

The Summer Semester Coronavirus: A Message from the Department of Anglophone Studies



Dear students,

We, the staff of the Department of Anglophone Studies, warmly welcome all of you to the summer semester 2020. As you may imagine, this semester will be a little different. Not only are we starting late – classes will begin on April 20 – but until further notice, all classes and exams will be conducted online.

While there will be no face-to-face sessions, and classes will take place in virtual spaces, this semester will still meet all the necessary requirements (under the circumstances): you will be able to earn credit points, you will be able to take exams, and you will be able to write Bachelor and Master theses. In fact, your instructors are currently working hard on switching to digital teaching (in the picture above, you can see some of us exchanging ideas about remote teaching during one of the many video conferences we are holding).

We are obviously aware of the fact that this is a demanding and challenging situation for all of us. As we explore alternative ways of teaching and learning, you may have to bear with us as we adjust and adapt syllabi, class materials, didactic strategies, and learning outcomes. No doubt technology will fail us from time to time, some teaching methods may not work quite as we thought they would, and some content

and learning outcomes may even have to be postponed until we can meet again in person.

And yet we are confident that we are able to deliver a slightly different but nevertheless successful summer semester, and we think we have very good reasons for that. Two of our classes – the Radboud University Duisburg Essen Spring Academy (Rudesca) and the block seminar “Urban Imaginaries” – were recently delivered remotely, using digital group work, extended periods of self-study, and one-on-one instruction via telephone. And in both cases, instructors were delighted with students’ resourcefulness, their creativity, and, above all, their curiosity.

Let us approach the upcoming semester with an open mind (to quote our university slogan): open to new topics, new methods, new skills, and new ways of learning. For the time being, please make diligent use of e-mail, and contact staff directly only in urgent cases. Your instructors are in the process of contacting students

registered for their classes via LSF to inform them as to how exactly their class will take place. Please follow their instructions and let them know then if you have any problems or concerns.

We look forward to working with you in order to explore the literatures, cultures and languages of the Anglophone World in innovative ways in these coming weeks and months. Let’s together make the most of this challenging situation.

We all wish you a successful summer term 2020 - stay safe and stay healthy!

April 6, 2020