






5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q2

Language :	French > English-friendly
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	<p>The aim of this pluridisciplinary course is to enable students to understand and appreciate the phenomenon of diversity as it is experienced and managed in organisations, using a variety of approaches (legal sciences, anthropology, sociology, communication). The aim is to equip students with analytical frameworks to engage with the complexity of diversity issues and senses of uneasiness, conflicts, demands, and compromises that can emerge in given contexts.</p> <p>Diversity management issues can manifest differently across professional environments and invite a range of interpretative frameworks to distil the complexity, without becoming reductive. This also enables students to comprehend systemic sociocultural factors, and to apply theory to practical cases.</p> <p>The first part of the course deconstructs the concept of diversity and how it is defined in terms of different dimensions (gender identity, class, ethnicity and race, age, disability, religion, sexuality, etc.). The origins of when diversity became an ongoing concern in public policy are considered and situated alongside related concepts (e.g. equality, equity, inclusion, discrimination) and phenomena (e.g. belonging, identity, culture clashes, issues of 'norms', conflicts).</p> <p>The second part presents legal aspects and frameworks that inform public and organisational policies (discrimination, racism, sexism, workplace safety, fair process, etc.).</p> <p>The third part revisits models of (co-)management and governance of diversity in organisations. Issues concerning diversity are related to different forms of organisation and governance (public, private, ASBL cooperative, etc.), and different cultures and values of companies, while being cognisant that the cases in this course are Eurocentric, and framed by assumed political secularism and democratic pluralism.</p>
Learning outcomes	
Evaluation methods	Two group-based assignments (10 marks each) to be submitted through Moodle, in either English or French. One is due during the teaching period and the other on the first day of the examination session.
Teaching methods	Interactive workshops and problem-based learning, with preparatory readings.
Content	Diversity management to attract and retain the best employees as norms and expectations have fundamentally changed across generations, requires a radical rethinking of leadership strategies and new ways of working. Moreover, the social licence for organisations to operate ethically across a multiplicity of different contexts around the world is increasingly scrutinised and subject to collective pressures to adapt. While public and political discourses appear polarised with increasing frequency, in the global competition for talent, professional organisations have more than just a moral imperative to be at the forefront in embracing and fostering diversity. This is not to underestimate systematic and institutionalised forces counterweighing these efforts, nor the apprehension when challenged to lean into our own discomfort.
Inline resources	Course materials are posted on the course's moodle page.
Bibliography	Bendl, Regine, and others (eds), The Oxford Handbook of Diversity in Organizations (2015; online edn, Oxford Academic, 19 Jan. 2016). Roberson, Quinetta M. (ed.), The Oxford Handbook of Diversity and Work, Oxford Library of Psychology (2013; online edn, Oxford Academic, 1 Oct. 2013).
Other infos	This course is bilingual (EN-FR)
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPO

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Master [120] in Communication	<a href="#">CORP2M</a>	5		
Advanced Master in Gender Studies	<a href="#">GENR2MC</a>	5		
Master [120] in Population and Development Studies	<a href="#">SPED2M</a>	5		
Master [120] in Public Administration	<a href="#">ADPU2M</a>	5		
Master [120] in Political Sciences: General	<a href="#">SPOL2M</a>	5		
Master [120] in Human Resources Management	<a href="#">GRH2M</a>	5		