

# **International Cultural Studies**

**Study programme at  
Department of Culture and Learning  
for international students**



**COURSES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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# Content

About the study programme INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDIES (ICS)	4
Eligibility and requirements	6
Practical information	7
In short	9
Courses offered by the ICS programme	10
Courses offered by the ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (ENG) programme	11
ENG-2 Texts and Contexts: Project Module [15 ECTS]	11
ENG-2 Texts and Contexts	11
ENG-2 British History	11
ENG-2 American History	12
ENG-4 Elective: Visual Culture [5 ECTS]	12
Courses offered by the LANGUAGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (LISE) programme	13
LISE-2 Discourse Studies: Theories and Methods [5 ECTS]	13
LISE-2 Contemporary Social and Political Discourses [5 ECTS]	13
LISE-2 Project in Language, Politics and Society [10 ECTS]	14
LISE-2 Key Concepts in the Humanities and Social Sciences [5 ECTS]	14
LISE-2 Grammar [5 ECTS together with Academic Communication]	15
LISE-2 Academic Communication [5 ECTS together with Grammar]	15
LISE-4 Social and Cultural Globalization, Theories and Methods [5 ECTS]	15
LISE-4 International and Intercultural Communication [5 ECTS]	16
LISE-4 Intercultural Studies Project [10 ECTS]	16
LISE-4 International Human Rights [5 ECTS]	17
LISE-4 Religion, Society and Politics [5 ECTS]	17
LISE-6 Media Analysis [5 ECTS]	17
LISE-6 European Union [5 ECTS]	18
LISE-6 International Political Economy [5 ECTS]	18
LISE-6 Corporate Social Responsibility [5 ECTS]	18
LISE-6 Regional Studies [5 ECTS]	19
Courses offered by the CULTURE, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBALIZATION (CCG) programme	20
Core Course: Intercultural Communication	20
Core Course: Communication in Global Contexts	20
Elective Course: Current Issues II	21
Profile: Consumption and Market Communication (CMC)	21

CMC-1: Cultural Branding and Experience Economy	21
CMC-2 Consumption and Cultural Theory	22
Profile: Organization and Leadership (O&L)	22
O&L-1: Communicating Organizational Change	22
O&L-2: Organisational Culture and Communication	23
Profile: International Politics, Migration and Movements (IPMM)	23
IPMM-1: Nations, Nationalism & Populism	23
IPMM-2: International Politics and International Institutions	23
Courses offered by the INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNICATION (IBC) programme	25
IBC-2 Discourse and Organisation (5 ECTS)	25
IBC-2 Business Knowledge (5 ECTS)	25
IBC-4/6 Project and Change Management (5 ECTS)	26
IBC-6 Language, Communication and Professional Practice (5 ECTS)	27

# About the study programme INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDIES (ICS)

## What is the academic focus?

The International Cultural Studies (ICS) Programme covers research-based teaching within the fields of culture, communication, politics, and language.

## What is the language of instruction?

Most of the courses available within the ICS programme are in English, but there might also be courses and project supervision in Spanish. Students with intermediate or advanced Danish-language proficiency may select from a wide range of courses that are taught in Danish.

## Who are your fellow students?

ICS is integrated with the bachelor and master programmes for students in the Department of Culture and Learning in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). Approximately 20 guest students - primarily from partner universities in Asia, Australia, the Americas, and Europe - enroll in ICS each semester. The ratio of guest students to Danish students in most classes is approximately 1:10.

## Which teaching and evaluation methods are used?

A key concept of all educational activities at Aalborg University is **Problem-Based Learning (PBL)**. These six principles constitute the Aalborg model of PBL:

1. The problem as point of departure
2. Projects organised in groups
3. The project is supported by courses
4. Collaboration - groups, supervisor, external partners
5. Exemplarity
6. Student responsibility for learning

## It's important that you acquaint yourself with the PBL principles:

- Booklet: [https://prod-audxp-cms-001-app.azurewebsites.net/media/mmmjbtthi/pbl-aalborg-model\\_uk.pdf](https://prod-audxp-cms-001-app.azurewebsites.net/media/mmmjbtthi/pbl-aalborg-model_uk.pdf)
- Films: <https://www.pbl.aau.dk/films/>

## Teaching is organized at two levels:

### **Courses**

Some courses will take the form of lectures with up to 100 students attending. Others will be offered as a seminar with 5-30 students. Classroom activities include e.g. class attendance, participation in class discussions and oral presentations. All students are expected to complete recommended readings and exercises and actively participate by contributing to discussions and presenting papers. The examination formats for courses will typically be topic papers or on-site written or oral exams.

### **Problem-based project work**

Students who work in groups (or individually) formulate a problem or question of a theoretical or practical nature that relates to their project. Under tutorial supervision, they then collect and analyse data and discuss possible solutions to the problem. They submit a written report (individually or in a group) and sit for an oral project examination at the end of the semester. You can register for ONE project only each semester.

### **Where do I find the course descriptions?**

A schedule of courses will be given to guest students at the beginning of each semester.

### **Where and how often do course sessions take place?**

Unless otherwise stated, all course sessions are in the Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3) building, 9220 Aalborg East, Denmark. The sessions for each course usually take place once a week for two hours during the first eight to ten weeks of the semester.



### **How many ECTS credits are required for full-time enrolment?**

International Cultural Studies defines a typical full-time academic programme as 30 ECTS credits for one semester and 60 ECTS points for two semesters. Full-time registration typically consists of 4-5 courses and a written project each semester, including oral project exam. Students receive from 10 to 20 ECTS points for their projects, and typically 5 ECTS credit points for courses that are assessed separately, i.e. without a project assessment. ICS students are required to enroll in a minimum of 30 ECTS points. The maximum number of ECTS points allowed each semester is 35.

### **What are ECTS credits?**

ECTS credits are a numerical value (between 1 and 60) given to course units to describe the student workload required to complete them. They reflect the quantity of work each course unit requires in relation to the total quantity of work necessary to complete a full year of academic study at the institution. Lectures, practical work, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork, private study (in the **library** or at home) and examinations are included when estimating the quantity of work required for a course or a project. In other words, one ECTS credit approximately reflects 28 student working hours, including e.g. participation in course sessions, readings, preparation of presentations, and exam work.

### **How are ECTS credits awarded by ICS?**

Each programme affiliated with ICS allocates ECTS credit points for project work and other course-related examinations based on the study regulations of the degree programme that has been approved by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

### **Will I receive a degree from Aalborg University?**

ICS is not a degree granting programme. However, you will receive an official Aalborg University ECTS Transcript (Transcript of Records) with the titles of the courses and project work you have completed, the grades you received for your work, and the number of ECTS points you were awarded.

## Eligibility and requirements

### Academic level

Undergraduates are expected to have completed a minimum of one year of undergraduate studies within the humanities or one and a half years within the social sciences. If you wish to enroll in 7-9th semester courses, you should have completed at least two years of related undergraduate study.

### Academic specializations

Relevant specializations include communication, language and cultural studies, cultural geography and social history, linguistics and literature, media and film studies, political science and international studies, and market communication.

### Language

Proficiency in English is required of all applicants. Non-native speakers of English should submit a test of English as a foreign language in line with the requirements for the time being in force, cf. entry requirements stated at the website of the International Office. These requirements will be waived for foreign language majors who are nominated by partner universities, or for native speakers of Spanish who wish to take most of their classes and write their projects in their native language.

### Personal characteristics and skills

In general, all guest students should be mature, interested in learning about and experiencing other cultures, and able to work both independently and in a group. Ability to use computers, especially for word processing and for searching information on the internet, is required of all applicants.

### General programme requirements and restrictions

The study programme into which you are admitted will consist of a number of courses at your own option. We recommend that you register for one project in the form of a group (or individual) project. Minimum registration per semester is 30 ECTS credit points. Maximum registration per semester is 35 ECTS credit points.



## Practical information

### Application deadlines

For students applying for a fall semester: **1<sup>st</sup> April**

For students applying for a spring semester: **15 October**

### Application forms

All applicants must complete an Aalborg University Application Form. You must also attach a copy of your academic transcript or record of examinations (which you should translate into English), as well as documentation of English-language proficiency.

### Academic calendar

#### Fall semester: September 1 to January 31 (or December 23)

Late August: Orientation

September 1st: Courses begin

Mid-September: Final registration for courses and project

Early/Mid-November: Courses end; full-time work on project begins

November & December: Oral and written exams (written exam in January may be submitted electronically.)

Mid-December: Project reports due; oral exams for fall semester only students

Most oral exams are held before December 23 or can normally be arranged for international guest students by that date. However, a few oral exams will be scheduled for January. Consequently, it is possible to select courses enabling the student to return home before December 23, but course options will be slightly reduced.

#### Spring semester: February 1 to June 30

Late January: Orientation

February 1: Courses begin

Mid-February: Final registration for courses and project

Early April: Courses end; full-time work on project begins

Mid-May: Project report due

May & June: Oral and written exams (occasionally in April as well)

June: Project exam

### How to register for courses

There are two registration periods: About two weeks before the start of each semester, you will receive an e-mail asking you to e-mail your pre-registration of the courses you wish to attend, based on the course information available at the ICS website by that time. You will then be required to confirm or amend your course selection during the third week of the semester. No changes in registration are permitted after that time.



### **Orientation programmes**

The International Office and International Cultural Studies offer orientation programmes at the beginning of each semester. Attendance at the International Office orientation is optional. Attendance at ICS orientation is required.

### **Academic transcript**

An academic transcript will be provided at the end of each semester. The transcript lists the titles and prefixes of all courses and projects for which you were registered, the number of ECTS credits points you earned, and the grade or mark you received for the courses and your project work. The grade or mark will be based on the Danish 7-point scale. A recommended grade conversion scale and an explanation of the methods used to assess your work will also be provided.

### **Housing**

Because Aalborg University does not itself own residence halls, most of the international students from exchange partner universities live in privately-owned residences called *kollegium*, or in rented rooms and apartments contracted by the University. Accommodations typically include a single room furnished with bed, desk, and closet. Sometimes you have your own kitchen and bath; sometimes the kitchen and bath are shared. An application form for accommodation will be included in the arrival material that the International Office will send you when you are admitted. If you submit this application by the stated deadline, Aalborg University's International Accommodation Office will arrange your housing.

### **Costs**

The cost of attending International Cultural Studies will vary from individual to individual, depending on their lifestyle. There are, however, minimum costs that all students should anticipate. When you apply for a visa, you will need to provide documentation that you have at least 50,000 DKK for one year of study.

### **Financial aid**

Students from European partner universities can apply for scholarships through the Erasmus+ Programme. Information about Danish Government Grants can be obtained at Cirius or at the Ministry of Education in your country. Students from non-partner universities in the United States may be able to apply for Stafford Loans from the US Department of Education. AAU's Identification number is 02604300.



### **International Office**

The International Office plays an important role in the international activities of the University. See their website for useful and important information: <https://www.en.aau.dk/education>

### **ICS website**

You can find information on the ICS programme on the ICS website:

<https://www.en.aau.dk/education/guest-exchange/international-cultural-studies>

### **ICS Coordinator**

The ICS programme is coordinated by Dr. Anne Grethe Pedersen ([ics@ikl.aau.dk](mailto:ics@ikl.aau.dk)), who advises students and guest faculty on academic, social, and cultural matters, establishes exchange programmes, prepares programme materials, and corresponds with colleagues at partner universities. In addition, Dr. Pedersen is an Associate Professor at the Department of Culture and Learning.

### **ICS buddies**

The ICS programme relies on a number of student buddies for international students in connection with their introduction to Aalborg University and social activities during the semester.

## **In short**

- ICS students should select courses (and a project) totaling 30-35 ECTS. Students are typically required to complete 4-6 courses/modules. The examination formats for the courses will typically be topic papers or on-site written or oral exams.
- Please include ONE and only one module (course or combination of courses) that is assessed by a project report with oral defense of the project.
- Please note that some projects require an oral defense in late June. The exam dates will be published online in the separate Study Secretariats' fora in Moodle.
- Unless otherwise stated, all classes are in the Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3) building, 9220 Aalborg East, Denmark.
- After the start of the semester: Always check in Moodle for any changes regarding all courses.

## Courses offered by the ICS programme

The courses offered by the ICS programme are shown in the course list on the following pages.

### Course prefixes in the course list below

Course prefixes are used to help you identify the programme in which the course is offered. The course prefixes will also help you identify the number of semesters a Danish student must have studied to enroll in the course. For example, LISE-4 is a course for 4th semester specializing in Language and International Studies. Courses taken during the 7th and 8th semesters are master's level courses. Although master's level courses, they are available to undergraduate guest/exchange students within ICS.

**ENG:** Courses offered by the *English Language and Culture BA* programme.

**LISE:** Courses offered by the *Language and International Studies BA* programme.

**CCG:** Courses offered by the *Culture, Communication and Globalization MA* programme

**IBC:** Courses offered by the *International Business Communication BA* programme.



## **Courses offered by the ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (ENG) programme**

### **ENG-2 Texts and Contexts: Project Module [15 ECTS]**

NO SEPARATE COURSE

Official title on transcript: Texts and Contexts

Must be taken in combination with the three ENG-2 courses Texts and Contexts, British History and American History.

#### **Module description**

The module comprises the following activities: The courses Texts and Contexts, British History and American History will help students prepare for project work, with supervision provided by a professor.

Supervision: A professor will be allocated as supervisor during the project period.

**Please note that all ENG-2 courses MUST be combined with project work: The courses will not be separately graded.**

#### **Assessment**

The courses Texts and Contexts, British History and American History may only be assessed by a project exam (see above). Assessment is by a written project plus an oral defense. A specific grade is awarded.

### **ENG-2 Texts and Contexts**

#### **Course description**

The main aim of this course is to introduce you to ways of thinking about the past and especially about the relationship between context and text. While you (i.e. those of you who major in English Studies) in your first semester project examined the link between text and literary history, this semester emphasizes the cultural and social contexts rather than the 'purely' aesthetic one of literary history. Together with the courses on British and American history, this course prepares you for your second semester project work.

**Course sessions:** First session TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

Please note that the course MUST be combined with project work. The course will not be separately graded.

### **ENG-2 British History**

#### **Course description**

In this course we will explore cultural and social aspects of the modern history of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the 18th century till today.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

Please note that the course **MUST** be combined with project work. The course will not be separately graded.

## **ENG-2 American History**

### **Course description**

This course aims to introduce you to general tendencies in American history and culture. It also aims to acquaint you with central issues related to history as an academic discipline.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

Please note that the course **MUST** be combined with project work. The course will not be separately graded.

## **ENG-4 Elective: Visual Culture [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This elective asks where 21st century visual culture is headed. With the current trends of convergence, distinctions between film, tv, streaming, and videogames blur. We will focus on issues of animation, blockbusters, seriality, transmedia, and unruly media, while developing a critical vocabulary for analyzing visual works.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Take-home assignment on a lecturer-decided topic. Maximum 8 pages. A specific grade is awarded.



## **Courses offered by the LANGUAGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (LISE) programme**

LISE is an interdisciplinary BA-level programme focusing on international politics, culture, and English language skills. It thematizes itself around international relations, studies in cultural globalization, international organization, the use of language in society and regional studies. It features an international student body and helps position students for a range of MA programmes concerning politics, culture and communication across the humanities and social sciences.

Students taking LISE “project modules” – who sign up for the larger semester research project which is the general focus of the university’s educational model (PBL) – are required to take the background project courses. Students should be aware that those courses have grades of their own as well as leading to a project which is graded in itself.

### **LISE-2 Discourse Studies: Theories and Methods [5 ECTS]**

#### **Course description**

This course provides students with valuable, practical experience in using a range of methods for analysing power and ideology in text, talk and social interaction appropriate for undertaking a group project in the field of discourse studies relevant for English language/international studies students.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

#### **Assessment**

The course is assessed on the basis of an exam portfolio, the precise contents of which will be determined at the start of the semester. A specific grade will be awarded.

### **LISE-2 Contemporary Social and Political Discourses [5 ECTS]**

#### **Course description**

The course engages with a variety of the discourses that maintain, normalise, negotiate and challenge various social and political phenomena such as globalisation and international encounters and relationships. By discussing how diverse scholars approach and examine different discourses (for instance, discourses of international relations, gender and ethnicity, racism, and climate change), the course aims at demonstrating how discourse analytical methods can serve as a pathway for critical enquiries into how aspects of social and political structures and processes are mutually constituted through interaction and diverse formats of language-in-use.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

#### **Assessment**

To pass the module active participation in the module’s series of lectures and discussion sessions is required. Active participation is defined as reading set literature, 80 percent attendance of the module’s

series of lectures and discussion sessions, contribution to the module's discussion sessions through oral presentations and active participation in discussions.

If the student does not meet the requirements for active participation, the following examination will be undertaken:

**Alternative assessment:** Exam portfolio.

## **LISE-2 Project in Language, Politics and Society [10 ECTS]**

NO SEPARATE COURSE

### **Project description**

Completion of the project requires that the work from two courses has been turned in: *Discourse Studies: Theories and Methods* and *Contemporary Social and Political Discourses*. The objectives for the Language, Politics, and Society project include the acquisition of competencies to apply relevant theories and methods for the analysis of linguistic and/or discursive phenomena and their use in social, cultural, and political context.

### **Assessment**

The project is assessed on the basis of the project report prepared by the student(s) and the oral defense of the project. Max. 15 pages per student in the project group, alternatively max. 20 pages for an individual project report. Time allotted for the oral defense: 30 minutes per student. The emphasis in the assessment is on the written report. A specific grade will be awarded.

**Supervision:** A professor will be allocated as supervisor during the project period.

## **LISE-2 Key Concepts in the Humanities and Social Sciences [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This course is intended to provide an introduction to some of the historically important works of cultural, social and political theory across the humanities and social sciences. Students will read important texts to the modern history of ideas and liberal arts in order to gain a grounding knowledge of essential problems in social analysis, cultural and historical change as well as to have the opportunity to consider their political consequences. Though not a philosophy course, the class will have a philosophical feel. The purpose is to assure that students have had sufficient contact with basic, building-block ideas in the humanities and social sciences.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Take-home assignment, with a specific grade awarded.

## **LISE-2 Grammar [5 ECTS together with Academic Communication]**

This course is assessed together with Academic Communication below, for 5 ECTS in total.

Official title on transcript: English Communication and Grammar

### **Course description**

This semester, our focus will be on grammar in the world – that is, how grammar is used in different genres, including journalism, academic writing, and bureaucratic writing. We will also continue to practice identifying sentence types and structures.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Take-home assignment, with a specific grade awarded.

## **LISE-2 Academic Communication [5 ECTS together with Grammar]**

This course is assessed together with Grammar above, for 5 ECTS in total.

Official title on transcript: English Communication and Grammar

### **Course description**

This is the Academic Communication part of the module English Communication and Grammar.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Take-home assignment, with a specific grade awarded.

## **LISE-4 Social and Cultural Globalization, Theories and Methods [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This course covers different perspectives on cultural globalisation, including theories of global cultural changes and connections between economic, political, and cultural globalisation. This includes topics such as global media, commodity chains, time-space compression, and debates about cultural homogenization versus diversification. We use examples from different case studies covering various national and regional contexts.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Take-home assignment. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-4 International and Intercultural Communication [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to key concepts in intercultural communication and to the most dominant approaches to the study hereof. The course addresses a broad range of social and political issues in which cultural and intercultural aspects become salient. Such issues include (but are not limited to) cultural values in human rights debates, identity politics, cultural positions in gender politics, and intercultural communication challenges in development and aid work.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed on the basis of an exam portfolio, the precise contents of which will be determined at the start of the semester. A specific grade will be awarded.

## **LISE-4 Intercultural Studies Project [10 ECTS]**

NO SEPARATE COURSE

### **Project description**

The module consists of lecturer-supervised problem-oriented project work within the field of Intercultural Studies. It is a requirement for completion of the module that the 'International and Intercultural Communication' course (see exam portfolio above) has been completed and that the take-home assignment in extension of the 'Social and Cultural Globalization: Theories and Methods' course has been submitted (see above).

### **Project objectives**

Students should gain knowledge and understanding of a selected topic within the field of intercultural studies on the basis of a written project. The topic will derive from the project courses of the semester. Students must identify, address, and analyze issues in which intercultural relations play a significant role, for example at international or inter-group level. Students are expected to address such issues on the basis of relevant theory and systematic analysis of data material and to be able to discuss their work using concepts and terms appropriate to the intercultural studies field.

### **Assessment**

The project is assessed on the basis of the project report prepared by the student(s) and the oral defense of the project. Max. 15 pages per student in the project group, alternatively max. 20 pages for an individual project report. Time allotted for the oral defense: 30 minutes per student. The emphasis in the assessment is on the written report. A specific grade will be awarded in accordance with the Danish 7-point grading scale.

### **Supervision**

A professor will be allocated as supervisor during the project period.



## **LISE-4 International Human Rights [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This course is intended to acquaint students with basic dimensions of the world of international human rights: foundational elements of the international human rights regimes, important documents in the history of human rights and the contemporary world of human rights conventions, human rights philosophy, and a range of topical issues in human rights such as human rights and statelessness, human rights in international relations, etc. Through the course, students should gain insight into major discourses, conceptual and practical problems around international human rights.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home exam/paper on a student-decided topic (the topic must be approved in advance by the lecturer). Maximum 8 pages. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-4 Religion, Society and Politics [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This course addresses the relation between religion, social identity, and political relations between groups and states. Focusing primarily (but not exclusively) on the Abrahamic faiths, the question is religious perspectives as a point of political contestation, the intersection of religion and cultural identity, the variety and multiplicity of religious beliefs and worldviews, and the question of political standards in the face of religious diversity and difference. Through the course, students should gain insight into religion as a site of contestation on the field of international politics.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home assignment, ca. 8-10 pages. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-6 Media Analysis [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This elective focuses on the intersection between media and culture in contemporary context and emphasizing how the two are intertwined and how much media impact our relation to culture and society.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home assignment, ca. 8-10 pages. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-6 European Union [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This course will provide you with a basic introduction to the historical development of the EU, its institutions (e.g. the European Commission, the European Parliament etc.), as well as to the overall power structure and the competences of the EU. You will receive an insight into various theories of European integration, covering both sociological and political science approaches to the integration process. Moreover, this course provides you with a basic knowledge on public opinion in the EU, and an insight into the discussion of the EU's democratic deficit.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home assignment. Maximum 8 pages. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-6 International Political Economy [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

This course should take students through an introductory level look at international political economy: the influence of global politics on economics and the influence of international economic structures on political decisions and institutions. Though for humanities students, the course should help gain insight into the relation between economics and social and political processes.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home assignment. Maximum 8 pages. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-6 Corporate Social Responsibility [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

The purpose of the course is to analyze and discuss the social and political role of private business in contemporary societies. Faced with multiple social, political, and environmental crises, can we expect private companies play a positive role? This course will help think through this question.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home assignment. Maximum 8 pages. A specific grade is awarded.

## **LISE-6 Regional Studies [5 ECTS]**

### **Course description**

In this course, we inspect various regions in the world and get an overview over various forms of regions and regionalisms. The purpose is to engage crucial issues in regional development, international relations, important theoretical issues extending from regional development and conflicts as well as social trends and movements playing out in multiple regions on the global stage.

**Course sessions:** TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Written take-home assignment. A specific grade is awarded.



## **Courses offered by the CULTURE, COMMUNICATION AND GLOBALIZATION (CCG) programme**

**PLEASE NOTE:** ICS students can acquire 5 ECTS by taking an individual written exam in *one of the profile courses* listed under each profile (see below). It is not possible to take more than one profile course exam.

ICS Students can acquire 15 ECTS by taking the two core courses, writing a project and taking a written and oral exam in the project module **Cultural and Communicative Aspects of Global Processes**.

### **Core Course: Intercultural Communication**

#### **Course description**

The concept of 'culture' increasingly figures as one of the buzzwords widely used in everyday talk, in media discourse, within political rhetoric and in scholarly writings. Serving as an umbrella term invoked to refer to large groups of people (such as nationalities), identity categories (such as gender, sexuality, class) communities of practice, etc. this notion is largely over-defined while at the same time (and paradoxically) it clearly lacks definitional clarity. In the vigorous debates around the questions of what 'culture' is, and whether it is something that we have, or do, or are born into, there is probably only one point of general agreement – whatever 'culture' means, its effect on the process and outcome of communication is tremendous. It is therefore, 'intercultural communication' currently represents one of the most prominent and interesting fields of work for both academics and practitioners. The issues that are addressed in this work are related to such questions as: What does it mean to communicate interculturally? What are those places, recourses, artifacts, and repertoires of which cultures are 'made' or... with which they are 'performed'? How are cultural identities constructed and negotiated? What does it mean to 'understand' and 'misunderstand'?

This course aims at addressing and critically discussing these questions by placing them within the context of the themes central to this semester of CCG programme – globalization and internationalization processes. The course, therefore, will be interesting and useful for both - the students who are familiar with the theories and methods of intercultural communication and the students who need an introduction to the central problematics of and issues imperative to the field. The course in "Intercultural Communication" builds up a valuable theoretical foundation and provides you with the necessary conceptual repertoire for critical debating and understanding of transnational complexities and issues of communication that will be addressed in the other courses this semester.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Core Course: Communication in Global Contexts**

#### **Course description**

The past few years have been marked by a number of events that had a dramatic impact on human living environments, everyday practices and societies across national, geographic, political and cultural borders. New social movements, natural disasters, pandemic threats, and climate change are just some of the processes that help define the contemporary global arena. These global matters are both mediated by and

affect diverse practices and genres of communication and human interaction and the rapid development of new media platforms, communicational technologies, and discursive repertoires. These issues are discussed from the perspective of individuals, companies, and national and global societies as a whole.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

## **Elective Course: Current Issues II**

### **Course description**

Current Issues II will focus on Films, Politics and Society

In this course we will discuss how politics can be 'seen' or made visible through films and series. During the course we will discuss contemporary politics and themes as borders and border struggles, class issues, community, migration, racism and sexism. We will examine how politics and political messages are embedded in film, what kind of political representation they bring forth, how films and series can politicize specific topics. Movies can visualize topics that can be invisible for a larger audience and bring in political debate and analysis where it is often absent. They can translate political issues and contestation from one societal context to the other, can help us identify commonalities across diverse geographies and societies. They can be experiments and laboratories for utopian thinking and illustrate progressive and repressive forms of governance. They can help us discuss challenges to democracy in the past, present and future. Movies can in this way be treated and analysed as empirical material and put in relation with other kinds of academic and non-academic material to discuss contemporary political issues.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

**Profile: Consumption and Market Communication (CMC):** consumer studies and market communication, with a special focus on intercultural communication and culture studies.

## **CMC-1: Cultural Branding and Experience Economy**

### **Course description**

In this course, we focus on various aspects of branding in intercultural and/or international contexts. These aspects include for example paradigms, strategies, practices as well as ethical and sustainability issues. In addition to this, we investigate and discuss contextual factors that influence the possibilities and limitations of branding initiatives. You may have come across the saying "Context is King" which means that it is useful to know and understand the socio-cultural context of any communication; therefore, we start off by investigating what is hidden under the term 'Experience Economy'.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

## **CMC-2 Consumption and Cultural Theory**

### **Course description**

This course discusses social and cultural theories that are commonly used in a critical analysis of consumption. The main question is how reading of these theories can inform our understanding of the phenomena of consumption in the past, present and the future. In addition to application of the theories to practice, we will make room for critical discussion of these theories. Therefore, our goal is to focus on thoughtful analysis of the texts and contexts of theories. While reading 'closely' small portions of texts, we'll reflect and discuss main ideas and how such ideas work empirically. The course is centered around a number of activities (group and individual) and a high level of student involvement for the purpose of assisting student learning. The success of these activities is premised on students' careful reading and preparation before coming to class.

**Course sessions:** TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

**Profile: Organization and Leadership (O&L):** organisational culture and management, with a special focus on intercultural understanding and multi-cultural management.

## **O&L-1: Communicating Organizational Change**

### **Course description**

Organizational change is a constant problem facing contemporary organizations, and leaders often struggle with the best ways to manage organizational change. However, rather than perceiving change as an issue or problem, some scholars argue that change is the natural state of organizing and the inability to change is the real problem. And organizational communication scholars attending to language, discourse, and other meaning-making activities as *the* practices that create and maintain organizations refocus their attention on communication as *the* process that can facilitate or stifle organizational change. This course focuses on the practice of communication as related to organizational change. We will begin the class with an introduction to communication and recent theorizing on how communication constitutes organizations (and change). We will then develop a framework for understanding organizational change from a communicative perspective. During the sessions we will review the different approaches for studying and practicing organizational change. We will move from traditional top/down managerial approaches toward critically exploring participatory organizational change practices that embrace conflict, promote engaged dialogue, and encourage collaboration in ways that enable mutually-supportive organizational change – especially as related to contemporary intercultural, global organizations and international contexts. The class is especially designed for future leaders who will face planned and unplanned changes to their organizations.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

## **O&L-2: Organisational Culture and Communication**

### **Course description**

In today's global world, organisations strive to differentiate themselves from each other and to make their organisation the best place to work. The course mainly takes an internal perspective to organisations navigating in global contexts. We focus on different approaches to organisational culture and organisational communication, and we look at organisational identity, internal communication, employee voice, organisational responsibility, crisis and change communication in order to understand the different dynamics and processes that make up organisations.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

**Profile: International Politics, Migration and Movements (IPMM):** international politics and relations, with a special focus on issues relating to global politics, migration, civil society, and movements.

## **IPMM-1: Nations, Nationalism & Populism**

### **Course description**

National identity has been one of the world's most powerful and contested ideologies for the past two centuries. As globalization and increasing European integration have produced an increase in transnational linkages, the rise of an increasingly culturally and socially, as well as economically and politically, integrated world, and the empowerment of supra- and sub-national entities, may lead us to question the continued relevance of nations and nationalism. However, the relationship between nations, nationalism and globalization has turned out not to be a simple zero-sum game: national identity and nationalism have survived, in fact in some places seem to be thriving after spectacular (re-)awakenings. Sometimes in the classic forms, but more often as neo-nationalist movements, such as civic autonomism or protests against unchecked neo-liberal or undemocratic aspects of globalization. The aim of this course is to discuss both the theoretical underpinnings as well as concrete empirical examples of how nations and nationalism has been debated, contested, and provided impetus for political and social mobilisation, indeed for populism. The lecturers do so drawing on each their respective fields of expertise.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

## **IPMM-2: International Politics and International Institutions**

### **Course description**

Understanding the role of international institutions is a prerequisite for any meaningful discussion about international politics today. In this course, we will discuss central questions, approaches, concepts, and theories relevant for the study of international institutions and their role in world politics. We will be interested in formal institutions (intergovernmental and non-governmental) as well as more informal

arrangements. After a general introduction to international institutions and international politics, we will take a closer look at some key cases, including the role of the United Nations, the situation in the Middle East, the US-China relationship, human rights and world politics, the role of INGOs, the transatlantic relationship, and the European Union.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA





## **Courses offered by the INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNICATION (IBC) programme**

International Business Communication (IBC) is a programme which places special emphasis on companies' international relations and in this context focuses on four separate, yet inter-related elements: language, communication, marketing, and intercultural competence.

Foreign guest students can choose freely between the courses, attend the same classes, and sit the same examinations as their fellow Danish students. Teaching in most subjects takes place over an approximately 8-week period from the beginning of September.

Students writing a project or synopsis alone or in groups receive supervision by teaching staff during the project period. The examination period for all subjects is normally from mid-April until end of June.

### **IBC-2 Discourse and Organisation (5 ECTS)**

**Official title on transcript:** Discourse and Organisation

In the course 'Discourse and Organisation', we will be working with different strands of discourse analysis, which can be used for analysing the texts and genres that constitute the organisation. A common feature of the strands is their critical outlook that allows us to investigate meanings embedded in text and context. During the course you will be introduced to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA), Discursive Psychology (DP) and Small Stories. Furthermore, the insights gained from the course can be used to carry out further studies in text and discourse analysis, for instance, when working with cases or writing projects and assignments focusing on organisational communication.

To be able to qualify for the examination following the course, you must hand in two written papers on the basis of an assignment provided by the lecturer. These papers can be prepared in groups of up to four students.

#### **Assessment**

Examination takes the form of a 2-day written home assignment, further details of which will be given during the course. A grade will be awarded.

### **IBC-2 Business Knowledge (5 ECTS)**

**Official title on transcript:** Business Knowledge (English)

#### **Module description**

The module deals with basic company and business understanding both national and international as well as business and market conditions in selected English-speaking areas of the world. The module consists of two courses, "Business Knowledge" and "Business and Market", both of which students are required to attend, as knowledge acquired from both courses is required to pass the written examination. The "Business Knowledge" course serves as an introduction to business, understanding how businesses depend on and interact with their surroundings, and how markets and business models work. The course consists of six lectures which will present how businesses are constituted by and constituents of their environment,

business models and organisations. We look at value chains depending on types of business and industry, organisational structure and how businesses communicate internally and externally. The “Business and Market” course has a more internationally-oriented perspective with focus placed on business and market conditions in e.g. the UK and the USA.

### **Assessment**

Examination takes the form of a written home assignment, further details of which will be given during the semester. Note that no grade is awarded, i.e. the assignment is assessed as pass/fail.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

## **IBC-4/6 Project and Change Management (5 ECTS)**

**Official title on transcript:** Managing Projects and Organisational Change

### **Course description**

This course will give you a thorough understanding of theories and practices of managing and communicating organizational change. With a point of departure in a communication perspective, this course will deal with different types of organizational changes, with developing change communicating strategies, with designing and communicating activities and messages directed and external stakeholder groups as well as with the core processes involved in the management of organizational change. In this course we will not only view change as a something that unexpectedly disrupts organizational life, but indeed also as something that all organizations go through on a continual basis. Consequently, in order for an organization to thrive and prosper the organization’s managers and communication experts therefore need to possess the knowledge, the competences, and the skills to anticipate, to handle, to overcome, and indeed to learn from changes as they occur. The course is designed as a series of lectures with built-in exercises and discussions during which theoretical concepts are translated into practice and applied to real-life cases.

### **Assessment**

Examination takes the form of attendance (at least 80%) *and* active participation, further details of which will be given during the course. If students fail to attend at least 80% of classes and/or fail to hand in the required assignments, the examination takes the form of a written assignment, further details of which will be given during the course.

Note that no grade is awarded, i.e. assessment is pass/fail.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

## **IBC-6 Language, Communication and Professional Practice (5 ECTS)**

**Official title on transcript:** Language, Communication and Professional Practice

This course in language, communication, and professional practice is comprised of two components. The first component introduces to the idea of professionalism and the role of language and communication in professional practice. Specifically, we will discuss the idea of being a professional and consider the role of communication in professional genres focused on the constitution of texts/discourses as aligned with professional conventions, genres and cultural contexts. We continue by considering professions as communities of practice and discuss the complexities of professional identity, as well as contemporary challenges of 'being professional' and the consequences for communication. The introductory component of the course consists of three courses mixing lectures with in-class discussion. The second component of the course extends beyond this introduction to focus more closely on the linguistic and discursive dimension of the professions and how this is expressed in organizational contexts, including how discourse also creates new types of professionalism. We will, among other things, work with the concept of genre and professional genres in the workplace, but also with the connections between culture, language and professional identity. The second component of the course consists of five courses, which will alternate between presentation and discussion of central elements from the course literature (in the team and in groups) and work with different cases and assignments in smaller groups. The language of instruction will be English. There is no basic book for the course, so the material you must read is found during each course session. Readings for the sessions are expected to be completed prior to each session.

**Course sessions:** First session: TBA

Link in Moodle: TBA

### **Assessment**

Examination takes the form of a 4-day written home assignment, further details of which will be given during the course. A grade will be awarded.

