Critical Global Theories (A004064)

Valid as from the academic year 2015-2016

Course Specifications

Lecturers in academic year 2015-2016
Vanhaute, Eric

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2015-2016
A (semester 1)
- lecture 5.0 h
- group work 15.0 h
- integration seminar 5.0 h
- seminar 15.0 h

Offered in the following programmes in 2015-2016
- Master of Arts in History 5 A
- Exchange Programme for students of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Global Studies: A European Perspective (Co-ordinator Universität Leipzig) 5 A
- Exchange Programme History 5 A

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
Human history, transitions, development and social change, civilizations, historical capitalism, globalization, ideology and world views, social sciences.

Position of the course
This course provides a critical introduction into theories and concepts of ‘global studies’, with applications on the basis of a set of historical or current research problems. The course aims to impart to students a critical insight into various and divergent models of explanation of social change on a global scale and in the long run. The range is broad, from perspectives on modernization, over dependentia and world systems theories, to globalization theories. Students acquire a nuanced insight into the pros and cons of holistic models of analysis and are able to critically apply these. In addition, they are familiarized with the core concepts of global studies and world history, with the main criticisms of these notions and with applications within the different social sciences.

Contents
We start with an introduction on the divergent conceptualizations of global studies and global/world history. Next, some debates on global social change are situated within the field of social-historical studies. This is done by a series of discussion seminars with an active participation of the students.

Initial competences
Bachelor degree

Final competences
1. The students critically interrogate research questions from the social and human sciences within the context of global studies
2. They know the most important theories and concepts in the research field of global studies, and are able to critically evaluate them
3. They have a critical overview of international research and they integrate international literature in their own research

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4. They analyze and interpret independently social processes in a global context, and discuss critically processes of globalization.
5. They present research results orally for a professional and a non-professional public.
6. They work together in an interdisciplinary setting, and evaluate this critically.

**Conditions for credit contract**
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

**Conditions for exam contract**
Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'.

**Teaching methods**
Group work, lecture, integration seminar, seminar

**Extra information on the teaching methods**
A small number of introductory lectures will be followed by various discussion meetings on the basis of literature to be read prior to the meetings. Students participate actively, the language is English.

**Learning materials and price**
Reader with introductory texts. Cost: 20 EUR

**References**

**Course content-related study coaching**
Appointment via email, Minerva. Teaching assistant: Alexander Jocqué, Alexander.Jocque@UGent.be

**Evaluation methods**
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period**
Oral examination, assignment

**Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period**
Oral examination, assignment

**Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**
Participation, assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**
Examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**
Course work: collaboration in courses, position papers, group paper

**Calculation of the examination mark**
70% permanent evaluation (participation in classes, position papers, group paper and presentation).
30% exam (oral examination)

**Facilities for Working Students**
Facilities:
1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours.

Extra information:
Student attendance is required during the presentations and discussions.
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy.

(Approved)