

Dealing with Global Challenges

Programme in English



This course aims at developing the following competences

- Integrate contemporary challenges and international perspectives in professional behaviour and functioning
- Professionalization, lifelong learning, reflecting on other learning contexts
- Multidisciplinary cooperation and functioning in a team with international students
- Intercultural communication and diversity

Content

- Global challenges
 - Economic crisis: unemployment, international debt and industrialisation
 - Commodity crisis: depletion of fossil fuels, minerals and food
 - Inequality in the world: socio-economic inequity, North-South relations, development cooperation, health promotion and illiteracy
 - Migration, refugees, traffic in women, asylum
 - Ecological crisis: climate change (GHG, factor 10) and Sustainable Development: resilience, cradle to cradle, Life Cycle Assessment
- International perspectives
 - Alternative worldviews
 - Globalisation and neoliberalism
 - International relations: cooperation and sovereignty (Treaty of Lisbon)
 - International theories: realism, liberalism, constructivism,...
 - International organisations: UN, NATO, OSCE, Council of Europe, EU

- Professional behaviour international practices and multidisciplinary cooperation
 - International projects: success factors, opportunities and challenges
 - Theory about diversity, intercultural models and gender
 - Cultures: cultural evolutionism, culture clash, cultural relativism, cultural dominance
 - Culture, intercultural communication (Hofstede, Lewis, TOPOI, digital storytelling), intercultural training
 - Liberation theology and pedagogics of the suppressed (Paolo Frère)
 - Human rights, social justice and views on humanity
 - Millennium goals and food security
 - Fair Trade and microcredits (Yunus)

Course prerequisites

- Applicants have to be in their second or preferably third year of a bachelor degree programme
- Intermediate level of English

Assessment

- Project based group work, presentation and written exam
- ECTS grading scale
- 6 ECTS



General structure

- The programme is open to international and Belgian students
- Spring term: February to May 2012
- Lectures: Each Monday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. in campus Geel
- 6 ECTS credits
- Estimated workload: 150 hours (of which 45 hours in class)
- The programme can be combined with a project/placement or with other courses

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