

Honours Programme 2006-2007

- 1.) Communication: Nature and Culture, conditions and consequences
- 2.) Philosophy and Cultural Criticism
- 3.) 14th Crayenborgh Lecture Series: Human Agency and the Natural Environment within the Context of Global History
- 4.) VivoArts: Art and Biology Studio - Wet Lab Practice and Bio-Art Pedagogy
- 5.) Ethnography of Academic Disciplines
- 6.) "Analyze this": The secrets of the invisible
- 7.) Health Science and Technology
- 8.) Sustainable Development
- 9.) Developmental Disorders: the link between behavior, cognitions and neurobiology
- 10.) Terrorism: Causes and Consequences
- 11.) Recent Developments in Psychology
- 12.) Criminal Justice Policies in the Risk Society: the need for a multidisciplinary approach
- 13.) Child Protection Worldwide

1.) Communication: Nature and Culture, conditions and consequences

Faculty of Arts, Dutch Language and Culture

Many cognitive scientists agree that language is an important aspect of what makes humans, and human cognition in particular, unique among animals. The objective of this course is to critically explore the potential of a specific idea to explain the connection between human intelligence, culture and language. The philosopher Daniel Dennett has formulated this as follows:

'Our human brains, and only human brains, have been armed by habits and methods, mind-tools and information, drawn from millions of other brains which are not ancestral to our own brains. This [...] puts our minds on a different plane from the minds of our nearest relatives among the animals. This species-specific process of enhancement had become so swift and powerful that a single generation of its design improvements can now dwarf the [...] efforts of millions of years of evolution by natural selection. Comparing our brains anatomically to chimpanzee brains (or dolphin brains or any other non-human brains) would be almost beside the point, because our brains are in effect joined together into a single cognitive system that dwarfs all others. They are joined by an innovation that has invaded our brains and no others: language.' (Dennett 1995: 381)

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Programme	The programme consists of twelve interactive seminars in the spring semester of 2007.
Language of Instruction	English
Application Deadline	1 March

2.) Philosophy and Cultural Criticism

Faculties of Arts and Philosophy



The work of René Girard, being a significant example of the meeting between the two components in the title of this class, will be taken as the starting point. This philosopher, anthropologist and aesthete of French origin has been teaching for many years at Stanford University. His three major points of interest are the concept of mimesis, the theory of rivalry and the notion of the scapegoat.

He shows in various ways that all sorts of individual as well as social and political evolutions are directed by these motives and he analyses their interaction with different kinds of cultural phenomena. The great influence of Girard's work on contemporary thinking does not preclude him from serious criticism by other philosophers. This discussion allows an interesting view on scientific competition and the confrontation of diverging paradigms.

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Programme 12 sessions in February - May 2007

Language of Instruction English

3.) 14th Crayenborgh Lecture Series: Human Agency and the Natural Environment within the Context of Global History

Faculty of Arts, Department of History

The history of man is the history of human interaction with the physical environment of soils, vegetations and animals, in short the struggle to acquire control of the natural environment. If this struggle has resulted in the extinction of millions of species through the centuries, it has also contributed to the survival of the human race because nature has been tamed and redeveloped. By human intervention. In 14th edition of the Crayenborgh Lecture Series environmental history will take the centre-stage, but it will also overlap with such disciplines as historical geography and ecology. We shall focus on historical debates from ancient times to the present day and deal with them within the context of global history.

Contact Prof. Wim van den Doel
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Programme 12 sessions, February - June 2007, on Friday mornings in the Snouck Hurgronjehuis.

Language of Instruction English

4.) VivoArts: Art and Biology Studio - Wet Lab Practice and Bio-Art Pedagogy

Faculty of Arts, Department of Art History



Lecturer: Adam Zaretsky, bio-artist, US

This course will introduce students to issues and concepts relating to contemporary arts practices dealing with living biological systems (sometimes referred to as wet biology, art practice, Bioart, environmental art, body art, breeding practices). Emphasis is placed on developing critical thought, ethical issues and cross-disciplinary experimentation in art (art/science collaborations, art as research). Students will be introduced to biological lab practices and will be expected to get their hands wet! This course will focus on recent advances in the Life Sciences, both in theory and practice. We will focus on molecular biology, tissue culture, genomics, developmental biology and the social implications of these

new potential developments.

The goal of this course is to create an open-ended interface between life and the arts. In the interests of keeping all expressive options open, the focus of the class is not on the logic of the biologic, but on our cultural relationships to the world of life, with all their contradictions and illogicalities.

The interfaces between human society and the ecosphere are identified, rethought and collaged together to form signs of definitional breakdown. Some initial categories for treating to artistic xenophilia: Food, Nature, Laboratory, Our Bodies and Pets. By defining where and how we interface with these life forms and by mixing these logics, we arrive at unusual conceptual re-evaluations. Vivoarts is a studio art and science crossover lab intended to aid students from various disciplines in their own exploration of the interfaces between art and life.

For more information see <http://emutagen.com/vivoartgl.html> or download a [detailed description of the programme](#) 

Contact

Prof. R. Zwijnenberg
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Programme

The programme consists of twelve sessions, offered over the course of two months in the spring of 2007.

Language of Instruction

English

Application Deadline

1 March

5.) Ethnography of Academic Disciplines

Faculty of Philosophy

Students in the Honours Class 'Ethnography of Academic Disciplines' work as anthropologists to investigate seven scientific and academic disciplines: Mathematics, Physics, Engineering Science, Psychology, Anthropology, History, and Literary Theory. The aim is to form a picture of the culture and practices of each discipline, and thereby to understand the variety and unity of the modern sciences. Students are introduced to one or more researchers in each discipline, who act as informants: they visit the informants' workplaces, interview them there, and later lead a



discussion with the informant and all participants in class. Maintaining an uncommitted, 'outsider' stance, students decline to endorse immediately the facts and truths accepted by the practitioners of each discipline. Instead, they attempt to ascertain how facts and truths are produced in that discipline by uncovering its epistemic values, validation procedures, reward mechanisms, and other factors. We will discover that there are many different conceptions of science and of academic discipline, but that all disciplines offer distinctive solutions to the same fundamental and methodological problems.

Contact	Dr. James W. McAllister +31 (0)71 527 20 04 j.w.mcallister@let.leidenuniv.nl
Programme	The Honours Class consists of twelve sessions: five seminars and seven interviews with informants. Sessions take place on Fridays in the spring semester from 10.15 to 13.00 hrs, concluding with lunch.
Language of Instruction	English
Application Deadline	14 February

6.) "Analyze this": The secrets of the invisible

Faculty of Archaeology

Both archaeology and art history clearly involve invisible aspects that need to be made visible. This is achieved by technological means developed by the natural sciences. Archaeological sites are made visible by the use of penetrating ground radar; pigments and layered structures in paintings and sculpture can be made visible by X-rays and neutrons; natural isotope analysis of material remains (bone, hair, clothing) sheds light on age, diet, climate, and migrations. During workshops in Delft, Groningen and Amsterdam the students will learn how to see the invisible. Lectures will be given by invited international specialists. In Groningen, the students will analyse isotopes themselves on selected materials (for example, their own hair). In Delft, students will be involved in the study of bronze sculpture, focussing on the secrets of the sculpture's interior. After a lecture series, the students will be involved in practical analytical work of 17th century museum sculpture from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Contact	Prof. T. van Kolfschoten +31 (0)71 527 26 40 t.van.kolfschoten@arch.leidenuniv.nl
Programme	Approx. 9 sessions varying from two-hour classes to workshops of one or two days, preferably on Fridays.
Language of Instruction	English

7.) Health Science and Technology

Leiden University Medical Center and Delft University of Technology



Health Science and Technology (HST) is an emerging field in which clinicians and engineers work closely together to improve healthcare by combining the expertise of engineering with the medical needs of patients. Although clinicians and engineers work closely together, this is no guarantee that they will not have different views on how to solve problems. Furthermore, there is more to HST than medicine and technology: the development and use of (bio)medical technology has ethical, sociological and juridical aspects and implications.

This Honours Class presents a comprehensive overview of the broad field of HST, with special focus on the gap between clinicians and engineers that we believe still exists, and on the implications of the use of (bio)medical technology. But, of course, we will also

focus on the breakthroughs that (bio)medical technology has brought us.

[Report Health Science and Technology](#) (in Dutch) 

Contact

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Programme

12 sessions, from mid-January until mid-June 2007

Language of Instruction

Dutch. If international students are selected for the Honours Class, the language of instruction will be English.

8.) Sustainable Development

Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Humans form a threat for their own environment and that of other organisms. Sustainable development is a condition for the conservation of biodiversity on earth, including human life. Global solutions are required as well as close cooperation between scientists from various domains, including natural and social sciences and technology. As such, sustainable development is an excellent subject for an interdisciplinary Honours Class. In a discussion of sustainable development by selected staff and students from all Leiden faculties, crucial elements of sustainable development will be identified and priorities in scientific, technological and political programming will be established.

This Honours Class focuses on humans and their habitats from a long-term socio-ecological perspective, and the steps that humans should take to ensure the long-term conservation of our biosphere, including human life.

[Detailed description of the programme & essays of students](#) 

Contact Prof. Jan W. Kijne
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Programme 12 sessions of lectures, workshops, assignments; spring 2007

Language of Instruction English

9.) Developmental Disorders: the link between behaviour, cognitions and neurobiology
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Department of Education and Child Studies

The Department of Education and Child Studies offers an Honours Programme to twelve gifted students in Psychology, Education and Child Studies and in Medical Studies. The title of the theme 'Developmental Disorders: the link between behaviour, cognitions and neurobiology' reflects the current discussion on the recent findings in the relation between these three domains. Lecturers from leading universities will shed light on this discussion from the perspective of their field of study. The international approach will inspire and challenge the group of carefully selected students. The students will have to prepare themselves thoroughly by studying different papers on the subjects. They will be expected to participate actively in dialogue with the lecturers.

Contact Prof. I.A. van Berckelaer-Onnes
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Programme 12 workshops in the spring of 2007

Language of Instruction English

10.) Terrorism: Causes and Consequences

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Departments of Political Sciences and Public Administration.

Since 9/11, terrorism has featured in newspapers and news broadcasts on a daily basis, and governments around the world seek to implement measures and structures to combat terrorism. But what is terrorism? How do we distinguish a terrorist from a freedom fighter? Is it new and growing? What are its causes (what kinds of explanations do we have), and its consequences (collective fear, economic damage, privacy issues)? What counter-measures are taken, and to what effect?

These are the questions and issues this Honours Class will raise and which students will discuss with a range of international and Dutch experts, comprising both scholars and practitioners. Classes and lectures will address the following topics:

- Definitions;
- History;
- Explanations (sociological, rational choice, psychological);
- Typology (nationalist, ideological, and religious terrorism);
- Consequences;
- Counter-measures.

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Dr. F. de Zwart
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Programme 12 sessions in the spring semester

Language of Instruction English

11.) Recent developments in Psychology

Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Department of Psychology.

The programme consists of a series of seminars related to psychological research. The group will meet twice for each topic, usually on Friday mornings. The theme for 2006/2007 is 'Brain, Cognition and Emotion'. Most seminars will be related to this annually changing theme, but some seminars may pertain to other current psychological issues. This theme is approached by researchers from different areas of expertise within the larger field of psychology.

Seminars are given by prominent senior researchers, who also assign readings which will be discussed with Leiden staff before the seminars. Besides gaining insight into the relationship between brain, cognition and emotion, the aim of the seminars is to examine all aspects of psychological research in much more detail than is usually done in lectures, for example how research questions are developed and how questions are translated into research designs. At the end of the series, students will write an essay concerning the theme of the Honours Cass. Send your application letter to Prof. A.J.W. van der Does, Dept. of Psychology, Wassenaarseweg 52, 2333 AK Leiden.

Contact Drs. A.G.M. Zandvliet
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Programme The programme runs from January to June. The maximum number of participants is 15. The class is suitable for 2nd and 3rd year BA students with some background and a strong interest in psychology and/or neuroscience.

Language of Instruction English

12.) Criminal Justice Policies in the Risk Society: the need for a multidisciplinary approach

Faculty of Law, Department of Criminal Law and Criminology

Under the influence of several global and national processes, most Western-oriented societies have changed from 'welfare states' into 'security states' or so-called 'risk societies', where top priority has been given to excluding and restricting possible risks. In order to identify these 'possible' risks, governments increasingly rely on various criminologically-based risk taxation instruments and risk profiles. Within the framework of the risk society, criminal law is largely considered as the most important means of combatting these new security risks. The new anti-terrorism legislation recently introduced is a good example. Thus, as a consequence of the current transition of society into a post-modern risk society, the content and debate surrounding criminal justice policies have altered greatly. In this Honours Class, both law students and

criminology students will study these recent changes in criminal justice policies in Western societies in relation to changes in criminal law and criminology, since these two fields of science are becoming increasingly inter-related in the risk society. By so doing, this Honours Class attempts to put forward an interdisciplinary and international view.

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Programme The programme consists of twelve 'regular' sessions, two book reviews, one practicum and one field trip, in the spring semester.

Language of Instruction English

13.)Child Protection Worldwide

Faculty of Law, Department of Civil Law



This Honours Class addresses the possibilities of protecting children when they are confronted with the law. Children's rights have been of growing importance in the last decade due to the influence of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Focusing on children's rights, this Honours Class will discuss how children in need can be protected both in law and in practice when they are faced with such issues as child abuse or neglect, detention and war.

In this interdisciplinary course students will be confronted with legal and other instruments for protecting children in need, with specific focus on the United States and international law aspects.

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Programme Twelve sessions in May - June 2007, mostly on Fridays from 10.00 to 14.00/15.00 hrs.

Language of Instruction English

Application Deadline 1 March