

International Cultural Studies

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



COURSES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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About the study programme INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDIES (ICS)

What is the academic focus?

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

What is the language of instruction?

Most of the courses available within the ICS programme are delivered in English, but there might also be courses in Spanish. Project supervision is available in English, German, and 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 classmates?

ICS is integrated with the bachelor and master programmes for students in the Department of Culture and Learning in the Faculty of Humanities.

Approximately 20-35 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.

What teaching and evaluation methods are used?

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 individually or in groups 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 the classes take place?

Unless otherwise stated, all classes are in the Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3) building, 9220 Aalborg East, Denmark. The classes usually meet once each 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 participation in lecture sessions, readings, preparation of class 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 Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

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 and cultural studies, cultural geography and social history, linguistics and literature, media and film studies, political science and international studies, and marketing. Foreign language majors are especially welcome to apply, as are students specializing in European, Latin American, and Scandinavian Studies.

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. However, you are required to register for ONE project assessment in the form of an individual or group project.

Minimum registration per semester is 30 ECTS credit points. Maximum registration per semester is 35 ECTS credit points. You may not register for a second semester if you fail your project exam the first semester.



Practical information

Application deadlines

For applicants from partner universities or for applicants who do not require a student visa (primarily EU citizens):

For students applying for a fall semester: April 1st

For students applying for a spring semester: October 1st

For applicants who require a student visa or who will not study at AAU as part of a partnership agreement:

For students applying for a fall semester: April 1st

For students applying for a spring semester: October 1st

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 1: Classes begin

Mid-September: Final registration for courses and project

Early/Mid-November: Classes end; begin full-time work on project

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. Where this applies, the course information will include a note pointing this out. 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: Classes begin

Mid-February: Final registration for courses and project

Early April: Classes end; begin full-time work on project

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 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 classes 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.culture.aau.dk/education/international-cultural-studies/>

ICS Coordinator

The ICS programme is coordinated by Dr. Aase Voldgaard Larsen (voldgaard@hum.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. Larsen is an associate professor in the Department of Culture and Learning.

ICS tutors

The ICS programme relies on a number of student tutors 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 4-5 courses. 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 2022. 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, CCG-8 is a course for 8th semester specialising in Culture, Communication and Globalization. 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* programme.

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

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

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



Courses offered by the ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 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.

A specific grade is awarded.

COURSES: 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.

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 Tuesday February 1, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 3.136. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41882>.

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 Friday February 4, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 3.136. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41883>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 12:30-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 3.136. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41861>.

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 Tuesday February 8, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.119. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41873>.

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 – 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 Monday February 7, 10:15-12:00, Fibigerstræde 10 (Fib10), room 0-08 (Auditorium). Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41909>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 14:30-16:15, Fibigerstræde 10 (Fib10), room 0-08 (Auditorium). Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41910>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 16:30-18:15, Fibigerstræde 10 (Fib10), room 0-08 (Auditorium). Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41924>.

Assessment

Take-home assignment, with a specific grade awarded.

LISE-2 Grammar [5 ECTS, Assessed together with Academic Communication (English) below, for 5 ECTS combined]

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 Wednesday February 2, 12:30-14:15, ONLINE course. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41922>.

Assessment

Take-home assignment, with a specific grade awarded.

LISE-2 Academic Communication [5 ECTS, Assessed together with Grammar above, for 5 ECTS combined]

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 Wednesday February 2, 16:30-18:15, ONLINE course or Fibigerstræde 10 (Fib10), room 0-08 (Auditorium). Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41918>.

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 Thursday February 3, 12:30-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41913>.

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 Wednesday February 2, 12:30-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110.

Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41912>.

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 Thursday February 3, 14:30-16:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41925>.

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 Wednesday February 2, 14:30-16:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41908>.

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 Wednesday February 2, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.128. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41915>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 12:30-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.119. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41916>.

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 Friday February 4, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.117. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41923>.

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 Thursday February 3, 12:30-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.127. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41917>.

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: First session Tuesday February 1, 14:30-16:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41914>.

Assessment

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



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

In the spring semester, ICS students can acquire 5 ECTS at CCG by taking an individual, internal written exam in one of the profile courses below (title on the transcript: **Current Issues II**). It is not possible to take more than one profile course. Students can acquire 15 ECTS by taking the two core courses, writing a project and taking an internal 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, resources, 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 Thursday February 3, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41616>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 4.110. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41613>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 12:00-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.126. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41611>.

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 'real life', we will take a critical stance on the theories as texts: what is their disciplinary belonging? What is explanatory power? What are limitations? How is each theory rooted in a particular social and cultural context, in which it was produced? Are they still relevant? How were the theories applied in empiric research by other scholars? 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, key categories, links between the categories and the ideas, the ways how the key categories and ideas work empirically. At session 6 we will have a Q&A session with a market practitioner with anthropological background to discuss how theory can be useful in applied market research. At session 7 we will move from theory to new empiricism to make sense of and try to do the analysis of Big Data.

Course sessions: First session Thursday February 3, 8:15-10:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.132. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41614>.

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

Organisational change is a constant and persistent problem facing contemporary organisations. Some scholars even argue that change is the natural state of organizing. Organizational communication scholars attend to language, discourse, and other meaning-making activities as *the* practices that create, maintain, and change organizations.

This course will focus on the practice of communication as related to organizational change. We will begin the class with an introduction to communication and recent theorizing of 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.

Course sessions: First session Wednesday February 2, 8:15-10:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 3.138. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41621>.

O&L-2: Globalisation, Communication and Organizational Leadership

Course description

Organizations find themselves in a rapidly changing, unpredictable, complex, and interconnected world, which places more contradictable and paradoxical demands on organizations and leadership. A growing number of organizations evolve and thrive within this increasingly complex and multi-faceted business world by changing their ways of organizing and leadership. To make sense of these changes, organization scholars attending to organizing, leadership, and communication theorize these activities as interrelated situated, relational practices and processes that can foster, maintain, or hamper organizational life and global collaboration. This course focuses on both the constitutive context and the practice of leadership as related to organisations navigating in a global world. We will begin the course with an outline and discussion of the so-called VUCA-World and its implications in the current business world. This is followed by sessions focusing on communication in multicultural contexts, on conflict in the global workplace, and on a variety of challenges that organizational leadership has to deal with, such as inclusion and organizing in an internally and externally sustainable way.

Course sessions: First session Thursday February 3, 12:00-14:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.128. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41619>.

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 Thursday February 3, 14:30-16:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.119. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41615>.

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 Tuesday February 1, 14:30-16:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.119. Link in Moodle: <https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41620>.



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-November until January.

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

Official title on transcript: Language, Communication and Professional Practice

Course description

This course serves as an introduction to language, communication, and professional practice. The course will consist of four lectures introducing professionalism and the role of language and communication in professional practice. The first lecture will focus on professionalization and what it means to be professional. The second will focus on communication as constitutive of organizational experiences, identities, and the discourses of work. The third lecture will discuss the challenges being professional. We will review the history of the professions and consider the consequences of professionalization and de-professionalization for successful communication practices. Finally, in the fourth and final lecture we will conclude the course by considering different ways of understanding professionalism and explore the notion of a "new" professionalism as well as potential consequences for communication.

Students should note that the module consists of two courses, "Introduction to Language, Communication and Professional Practice" followed by "English, Communication and Professional Practice", both of which they are required to attend as knowledge acquired from the first, introductory course is a prerequisite for attending the second.

Course sessions:

Introduction to Language, Communication and Professional Practice: First session Tuesday February 1, 14:30-16:15, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 2.132. Link in Moodle:
<https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41610>.

English, Communication and Professional Practice: First session Tuesday February 24, 10:15-12:00, Kroghstraede 3 (KST 3), room 3.138. Link in Moodle:
<https://www.moodle.aau.dk/course/view.php?id=41601>.

Assessment

Examination takes the form of a written home assignment, further details of which will be given during the course.

