

International Semester Programme 2025

**Social Complexities
& Creative Approaches:
Diversity, Disability, Sustainability**

24 March - 18 July 2025

Protestant University of Applied Sciences (EvH)
Bochum, Germany

Details on the programme and funding opportunities:
<https://www.evH-bochum.de/programme-2025.html>



Course Overview

	Artistic Education and Media Competence (Module 5160 - 12 ECTS)
1	Film as an Ethical Experience
2	Intercultural Work and the Arts
3	Dance Theatre Project: My Space Your Space
	Intercultural and International Social Work (Module 5340 - 12 ECTS)
1	Postcolonial Feminism & Movements of Freedom
2	International Talks on Human Rights - Interdisciplinary perspectives on social problems
3	Social work with Refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples – Examples from the global context
4	Healing the Margins: Diaconia, Social Determinants, and Global Health Challenges
	Health, Disability, Diversity (Module 5440 - 6 ECTS)
1	Diversity and Inclusion – A South African Perspective
2	Disability and Diversity – Inclusion in an International Perspective
3	Contextual Site Visits for Social Work Practice
	Optional German Course (2 ECTS)



Module Code	Course Description	ECTS credits
5160	Module “Artistic Education and Media Competence” Includes 3 seminars and 1 exam for the whole module in the form of a presentation	12
	1 Film as an Ethical Experience Prof Dr Christine Reeh-Peters, EvH RWL Film-philosophy approaches film reflection with a philosophical lens. At the turn of the millennium, well-known blockbusters such as the Matrix trilogy or Inception succeeded in making philosophical topics understandable to broad masses and in heating up the discussion about the philosophical content of motion pictures. In recent years, film-philosophy has increasingly discussed film as an ethical experience. What are ethical issues and how do films express them? And: what ethical issues are filmmakers involved in because of their artistic practice? In the seminar we will approach the topic with film viewings and joint theoretical reading. We will learn to understand how and why the cinematic medium in particular is suitable for the mediation and critical reflection of these questions and establish a connection to the fields of social work.	
	2 Intercultural Work and the Arts Prof Dr Marichen Van Der Westhuizen, Professor at the Department of Social Work, University of the Western Cape, South Africa Prof Dr Thomas Greuel, Professor of Music Education, EvH RWL This seminar will focus on knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable students to work in multicultural contexts. The aim is to assist different cultural groups to engage with each other through creating platforms where mutual understanding can develop, prejudice can be addressed and tolerance for differences can be stimulated. Concepts of ‘culture’, ‘multi-culture’, and ‘inter-culture’ will be explored. The content of the seminar is based on a hermeneutical perspective towards understanding, the theoretical framework of the Social Dimensions of Making Music Together, and the Appreciative Inquiry Model as a practical framework to use in praxis. Using the arts as a form of social work will inform practical examples of ways to move towards an intercultural context where similarities and differences are being acknowledged and used to the advantage of the greater group.	
	3 Dance Theatre Project: Water Stories Dr. Bettina Rutsch, EvH RWL This project invites participants to explore their individual range of dance expression. You can use your experiences of diverse dance styles as well as your everyday moves to express your ideas and imaginations. So it does not matter if you do not have any technical dance experience at all or if you are an experienced dancer. Together we will create a stage performance inspired by stories about the element water, its energy and its various forms. Through experiencing how movement and dance can assist you to express yourself, you will be able to reflect how you can use this when working with individuals or groups. Please bring comfortable sportswear and socks.	

5340	Module “Field of Action: Intercultural and International Social Work” Includes 4 seminars and 1 exam for the whole module: term paper or presentation	12
	1 Postcolonial Feminism & Movements of Freedom Prof Dr Lorenz Narku Laing, Professor of Social Studies and Racism Research, EvH Bochum The seminar will explore historic global movements of freedom fighting colonial oppression. Furthermore, it will investigate the important role feminists as well as women played in the process. We will read writings by Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, Mahatma Gandhi as well as Kwame Nkrumah. We will learn about the histories and ideas of "chicana feminism", Rosa Parks, Gayatri Spivak, Harriet Tubman or Chandra Mohanty. How did the formerly colonized become free? Which role did feminists and women-centred movements play? How can this inform our today's quest for justice?	
	2 International Talks on Peace-building, Education and Inter/trans-cultural Understanding Prof Dr Kristin Sonnenberg, Professor of Social Work – Methods and Concepts, EvH Bochum This seminar presents approaches to the human rights perspective of social and human sciences. One topic will be the discussion of methods that can promote international, intercultural dialogue in international contexts. Students' experiential knowledge from different countries and work fields will be included (interdisciplinary approach). Postcolonial theories provide one analytical framework. The seminar is interlinked with a cooperation on Global Learning of the Protestant Universities in Germany, OTH Regensburg, University of Prishtina, the Faculty for Islamic Studies in Pristina and the University of Sulaimani, Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Special dates that are part of the seminar due to the cooperation “International Talks: Human Rights – Interdisciplinary perspectives on migration” [these will be online!]	
	3 Social work with Refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples – Examples from the global context Prof Dr Cinur Ghaderi, Professor of Psychology, EvH Bochum The world has witnessed a historic change on a global scale. According to UNHCR, the number of people forced to flee their homes due to war and conflict has exceeded 100 million in 2022. This figure documents a changed reality in which flight is a permanent phenomenon and challenge for social work. This is the largest displacement crisis in the world. Moreover, climate change and global warming are leading to the emergence of new phenomena in environmental refugees and green social work. The aim of this course is to understand the drivers and types of flight migration and to familiarise students with tools and approaches for social work with refugees and internally displaced persons in different global contexts. During this course, students are expected to contribute practical experiences, case presentations and reflect on the critical role of social work in conflict areas.	
	4 Healing the Margins: Diaconia, Social Determinants, and Global Health Challenges Rev. Godwin Ampony, United Evangelical Mission This course examines the vital role of diaconia in addressing the pressing global health challenges that disproportionately affect marginalized populations. With a focus on the social determinants of health, students will explore how structural inequities contribute to widespread health disparities and the global burden of disease. Through a diaconal lens, this course emphasizes the importance of holistic care that considers not only the physical but also the social, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of health and well-being. Engaging with contemporary case studies and board games, students will critically assess the intersection of faith, justice, and public health, analysing how diaconal ministries can bridge the gap between marginalized communities and equitable	

This list will be updated regularly. Changes are possible. // Last update: 23 August, 2024

		health care. Special attention will be given to the ethical implications of health inequity, the cost of illness, and faith-based approaches to alleviating suffering. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to contribute to transformative, justice-oriented health interventions that address both the root causes and long-term impacts of global health disparities, all grounded in diaconal principles of compassion, service, and healing.	
5440	Module “Health, Disability, Diversity” Includes 3 seminars and 1 exam for the whole module: term paper or presentation		6
	1	Disability and Diversity – Inclusion in an International Perspective Philipp Bryant, Lecturer at the Department for Inclusive Education and Nursing, EvH RWL Dr. Ronel Davids, Lecturer at the Department for Social Work, University of the Western Cape Inclusion is a task for society as a whole. Despite the improved legal situation of vulnerable, disadvantaged and excluded groups, legal recognition of these groups alone does not lead to their social inclusion. The seminar explores the questions of values and which dimensions of recognition are ultimately essential to enable social participation and self-determined living. In doing so, philosophical, ecosystemic and pedagogical perspectives will be elaborated with the enriching international experiences and perspectives of a guest lecturer from South Africa.	
	2	Inclusion – A South African Perspective Dr Ingrid Daniels, Chief Executive Officer, Cape Mental Health, South Africa The seminar provides a historical overview of the Apartheid period in South Africa and track the lessons for systemic, legal and structural change after 1994 to facilitate a non-discriminatory society. A human rights framework is reviewed in which social inclusion of all people is discussed. It is an exciting and interactive seminar in which formal presentations, film, short videos, poetry, group discussions and poster-making learning methods are used to deepen the discourse on race, gender and disability inclusion for the world today. The seminar provides a historical journey from exclusion to inclusion focussing specifically on race, gender and disability inclusion – issues and lesson for the world today. The seminar further identifies the rise of global social inclusion movements in the 21st Century to address discrimination, isolation and exclusion and marginalisation of these groups.	
	3	Contextual Site Visits for Social Work Practice Marlies Hendriks, Social Worker, EvH RWL Karen Bossow, International Coordinator, Social Worker and Deacon, EvH RWL This seminar involves site-visits in the Ruhr Metropolitan Region to facilities and agencies involved with a variety of programmes and approaches to Social Work, including counselling centers and agencies that work with children and youth, persons with addictions, the elderly, refugees, and so forth. A theoretical component will accompany these visits.	
TOTAL			30
Additional:			
		German Language Course Emma Jane Stone, Translator An optional introductory German course will be offered in-house.	2