



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA

Study
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Curricular Unit

Society and Diversity (5.5 ECTS) – 45 hours

Study cycle to which the curricular unit belongs

BA 2nd Semester / 2014-2015

Responsible academic staff member and lecturing load in the curricular unit

Maria Luisa Homem Leal de Faria Geraldês Barba.

Learning outcomes of the curricular unit

The purpose of the curricular unit is to offer the students access to a transversal platform of study and inquiry into the construction of the concepts of Western/European identity and “otherness”.

Following a historical perspective, we will trace the emergence of the idea of “Eurocentrism” and the way this concept was formed by contact and exchanges with the “Other”. For this purpose we will use materials from the fields of literature and the arts, together with resources from history, the social sciences and philosophy, stressing the concept of “representation”.

We hope to stimulate students from different fields of study to open up to different perspectives in the study of culture and society, thereby gaining in conceptual flexibility, knowledge of alternative schools and methods of thought and inquiry, and acquiring a deeper awareness of the framework(s) that problematize(s) the contemporary world.

Syllabus

1. Identity and otherness: theoretical approaches
2. The historical background of the building of the concept of “West”
3. The birth and the death of the “modern subject”
4. Nations and national cultures as “imagined communities”
5. Orientalism and Imperialism
6. Gender and ethnicity
7. Globalization
8. Fundamentalism, diaspora and hybridity.

Teaching methodologies (including evaluation)

Attendance in class is compulsory, according to University regulations. A reader of fundamental texts will be made available to the students. Based on the concept of student centered methodologies, the work program will articulate theory and



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practice in order to provoke both debate and autonomous research. The students will be encouraged and to use, under the teacher's guidance, the many on-line resources made available by the University. At the end of the first part of the program (from topic 1 to 4), the students will have a written test for the assessment of their knowledge on the problems cultural identity. Along the semester, presentations by the students will be expected, either individually or in small groups. The presentations will follow rules of articulation between theory and practice, and will be followed by debate. At the end of the semester there will be a second written test, for the assessment of both knowledge and competences.

- 1st written test: 30%
- Presentation and debate: 25%
- 2nd written test: 40%
- General continuous assessment: 5%

Main bibliography

- Appadurai, Arjun, "Cultural Dimensions of Globalization", in *The Global History Reader*, ed. Bruce Mazlish and Akira Iriye, New York and London, Routledge, 2005.
- Bauman, Zygmunt, *Globalization: the Human Consequences*. Cambridge, Polity Press, 2000.
- Baycroft, Tomoty and Mark Hewitson, eds., *What is a Nation? Europe 1789-1914*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2009
- Cohen, Robin, "Diasporas, the Nation-State, and Globalization", in *The Global History Reader*, ed. Bruce Mazlish and Akira Iriye, New York and London, Routledge, 2005.
- Connell, R. W., *Gender*. Cambridge, Polity Press, 2007.
- Hall, Stuart, "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power", in *Formations of Modernity*, edited by Stuart Hall and Bram Gieben, Cambridge, Polity Press, 1992
-, "The Question of Cultural Identity", in *Modernity and Its Futures*, edited by Stuart Hall, David Held and Tony McGrew. Cambridge, Polity Press, 1993
- Said, Edward, *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*. London, Penguin Books, 1995.
-, *Culture and Imperialism*, London, Vintage, 1994.
- Woodward, Kathryn, ed, *Identity and Difference*. London, Sage Publications, 1997.