Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Interculturality: A Philosophy of Language Perspective (A703110)

Course size
(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 5.0
Study time 150 h
Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings in academic year 2019-2020

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Lejeune, Martine
LW22 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

Teaching languages
English

Keywords
theme course; interculturality; philosophy; culture; language; general linguistics; cultural anthropology

Position of the course

The course 'Interculturality: a Philosophy of Language Perspective' familiarizes the students with the necessary philosophical concepts, enabling them to gain insight into the complex issue of culture and the relationship between cultures, and to critically assess the arguments about culture in various texts ranging from reports by international organizations to articles by experts in academic publications.

Contents
The course "Interculturality: a Philosophy of Language Perspective" focuses on:
• the problem of the definition of the concept of culture
• the problem of understanding other cultures
• critical assessment of current discourses on the issue of culture and interculturality

In our reflection on culture, we are faced with two fundamental problems. First, the problem of the lack of a consensual definition of the concept of culture, and related to this, the question how concept, word, name, meaning, thought and reality connect. And secondly, the problem of the proper approach to culture in the absence of a consensual definition.

Premise of this course is the proposition that there is a point of similarity between people which cannot be denied, namely their use of language. Therefore, the linguistic-model-based, anthropological approach offers an ideal starting point for the study of culture and the relationship between cultures.

Through the lectures, students acquire the necessary knowledge in order to be able to do their seminar assignment. Purpose of this assignment is to develop their intellectual ability to critically assess the concepts, visions, views and arguments put forward in a representative text on culture and the issue of interculturality.

Because this course is taught in English and is open to exchange students, the student body is very diverse. Students attending classes experience the problem of cultural differences firsthand. They are encouraged to engage in a dialogue with their fellow students in order to get a clear idea of the intricacies of the issue, and to go in search for conclusive answers.

Initial competences
The student has reached a general level of competence in reasoning skills, acquisition

(Approved)
and processing of information and is able to reflect critically. Language requirement: all students must have a sufficient knowledge of English (CEF-level B2 or above) for understanding, reading, speaking and writing skills

Final competences

1. Having knowledge and understanding of theories of culture, and applying these theories to the analysis of written and spoken communication on culture and interculturality. (B.1.4./assessed)

2. Having knowledge and understanding of the cultural and institutional context of the relationship between cultures, and applying this knowledge and understanding to the translation, interpretation, and production of written and oral statements on the issue of interculturality. (B.1.5./assessed)

3. Based on philosophical knowledge to think and reason analytically and creatively, and to address complex problems regarding the relationship between cultures which they are not familiar with. (B.3.2./assessed)

4. Critically reflect on their own thinking about an their own attitudes towards culture and the relationship between cultures. (B.3.3./assessed)

5. Based on acquired competences, taking joint responsibility and being a team player. (B.4.1./assessed)

6. Based on acquired competences, acting correctly and tactfully in different communicative situations, based on an understanding of similarities, differences and interactions between cultures. (B.5.2./not assessed)

7. Adequately interpreting, analysing, assessing and correcting written and oral communication, including messages of a specialised nature about culture and interculturality. (B.6.1./assessed)

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Extra information on the teaching methods

- **Lectures**: the basics necessary for the seminars.
- **Seminars**: presentation of the analysis of a text on culture, take questions from the audience and lead a group discussion on the main conclusions.
- **Assisted self-study**: the students independently read and analyse texts in preparation for the seminars; they are assisted in these assignments by the 'Interculturality Seminar Memorandum', a list of instructions how to prepare for the seminars.

Learning materials and price

- hand-outs (no costs)

References

Chronological:


(Approved)
end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Participation, assignment


Course content-related study coaching

Questions related to the topic of the course are dealt with in class or by appointment.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

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 in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

**Permanent evaluation**: 20% attendance classes and seminars, and active participation in the discussions; 40% seminar assignment presentation

**Periodic evaluation**: 40% written exam, open questions aimed at evaluating the mastery of learning content.

Calculation of the examination mark

Students who do not take part in the assessment of the seminar assignment or in the end-of-term written exam evaluation cannot pass the course evaluation.

Should the average mark obtained by students who did not take part in the assessment of the seminar assignment or in the end-of-term written exam evaluation be higher than 10/20, their final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Facilities for Working Students

• Possibility of exemption from attending classes, alternative assignment includes studying the syllabus, analysis and synthesis of the texts discussed in the seminars
• Possibility of written exam at another time during the academic year
• Feedback by appointment

(Approved)