Course information

Name: Empowering Women in the 21st Century
Teaching institution: ISCTE−University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL)
Location: Lisbon, Portugal
Dates: 3-23 January 2016 (TBC)
Duration: 3 weeks
Course contact hours: 39 hours of academic classes
30 hours of research visits/field trips
23 hours of cultural activities
Pre-requisites: Students should have completed one year or more of a social sciences course related studies at the time of the course. Voluntary work or professional experience will also be considered relevant.

Language: English
Last updated: 4th August 2015

Course description/objectives

The course aims to give students an overview of women’s contribution to the development of societies. With a sociological perspective, the course brings to discussion topics regarding gender and how values and norms influence and perpetuate stereotypes, supporting mechanisms and reproducing inequality in several social domains: politics, economy, education, family, work, environment, health, and personal safety. The course is awareness raising and stimulates a general sensitivity to gender issues.

Students are invited to visit Portuguese and international agencies as well as non-governmental organizations focussed on human rights and the empowerment of women.
During the course, several activities are to be developed: group discussion, development of a research strategy, field work, written paper and an in-class oral presentation. Groups will be supported by a weekly meeting with a supervisor to discuss the on-going research and promote a sociological reflection on a chosen topic.

**Class topic information**
The course has the following structure: academic classes and research visits/field trips. Academic classes have theoretical and practical components.

- **Academic classes (36 hours)**
  - Family and the importance of women in history
  - Conceptual framework for gender analysis
  - Feminism and the empowerment of women
  - The role of organizations to promote human rights and women’s rights
  - Gender and discrimination
  - Gender and work-life balance
  - The political role of women
  - Work and gender desegregation
  - Gender and immigration
  - Environment and gender
  - Gender-based violence and human trafficking
  - Gender and health.

- **Research visits/ field trips (30 hours)**
  - Non-governmental organizations focussed on gender equality, human rights and women’s rights
  - Governmental agencies and the Assembly of the Republic
  - International organization that promote human rights and gender equality
  - Movie session and dinner at a non-governmental organization that promotes the social inclusion of immigrant communities
  - Visit to Portuguese military or police premises.
**Learning outcomes**

On completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Discuss gender issues critically and acquire a general sensitivity to gender issues
- Understand and critically review the contribution of different social and human sciences to theory, research and practice on women’s and gender issues
- Analyse the established local system of dealing with human rights and gender equality and the role of the different organizations involved
- Reflect on the relation between academic study and professional experience and develop learning processes taking advantage of this link
- Critically analyse and assess comparative data both at local and cross-country level
- Collect, organise and analyse different kinds of information and data
- Capacity to communicate research findings
- Develop work in team
- To be challenged with new perspectives and ways of perceiving gender.

**Course assessment (TBC)**

Students will complete assessment tasks as part of the program. Assessment is expected to be comprised of:

- **Final paper – 3000 words (50%)**
  Grading based on: relevance of the topic and connection with the course programme and aims, analytical skills, accuracy of sources, development of research statement and/or thesis statement, body and conclusions. Consistency throughout the paper is mandatory.
  Reference style: MLA, APA or Harvard accepted.
- **Class presentation (20%)**
  20-30 minutes oral presentation using PowerPoint or similar software. Presentation must be submitted. Grading based on: knowledge of the topic, accuracy and relevance of information, presentation skills, and quality of PowerPoint presentation.
- **Quiz assessment (15%)**
A quiz will be given to evaluate the amount of learning taking place in class and research visits/field trips. Grading based on: knowledge of the topic and accuracy of the answers.

- **Participation (15%)**
  Grading based on: active participation in class during lectures, research visits and field trips.

**Cultural activities (23 hours)**
- Visit to Lisbon Story Centre & Arco da R. Augusta, Lisbon
- Group excursion to Sintra (World Heritage Site of UNESCO): National Palace of Sintra, Pena Palace, Quinta da Regaleira, Cabo da Roca, Praia do Guincho, Mouth of Hell, Cascais, Lisbon Coast (full day)
- Group excursion to Évora (World Heritage Site of UNESCO): São Francisco Church, Chapel of Bones, Praça do Giraldo, Cork Trees, Évora Cathedral, Roman Temple, Aqueduct of Silver Water, Vasco da Gama Bridge (full day)
- Visit to Museum Casa das Histórias de Paula Rego, Cascais
- Lisbo Card (48h card to visit museums and touristic sites).

**Teaching faculty: course coordinator and lecturers' information**
The course is coordinated by Professor Maria das Dores Guerreiro and Joana Aguiar Patrício. Classes are conducted and organised by a set of Portuguese and invited foreign lecturers according to the topic. Classes are complemented with research visits and field trips according to the topic.

**Course readings**
Students will be provided with all learning materials in English (including relevant reading list and pdf files) on arrival to ISCTE-IUL. During the program, students will have access to ISCTE-IUL library and online resources.

**Attendance and class participation**
Attendance at all classes, research visits and cultural activities is required. Students failing to attend a scheduled activity will be required to show a medical certificate or similar form of justification.
Students are expected to actively participate in discussions during lectures, seminars and visits. A component of students’ overall marks for the program will be attributed to their class participation. Active participation in these activities will be assessed as 15% of the total assessment load.

**Missed exams or assignments**

Students must complete all exams and assignments scheduled as assessment for the program. Alternative exam times or extensions on assignment deadlines will only be considered in the event of a documented illness or other unavoidable, substantial and documented reason. The decision to offer extensions, alternative exam times or special consideration is made at the discretion of ISCTE-IUL in line with its policies on these matters.

**Academic honesty**

Students will be required to comply with ISCTE-IUL’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic integrity.

**Academic record**

Students will receive an academic record for the course as well as a certificate.

The official transcripts of records are issued by the International Relations Office both in Portuguese and ECTS scale.

**Grading information**

The course will be assessed. Under the Portuguese system grades are given on a scale from 0 to 20, the minimum passing grade being 10.

Course results will be available approximately 4 weeks after the due date for the final assignment.

**Available support services**

The program is fully supported by ISCTE-IUL’s international office and students will have access to academic support. Students will have access to campus computing and library facilities to assist them with completing the program’s
required assessment. However, students are advised to bring their own laptop. An ISCTE-IUL email account will be created for each student.

**Contact Information**

For further information regarding this syllabus, please contact the Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas:

Email: info@aimoverseas.com.au
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