests on the premise that profound understanding and appreciation of a text emerges through group-based discussion and deliberation.

Course objectives

- Students will undertake an in-depth reflection and commentary on a single seminal text linked to the humanities, social sciences or natural sciences.
- Students will learn about the process of 'deep reading' as well as the genre of writing critical and substantive book reviews.

Prerequisites

None.

Recommended reading

- A single seminal text (classic or contemporary) will be assigned by individual tutors.

PRO2011

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [K.A. Heidemann](#)

Science Research Project: Data Science

Full course description

In the Data Science Research Project students will form a small research team and join an ongoing research project in the Institute of Data Science. The project will be driven by a research question to provide a solution to a domain-specific problem, which requires the application of Data Science methods. Your tasks will include all aspects of empirical research from the formulation of the research question, choosing and implementation of the right methodology, performing experiments, interpreting and analyzing results along with the scientific reporting of those results.

In the Data Science Research Project students will form a small research team and join an ongoing research project in the Institute of Data Science. The project will be driven by a research question to provide a solution to a domain-specific problem, which requires the application of Data Science

University College Maastricht

methods. Your tasks will include all aspects of empirical research from the formulation of the research question, choosing and implementation of the right methodology, performing experiments, interpreting and analyzing results along with the scientific reporting of those results.

We encourage you to look at the institutes website to get an idea of ongoing research:
<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/research/institute-data-science>.

Course objectives

- To provide students the opportunity to learn and apply knowledge about Data Science in the context of a team-based research project.
- To provide students first-hand experience of full-time academic research, by fully involving the team in an ongoing research project along with data science researchers.

Prerequisites

Courses that are appropriate for the project that you choose, which will be specified in the project description. Generally, it is assumed that students have taken one or more courses related to data science (such as SCI2011 Introduction to Programming, SCI2033 Datamining, SCI2036 Artificial Intelligence, SCI2039 Computer Science, SCI3051 Data Analytics).

The topic description will be made available on the intranet (UCM Students) at the time of the course registration period. If you would like to join this project you need to apply for it by filling in the application form on the intranet (UCM Students). Part of this form asks you to elaborate on your motivation to follow the project. This should cover an explanation as to how participating in the project adds to your curriculum, why you think you are well prepared to follow the project and an overview of the relevant courses that you took. The application needs to be submitted in advance of the course registration deadline.

Depending on the topic being offered the number of available spots might be limited. Therefore, the course coordinator reserves the right to only select the students that are deemed most suitable. It will be communicated in a timely manner, but no later than 6 weeks before the start of the project, whether the application for the project was successful. If access to the project is denied, then you will be allocated to a backup project. Please indicate the backup project on your course registration form.

Note: This is a time-consuming, full-time project with a high workload. In principle, students should take into account that they need to be available during entire weekdays throughout the project

Recommended reading

There is no general literature or course book that students need to buy or possess. Students will choose, read, and use literature that is specifically related to their topic.

PRO3013
Period 6
12 Jun 2023

University College Maastricht

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [R. Celebi](#)
- [L. Rieswijk](#)

Project Academic Debate

Full course description

Debating skills are an important component of academic life. That is, students should be able to defend their own position and to refute opposing positions, by providing substantial arguments, based on reliable sources.

In this project, students will prepare, present and defend a position for an academic debate on a specific topic. The available topics are central issues that have emerged out of a wide range of UCM courses from different concentrations. At the start of the project, the group will discuss their topic and settle on a concrete proposition for the final debate. After that, the group splits up into a pro (“yes”) and a con (“no”) side; the pro side will argue in favor of, and the con side will argue against, the proposition. The two sides prepare their cases for the final debate separately. A crucial part of this preparation is writing an individual position paper, in which one counter-argument is refuted based on three pro-arguments, which are supported by relevant, reliable sources.

During this course, there will also be a practice debate, which focusses on delivery. The purpose of this practice debate is to familiarize students with the debate setting in the lecture hall and to provide them with feedback on their public speaking skills. The topic for the practice debate will thematically relate to, but still significantly differ from, the proposition of the final debate.

In this debating course, students will work on their argumentation and communication skills. The focus is on content and delivery. It is not only important to think about *what* you say, but also about *how* you say it. The goal is learning to convince an audience of the correctness of one’s position, by presenting them with a cohe-rently structured case, based on informed arguments, which are delivered in a clear and self-assured manner.

Course objectives

- To equip students with essential debating and communication skills.
- To introduce students to the practice of speaking in a public setting.
- To become an expert on a topic of their choice (the debate topic).

Prerequisites

Recommended

Presentation Skills SKI2007, Argumentation I SKI2049.

Courses relevant to the topics of that particular year.

Recommended reading

- Students will have to search, read and use (academic) literature on their debate topic themselves.

PRO2004

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

- [C. Erkli](#)

Teaching methods:

PBL, Presentation(s), Lecture(s), Assignment(s), Paper(s)

Assessment methods:

Final paper, Attendance, Participation, Written exam, Oral exam, Take home exam

Think Tank

Full course description

Students will form a 'think tank' and write and present an extensive and elaborate (policy) recommendation for an external client, i.e. a company or organization. The project coordinators will offer a topic in advance. A creative and critical analysis of the problem at hand will lead to the application of knowledge and skills acquired at UCM through previous course work, and new insights developed during the project.

The first week will focus on a problem analysis and an analysis of the knowledge and expertise of the members of the think tank. The second week will focus on doing research. The third week will deal with discussing and formulating solutions. During the final week students will present their report to an audience of experts.

Besides having meetings with their fellow students and a tutor, the group might meet with guest experts (either invited by the coordinators or by the students themselves) and undertake self-organized field trips and external visits in order to obtain the required information.

Course objectives

- Let students work together and set up a problem analysis based on the assignment given by an external client, i.e. to develop skills concerning critical analysis, including the analysis of a problem, conceptualizing a problem as a case study (the ability to see the particular problem within a wider context), and to generate new knowledge relevant to the case at hand (Boyer's

‘discovery’ and ‘integration’)

- Let students work together and do research based on the assignment that was given to them, i.e. to develop skills concerning organization of work, and collaboration in a team (not specifically related to Boyer, yet instrumental towards all four aspects at the level of collaborative learning);
- Let students write a report based on an assignment that was given to them, i.e. skills related to formulating finding and recommendations in a comprehensive yet concise manner (‘application’ and ‘teaching’)
- Let students present their report to the representative and a group of experts (‘teaching’).

Prerequisites

At least two modules from the following list: SKI2049 Argumentation I; SKI3002 Argumentation II; Skills and Project Ethnographic and Qualitative Interviewing; PRO2004 Academic Debate; SSC2061 Statistics I (SSC1026 Quantitative Methods); and COR1005 Modeling Nature. In addition, the project and the nature of the assignment require some experience in academia. Therefore, students can only take the project in their fourth semester or later. This also allows students to do well and gain more from the project.

The coordinators would like to emphasize that Think Tank is a time-consuming project with a high workload that requires highly motivated students. Students should have a broad interest in e.g. policy development and research and analysis. Due to the specific nature of the project and the fact that group work is an essential element, students should take into account that they need to be available during entire weekdays throughout the project.

Participating in Think Tank as part of the regular workload at UCM is doable but demanding. Therefore, having a higher workload due to e.g. additional or parallel projects is not allowed.

Recommended reading

- There is no general literature or course books that students need to buy or possess. Students will choose, read and use literature that is specifically related to their topic.
- E-reader.

PRO3008

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinators:

- [C.W. van Dellen](#)
- [I.T.H. Römgens](#)

Teaching methods:

Research Project

Full course description

Research is “creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge [...]”. This goal can be achieved in a wide variety of ways. We can count “things”, add them up, calculate statistics about them, and get a reliable overview of “things”. We can also describe those “things” in great detail and question why they are the “things” that they are, and what that means in the context of those “things”. Which approach is better? The answer is that this depends on what you want to learn about those “things”. In other words, if we want to “increase the stock of knowledge”, it partly depends on which knowledge you are interested in increasing (your “puzzle” and specific questions), and partly also on what you consider “knowledge” to be in the first place. In Research Methods I, we will address these issues in great detail, and we will go into how a research project can be set up in alignment with the answers to these questions.

Research Methods I (SKI1004), Research Methods II (SKI1005), and the Research Project (PRO1012) form one coherent semester-long block of courses in which you will start from scratch and end with your own finished research project. Along the way, we will discuss a wide variety of research approaches frequently used in the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences. Another goal of this sequence of courses is for UCM as an academic community to further develop its multi/interdisciplinary character, and for students to be able to reflect and comment on each other’s work, no matter how diverse that may become in the course of the next three years.

The Research Project is the conclusion of your research methods training, and an opportunity to put everything you learned in to practice. We will build on the foundation laid out in Research Methods I, and on the practical skills learned in Research Methods II. You ended Research Methods II with a final research proposal, which forms the starting point for the Research Project. Assuming that this final proposal was indeed fully ready for execution, you can start gathering data and/or analyzing your data from day one of the Research Project. You will finish with an extended paper that presents your findings.

Course objectives

After doing the Research Project, you will know about:

- Conducting a well-designed research project from start to finish.
- Academic writing in the context of empirical research.
- Presenting empirical research outcomes.

Prerequisites

SKI1004 Research Methods I and SKI1005 Research Methods II.

Recommended reading

- Gray, D. E. (2014). *Doing Research in the Real World* (Third ed.). London: Sage Publications.

PRO1012

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [J.G.T.M. Moes](#)
- [E.F.L. Maegherman](#)

Science Research Project: Biomedical Engineering

Full course description

In the Biomedical Engineering Research Project students will form a small research team and join an ongoing research project in the Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine (MERLN). The project will be driven by a research question to provide a solution to a domain-specific problem, which requires the methods at the interface of biology and engineering. Your tasks will include all aspects of empirical research from the formulation of the research question, choosing and implementation of the right methodology, performing experiments, interpreting and analyzing results along with the scientific reporting of those results.

We encourage you to look at the institutes website to get an idea of ongoing research: <https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/research/institute-technology-inspired-regenerative-medicine>. A detailed description of the research project will be provided in due time. We ask all students with a definite interest in joining this Research Project to contact the coordinator via email (m.baker@maastrichtuniversity.nl). In this email you should provide a short explanation as to how participating in this project adds to your curriculum. In addition, we request you to include an overview of the relevant courses you did. The coordinator and supervisors reserve the right to deny a student access to the project, should the student not meet the prerequisites. If this happens, the student will be allowed to register for another project.

Course objectives

- To provide students the opportunity to learn and apply knowledge in the field of biomedical engineering in the context of a team-based research project.
- To provide students first-hand experience of full-time academic research, by fully involving the team in an ongoing research project along with biomedical researchers.

Prerequisites

Courses that are appropriate for the project that you choose, which will be specified in the project description. Generally, it is assumed that students have taken one or more courses related to biomedical sciences (such as SCI2035 Biochemistry, SCI2037 Cell Biology, SKI2077 Lab Skills Cell Biology, SKI2086 Lab Skills: Biochemistry).

Note: This is a time-consuming, full-time project with a high workload. In principle, students should take into account that they need to be available during entire weekdays throughout the project.

Recommended reading

- There is no general literature or course book that students need to buy or possess. Students will choose, read, and use literature that is specifically related to their topic.

PRO3014

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [A.A. van Apeldoorn](#)
- [Z. Tahmasebi Birgani](#)

Teaching methods:

Skills

Research Studio, where Art and Academia meet

Full course description

Research Studio invites you to explore conducting research in an interdisciplinary team consisting of theatre artists and academics. Bridging the domains of art and academia, this project challenges you to get out of your 'comfort zone' and transfer your academic knowledge and skills to a new working environment. This interdisciplinary view on research is grounded in the assumption that art and academia are not separate domains, but 'particular kinds of experimental practices in a more general experimental culture' (Gere, 2010). The project triggers your creativity, requires adaptability and invites critical reflection on established research practices, methods and ways of knowing. It challenges you to critically consider the questions how do we know what we know? And what for? All participants in the Research Studio are part of an interdisciplinary team, including students with a background in theatre and with an academic background. They work on a topical problem in collaboration, guided by both a theatre professional and an academic researcher. All team-members contribute to the project based on their personal backgrounds, expertise and interests. Hence, the project welcomes students from all concentrations. No specific experience in theatre is needed. Students should be open to experimenting with new or unfamiliar ways of conducting research, using for instance the body as a research instrument.

Course objectives

By participating in the Research Studio, students will learn:

- To transfer their knowledge and skills to a practical issue of societal concern. This includes critical analysis of the topic provided, recognizing what knowledge and/or skills are applicable and applying this knowledge and/or skills.
- To develop their research skills. This includes exploring and reflecting on different research methods, practiced in the Arts, Humanities and (Social) Sciences and becoming aware of the benefits and limitations of different approaches to conducting research.
- Ways to engage in and discuss an art practice. This includes insight in the art practice as a skill and approach to acquiring knowledge and experiencing potential similarities and differences between artistic and academic practices.
- To create a practice-based research output that follows from the approach developed during the research and aims at a specific audience in and/or outside academia. This includes defining an audience for the research output and finding an appropriate 'form', which connects to the development of the research process, for presenting the results.
- Collaboration in an interdisciplinary team. This includes teamwork and communication skills as well as adaptability and reflection on one's strengths and weaknesses in contributing to the team-effort.

Prerequisites

The number of spots in this project is limited. We are looking for open-minded students who are drawn to the content of the project and interested in helping to develop it further. More information about the artist, the content and the application procedure will be published in the Student Portal. Students who are interested in participating should consult the Student Portal and follow the instructions for application carefully.

PRO3015

Period 3

9 Jan 2023

3 Feb 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [I.T.H. Römgens](#)

Social Sciences/Humanities Research Project

Full course description

In the Social Sciences/Humanities Research Project students will form a small research group and join an ongoing UCM research project. They are supervised by a UCM researcher, who provides a specific topic that relates to her/his own research. Students work on the topic in a team with the goal to produce an output that is of relevance and applicability to the supervisor's research. This requires the application and further development of knowledge relevant to the project in question and of research, writing and analytical skills. The exact setup of the project varies according to the

specific research topic that is offered. Further information about the research topics and the specific setup of the project will be made available on MyUCM at the time of the course registration period.

Course objectives

- To give students a first-hand account of full-time academic research by involving them in an ongoing UCM research project.
- To let students work together in a team and apply their knowledge and skills in the context of a research project. This includes the strengthening of research, writing and analytical skills.
- To further develop skills concerning organization of work and collaboration in a team.

PRO3016

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [R.N. Haar](#)

Public Policy Evaluation & Analysis Project

Full course description

In the project students have the possibility to systematically evaluate a real-life public policy. In doing so they will work in small teams (probably 3 teams of 4 students per tutorial group). Students will propose a policy (in a suggested broader topic area) for evaluation and analysis in their application. The coordinators make a pre selection of those policies that seem suitable for a team project. In the first week of the project students will jointly decide on the topic they will address based on this pre selection, design a research and workplan, and make agreements how they will work together as a team. The second and the third weeks are dedicated to actual research on the policy, guided by the students' previously developed plan. During this time students also start working on their written policy analysis report and the presentation thereof. In the fourth week the report and the presentation will be finalized, and the different sub-groups will present their findings to each other. This will be rounded off with an evaluative workshop at the end of the project period.

Course objectives

- To provide students with an advanced and in-depth experience in systematically conducting a public policy evaluation by analyzing, proposing, deciding and evaluating a complex local, regional, national or global public policy (problem) with a multidisciplinary team;
- To integrate and deepen their knowledge of different relevant disciplines and courses into one field of application: public policy evaluation & analysis
- To integrate and deepen their experience with applying their acquired analytical skill set to a real-life policy.
- To provide them with additional insights, awareness and experience in team dynamics and how they are in it as an individual

PRO3005

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

University College Maastricht

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinators:

- [R.J.M. Speijcken](#)
- [W. Giernalczyk](#)

Evidence Synthesis 3: Systematic Review Research Project

PRO3017

Period 6

12 Jun 2023

7 Jul 2023

[Print course description](#)

ECTS credits:

5.0

Coordinator:

- [M.P.A. Zeegers](#)

Capstone