

Online course title:	Genders and Diversities: Old Questions, Persisting Challenges, Future Opportunities
Instructor:	Dr. Alice Margaria
Email address:	alice.margaria@fu-berlin.de
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher.
Contact hours:	The coursework corresponds to an on-site course amounting to 48 contact hours.
ECTS-Credits:	5
General requirements:	<p>Please plan to be online from 8 am CEST to 12:30 pm CEST on the respective course days! To ensure this, please check the possible time difference between Germany and your country of residence.</p> <p>We also recommend that you set up a quiet and appropriate working space. To ensure a comfortable learning environment for all, please adhere to general netiquette rules.</p>
Technical requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- stable internet connection- fully functional device, such as computer, laptop or tablet (use of smart phones not recommended), headset recommended- recommended operating systems: Windows 7 or higher or Mac OS X 10,13 or higher, avoid using a VPN

Course description

This course will introduce students to the broad and vibrating field of gender and diversity studies, crossing disciplinary boundaries and reflecting on contemporary global issues around gender and diversity. Key questions addressed in the course are: how does gender manifest itself and determine social (in)justice? Who is responsible for *doing* and *undoing* gender? How does gender intersect with other diversity grounds and lead to structural and systemic patterns of discrimination in our societies? What's the role of states in bringing about (gender) equality?

During the first part of the course, students will gain familiarity with key working concepts, theories and perspectives – including intersectionality, masculinities studies and LGBTQI+ approaches – which will serve as essential analytical tools to be applied in the second part of the course. In the latter, the focus will be placed on concrete global challenges pertaining to gender and diversity, including the (under)representation of women and other groups in decision-making bodies and processes, the struggles of intersex and trans people suffering stigmatisation and discrimination in various global locations, gender-based violence in its multiple manifestations, and the often-unquestioned performative powers of language in sustaining and perpetuating gender and social hierarchies.

Having acquired the necessary background knowledge and analytical tools, students will engage in topical debates by unpacking complex and intersectional questions related to each of the above themes, suggesting potential avenues for change and identifying persisting challenges in achieving (gender) equality. An important feature of this course will lie in its interactive format, facilitated by the use of original and varied digital teaching tools (e.g. surveys, multi-media materials, break-out rooms, etc.). Students are expected to actively participate in small-group exercises, in-class debates and to give a short presentation throughout the course, with the aim of making learning a collective and shared experience and responsibility. Depending on availability, virtual visits (e.g., to local art exhibitions relevant to the course subject) and/or guest talks (e.g. with LGBTQI+ social society representatives) might represent further learning opportunities for students.

In the long-run, this course will motivate and empower students to think outside the box, to become aware of their positionality and challenge their own assumptions, to develop creativity and to adopt nuanced and multi-layered perspectives when approaching social justice questions.

Student profile

No previous knowledge in the field of gender and diversity studies is required. However, participants shall be open to share their reflections, experiences, doubts and questions with the rest of the group and to contribute to the creation of an open space where everyone feels valued and welcome to contribute.

Prerequisites

None

Course requirements

Regular attendance, active participation (see 'Course description' above) and the submission of a final paper (3,000 words) are expected. Each student can decide the exact topic of their final paper, provided that it is relevant to the course and after prior approval by the instructor.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced intermediate level (B2) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>

Grading

Three components determine the final grade:

1. In-class participation: 40%;
2. Oral presentation: 20%;
3. Final paper: 40%

Reading

A detailed reader will be provided at a later stage. As examples, recommended and suggested readings will include excerpts from foundational works such as Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, as well as more contemporary writings, such as U. Schultz, 'Do Female Judges Judge Differently? Empirical Realities of a Theoretical Debate' in N. Sonneveld and M. Lindbekk (eds) *Women Judges in the Muslim World* (Brill, 2017); N.

Dowd, 'Asking the Man Question: Masculinities Analysis and Feminist Theory' (2010) 33 *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender* 415-430.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 26, 2022	Defining Sex and Gender: Any Difference?
Friday, July 29, 2022	Is Gender a Women's Only Issue? Introducing Masculinities Theories
Tuesday, August 02, 2022	When Gender Meets...: Intersectional Approaches
Friday, August 05, 2022	Gender and Diversity as Western Constructs: Postcolonial Approaches
Tuesday, August 09, 2022	The Intersex and the Trans Questions: Is it <i>just</i> about Recognition? * Guest talk with civil society representative from LGBTQI+ association based in Berlin
Friday, August 12, 2022	Gender and Diversity in Decision-Making: Why and How?
Tuesday, August 16, 2022	Rethinking the Case of George Floyd: Racial, Gender-Based, Institutional Violence?
Friday, August 19, 2022	The Power of Language: Neutralising or Emphasising Difference?

* Discussions with guest speakers are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers.