

Practising Human Rights in Urban Areas

Course Guide 2020

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ECTS	3
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Self study hours	34
Course site	Practising Human Rights in Urban Areas

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Module ID	Practising Human Rights in Urban Areas, extended version
Academic Year	2019-2020
ECTS	6
Contact hours	60
Self study hours	108
Course site	Practising Human Rights in Urban Areas

Module overview

This guide gives you an overview of the Practising Human Rights in Urban Areas summer course, which will be part of the AUAS summer School for the 5th consecutive time in 2020. The first day of the course will be on Monday July 6th, summer school housing will be available from Saturday July 4th. It is advised to arrive in Amsterdam no later than Sunday July 5th, since registration starts at 8 AM on Monday morning. For more practical information, please go to www.amsterdamuas.com/summerschool.

1.1 Content

During the two-week summer course, you will work on human rights challenges faced by the city of Amsterdam, especially concerning groups in challenging human rights situations. Examples of such challenged groups are refugees, people living in poverty, the LGBT-community and migrants.

Learning by doing is central to this summer course. Therefore you will be informed by (theoretical) introductions to the central themes and different approaches. This will be combined with visits to the neighbourhoods of Amsterdam to work with experienced practitioners and, most importantly, challenged groups.

This ‘field lab’ experience of creative methods and digital storytelling will provide you with the tools necessary to develop skills and strategies to empower the challenged groups. In addition, you will receive support from experts on the themes of the summer course. By actively participating in interactive and integrative field labs, you will work, learn and develop skills in practice. During the summer course, lecturers and field coaches will create an environment in which students inspire each other and get inspired by stakeholders in the field of human rights.

These stakeholders are representatives of NGO’s, hands-on practitioners, experienced and inspiring lecturers, experts and the challenged groups. The experiences you collect during the two weeks will be integrated in a creative (group) presentation of a human rights related empowerment strategy for a specific challenged group. You will present the underlying theory of the production in a short, written (individual) research report.

1.2 Learning outcomes

#	You can:
1.	Extend your knowledge of urban issues, the ethics of human freedom, human rights advocacy strategies and groups in challenging human rights situations in urban contexts;
2.	Acquire skills to work with challenged groups from a human rights perspective, by using creative methods and digital storytelling;
3.	Develop critical and creative thinking, learn about cultural awareness tools and develop the skills to apply them;



#	You can:
4.	Experience working in an urban environment (Amsterdam as laboratory) with an interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and multicultural team;
5.	Learn how to set up community-based research, and acquire the skills for developing a strategy to empower challenged groups from a strength perspective.

1.3 Learning activities

We introduce you to a framework on the ethics of human freedom, human rights law, creative methods, and getting to know each other and the context of the city. Additionally you have the opportunity to apply this knowledge to the city of Amsterdam. Learning by doing in the city.

Each field lab day will start with a briefing and end with a debriefing, both focusing on content, context and process. In the meantime you will be working in practice. You will do this together with your fellow students, groups in a challenging human rights situation, lecturers and field coaches.

For help with the process of creating and developing a community-based human rights strategy, you will be able to get in touch with a team of experts on the themes of the Summer Course. This allows the summer course to provide tailor-made support, based on the needs of the individual student.

During the course, you will prepare a creative production to showcase the skills you have acquired during your two weeks in Amsterdam. Playful approaches and creative methods are useful tools in the fieldwork to establish contact and make a safe environment for communication. Students are challenged to use creative means to present the stories of themselves and the people of Amsterdam they talked to in practice. Text, music, masks, dance, drama activities, exhibitions: all means that can help you create a platform for the human rights stories of the city. Your audience will consist of your fellow students, the field coaches, practitioners, lecturers and the challenged groups you have been working with during your stay in Amsterdam.

The course subjects are:

- ✓ Human Rights Law
- ✓ Ethics of Human Freedom (Capability Approach)
- ✓ Creative Methods
- ✓ Digital Storytelling



1.4 Teaching methodologies

- ✓ **Interactive teaching**
The classes are based on interactive teaching. Lectures are not based on one-way traffic, input from students is just as important. Please note that interactive teaching requires active student participation.
- ✓ **Use of creative methods**
In this course, we will use creative methods as a source for getting to know each other and to form a platform for further work and reflections based on experiences from the fieldwork and workshops. Working with masks will focus on the ethics and the aesthetics of the dialogue. The persona of the mask is connected with the creative work, and the story of is an issue, also in the final cultural production.
- ✓ **Learning by doing in practice**
After (theoretical) introductions to the central themes and different approaches, you will go into the neighbourhoods of Amsterdam to work with experienced practitioners and, most importantly, challenged groups. This 'field lab' experience of community-based research will provide you with the tools necessary to develop skills and strategies to empower the challenged groups. In addition, you will receive support from the coaches, helping you to make the connection between theory and practice.
- ✓ **Guidance by coaches**
During fieldwork days, short briefings and/or debriefings are scheduled. These are reflective group-based activities, and support bringing focus into your fieldwork. During the briefings in the morning, you state as a group the goals of the day, and the activities and the requirements to achieve those goals. These briefings also are moments where you coordinate your activities with the activities of your group members. During the debriefings, you evaluate your achievements and activities. These debriefings are also reflective moments, where you deliberate about your experiences, and deepen these by references to the theories brought in during the introductory days. These debriefings, finally, provide you with the material for the research rapport. Most often, the briefings and debriefings will be combined, both aimed at reflection and planning. The coaches will be involved in the briefings and debriefings; together with their coach, each group will make their own schedule for briefings and/or debriefings.

1.5 Study materials & recommended further reading

A course reader will be provided with texts introducing the main course subjects. The course reader consists of required (mandatory) and inspired (optional) reads will be shared upon registration for the course. The course readings should be read in preparation for the start of the course. The course reader will be available 2 months prior to the start of the course.

1.6 Assignments & assessment

Assignments / Tests	Weight (%)
Preparatory assignment and reading (no grade)	20%
Cultural presentation (digital storytelling) (no grade)	30%



Individual research report	50%
	100%
For the extended version, there will be an extensive individual assignment. This will be graded, and will weigh double compared to the individual research report that is part of the regular course.	
Please note that presence during and active involvement in the course activities is required in order to graduate the course	



2. Lesson Planning

Week 1 Day 1	8:00-9:00 Registration 9:00-10:00 Opening Summer school 10:00-12.30 Introduction to the course, classes 12:30-13:30 Lunch 13.30-16.00 Classes 16:00-17:00 Dutch Culture/ film 17:00 Welcome drinks
Week 1 Day 2	9.00-17.00 Classes
Week 1 Day 3	9.00-12.30 Classes 13.30-17.00 City assignment
Week 1 Day 4	9.00-12.30 Classes 13.30-17.00 Field work
Week 1 Day 5	9.00-12.30 Field work 12.30 Free afternoon
Week 2 Day 1	9.00-12.30 Classes 13.30-17.00 Field work
Week 2 Day 2	9.00-12.30 Working on the individual research reports 13.30-17.00 Field work
Week 2 Day 3	9.00-12.30 Classes 13.30-17.00 Field work
Week 2 Day 4	9.00-15.00 Working on the individual research reports 16.00-21.00 Evaluation + student activity
Week 2 Day 5	9.00-14.00 Classes / working on final (group) presentations 14.00-15.30 Presentations 15.30-17.00 Graduation ceremony + course farewell 17.00-19.00 Farewell drinks

