



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



جامعة السليمان مولاي سليمان
Université Sultan Moulay Slimane

Concept of MA program

MA in GENDER STUDIES النوع في دراسات

SULTANE MOULAY SLIMANE, BENI MELLAL

February 2017

DEVELOPERS OF THE CONCEPT:

Dr. Cherki Karkaba, Dr. Hayat Naciri, Dr. Farida Mokhtari, Dr. Saida Hdii

Educational level	Master
Branch of knowledge	Gender studies
Speciality	
Educational and professional program	
Qualification	
Duration	2 years

Rationale

This master programme is designed to offer students holding a Licence diploma in English Studies the possibility to continue their academic career in English at a postgraduate level. It intends to open its scope to interdisciplinarity by accepting Licence students coming from the different “parcours”: Literary Studies, Linguistics and Cultural Studies. It also aims at preparing students for doctoral research.

By focusing on Gender Studies, this Master aims to fill a gap in the general academic offer of the Faculty of Arts and the Humanities in Beni Mellal. This is the first programme (filière) to be devoted entirely to the issue of gender in the history of Sultan Moulay Slimane University. It is in this way that this master contributes also to the diversity of the overall academic offer in the university.

This master programme aims at attaining goals such as the following:

- contribute to the implementation of the LMD system in the Moroccan university, and, more specifically, in the area of arts and the humanities,
- diversify the academic curriculum offered by the department of English studies which should open out on new fields of knowledge, learning and research.
- Offer the opportunity to students to get acquainted with different approaches and theories pertaining to the field of the humanities,
- consolidate the interdisciplinary approach in research in the faculty of arts and humanities as the concern with gender interests a wide range of areas including philosophy, sociology, anthropology, literature, linguistics, discourse analysis, governance media and communication, etc ...
- to enhance the students’ awareness and train them to reflect on Gender, an issue which is one of the national and international priority concerns,
- Through the methodological tools and approaches adopted, this master in Gender Studies aims to contribute to developing the students’ critical spirit and objectivity of analysis in research,

- develop Moroccan perspectives in the field of gender studies by focusing research on areas of immediate interest and relevance to the Moroccan context, while implementing a comparative method embracing Anglo Saxon and other world contexts.

General Outcomes

After the completion of this MA program, students will be able to:

- Explore different approaches and theories pertaining to the field of the humanities.
- Reflect on Gender, an issue which is one of the national and international priority concerns.
- Acquire critical spirit and objectivity of analysis in research through the methodological tools and approaches adopted.
- Develop Moroccan perspectives in the field of gender studies by focusing research on areas of immediate interest and relevance to the Moroccan context, while implementing a comparative method embracing Anglo Saxon and other world contexts.
- Work for government and non-government organizations that have expressed the urgent need for Moroccan experts in gender studies.

In line with this, students will be able to:

- Develop communication skills.
- Improve academic reading and writing skills
- undertake master and doctoral research.
- Acquire professional development skills

1- Academic Reading and Writing

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Read articles and masterpieces in gender studies academically, reflect on what they read and be active and critical readers.
- Complete writing tasks on different topics related to gender respecting the requirements of academic writing.
- Acknowledge sources to avoid plagiarism while respecting the APA style and other norms of writing.

2- Gender and Communication

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss prominent theories used in the study of gender and communication.
- Identify the major theorists in gender and communication research.
- Identify the various methods used to study gender communication.
- Describe masculine and feminine speaking styles.
- Recognize the impact of gender on nonverbal communication.

3- Introduction to Feminist Theory

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the key concepts in gender studies.

- Contextualize the different feminist theories they will be introduced to within larger historical, social and cultural contexts.
- Use feminist theories in demonstrating arguments.
- Develop reflexive skills.
- Deal with feminist criticism and form critical perspectives.

Career of graduates:

Given the importance of the gender issue in modern societies, the holders of the master in gender studies will be useful in drawing attention to issues of gender equality in various areas of society. Among the sectors that will be interested in recruiting this master's holders:

- Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development,
- Ministry of Culture,
- Ministry of Education.
- The Civil Society.

Table I: Structure of the MA Programme

No	Course Title	Hours	OB ¹	SEL ₂	LEC ³	SEM ⁴	WS ⁵
1st semester							
1	Introduction to Research	50	✓		✓	✓	✓
2	Foundations in Gender Studies	50	✓		✓	✓	
3	Theories of Gender	50	✓		✓	✓	
4	Feminist Theory and Criticism	50	✓		✓	✓	✓
5	Feminist Literary Studies	50	✓		✓	✓	
6	Gender and Leadership	50	✓		✓	✓	
2nd semester							
7	Gender and Communication Studies	50	✓		✓	✓	
8	Gender and Media Studies	50	✓		✓	✓	
9	The Representation of Women in English Literature	50	✓		✓	✓	
10	Academic reading and writing	50	✓		✓	✓	✓
11	Maghrebin Women's Writing	50	✓		✓	✓	
12	Gender and Popular Culture	50	✓		✓	✓	
3rd semester							
13	Women's Writing	50	✓		✓	✓	
14	Cultural Representations of Gender	50	✓		✓	✓	
15	Gender Issues in Muslim Societies	50	✓		✓	✓	
16	Gender Issues in Language	50	✓		✓	✓	
17	Gender & Professional Development	50	✓		✓	✓	
18	Research Instruments & Statistics	50	✓				
4th semester							
	Research Paper	300	✓				

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSES

Introduction to Research

This course aims at introducing students and prospective researchers to the necessary basic research steps that would enable them to conduct research in their fields of interest. Thus, the course will help students find researchable topics, write sensible review of the literature, formulate research questions and hypotheses, choose an appropriate methodology, analyze data and discuss the findings. It will also introduce students to different types of research.

The course will help students learn how to carry out a research in gender studies. Thus, it will introduce them to some of the basic concepts of empirical research. Moreover, it equally intends to incite them to focus the research process so that they can draw best conclusions and achieve substantial results. The course sets also for purpose the qualification of students to identify appropriate research topics, design research projects (MA paper and Doctorate thesis), and finally conduct a scientific and methodological research. The course will cover the

following points: Research Methodolog- An Introduction: Concepts and Definition of Research
Choosing a Research Topic

-Purpose/Audience

- Discovering and Using Sources Methods of Data Collection (Reading/Interview/Questionnaire, etc.) - Formulating a problematic - Data Processing and Analysis - Discussion of the Findings Types of Research. The writing Process: - Organizing Information - Outlining- Writing: The paragraph/the chapter/the part/ and the Paper - Writing and Evaluating Arguments - Qualities: Organization/Development/Coherence - Introduction and Conclusion - Process of Revision and Editing Bibliography: - References - Parenthetical Notes - Footnotes and Endnotes – Indexes

Foundations in Gender Studies

The module aims at consolidating students' knowledge and understanding of gender studies and at qualifying them to design, implement and evaluate professional and societal endeavors, programs etc. that should be based on multi-focal attention to and critique of gendered inequalities and hierarchies in relation to other axes of social and cultural inequality and injustice.

This is an introductory course which is designed to familiarize students with some of the basic concepts and arguments in the broad interdisciplinary field of "gender studies." The first part of the course will address the notions of sex and gender in an effort to introduce students to the variety of ways in which, throughout the past decades, thinking about these issues has changed.

In the second part of the course we'll explore several different types of argumentations on the meaning of gender, the woman question and women's emancipation. We'll follow a historical path and review liberal/neo-liberal, socialist/Marxist, radical, post-colonial/post-socialist views, and third-wave feminism. We'll identify the key trends in each set of arguments and try to follow how they got transformed as they traveled to different locations and through time. In the third part of the course we address three popular concepts that students will encounter in the rest of their studies and while writing their MA theses: "patriarchy," "equal opportunities" and "intersectionality." By the end of the course students will be able to use these terms in a thoughtful and nuanced way informed by their scholarly critique and history.

Didactic method. The course will be delivered in the form of theoretical seminars and in the form of presentations by students. It will also consist of debates and discussions on the assigned subjects, authors and intellectuals.

Theories of Gender

The scope of this course is broad enough to touch on a wide range of perspectives pertaining to the issue of gender which tends to be somewhat overtheorised to the extent that it becomes difficult to reduce gender to only a few aspects of its broad theoretical scope. The gender concern is important in philosophy, sociology, psychology, anthropology, education, politics, cultural studies, discourse analysis, linguistics and literature etc ...

Since the gender issue touches on many fields of knowledge and sectors in our modern societies, this course aims to approach the theories of gender through key concepts such as : sex as an idea, social construction, gender as a political idea, cultural mediation as discourse, performativity, the concept of the body etc. The main objective of this course is to introduce students to the key concepts in gender theories and make them aware of the complexity of the issue of gender in theory.

The course is designed to introduce the students to major theories, concepts, and debates of gender studies. The focus will be laid on theory through a selection of texts extracted from different fields of the humanities where key concepts in gender theory are used and exploited. The method of approach chosen in this course is both interdisciplinary and comparative. It focuses on each key concept and approaches it from the most important perspective.

Feminist Theory and Criticism (in French)

This course will have for main objective to allow the students to acquire knowledge and literary tools of analysis relative to the women's movements which emerged in interaction in France, in England and in North America in the second half of XXth century.

The attention will be focused on authors whose thought influenced the literary writing of the women and engendered a radical change of their relationship in the feminine at the same time as in the other sex. The stages which were crossed by relationships between the man and the woman: of the original complementarity in the cultural exclusion, until the identity of the sexes which gave the unisex, the evolution was always connected to contextual transformations.

So, the students will be brought to discover the theories of gender not isolated but within the contemporary currents of thoughts as well as the historical and socio-economic context in which they were born. A plural and multidisciplinary study will be proposed in the program so that a global vision is possible.

This theoretical course is multidisciplinary. It adopts didactics based mainly on an approach which favors the in-depth study of the founding texts of the feminist thoughts in various disciplinary fields and over several centuries.

The course will be organized into: lectures and seminars, workshops and in-class discussions based on a great deal of home-assigned reading and writing tasks.

Feminist Literary Studies

This course aims to attain the following objectives:

- To enable the students to be familiar with the main ideas, concepts, and concerns of feminist literary theory.
- To offer the students the academic tools to study feminist theories and acquire the skills to discuss these theories, raise questions about them, and contextualize them within larger historical, social and cultural contexts
- To teach the students how to analyze these theories in conversation as well as in connection to a variety of fictional texts.
- To teach the students the relevant skills allowing them to acquire the ability to synthesize the ideas from the course and present their own analytical arguments in writing.
- This course aims to attain the following objectives :
- To enable the students to be familiar with the main ideas, concepts, and concerns of feminist literary theory
- To offer the students the academic tools to study feminist theories and acquire the skills to discuss these theories, raise questions about them, and contextualize them within larger historical, social and cultural contexts.
- To teach the students how to analyze these theories in conversation as well as in connection to a variety of fictional texts.

- To teach the students the relevant skills allowing them to acquire the ability to synthesize the ideas from the course and present their own analytical arguments in writing.

Gender and Leadership

The module aims at consolidating students' knowledge and understanding of the interactions between gender and the practical concept of leadership. To this end, the module focuses eclectically on gender in media and politics and offers the students adequate critical and conceptual tools to investigate into those interactions.

This course seeks to make students able to:

- Approach gender as a cultural category of analysis and understand how gender organises identity or destabilises it around the 'masculine' and the 'feminine';
- Examine a woman-centred spectrum of feminist positions in theory and practice in politics and media; and
- Read how women leaders (women anchors, political party leaders, NGOs activists...) have remapped gender power relations by rethinking identity, history, politics, media and culture.

Didactic Method: Readings at home. Lectures and discussions in class. Students are expected to engage regularly in discussions and presentations. The latter, mainly one presentation at least, constitute the personal work. Students should also be prepared to produce two term papers of about 1500-2000 words each.

GENDER AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Objectives of the course:

The course is designed to develop students' ability to critically think and analyze issues of gender and communication. This will be accomplished by examining theoretical perspectives used to explain gender phenomena, gender socialization, male and female interactions and stereotypes. It examines the influence of gender in our lives by utilizing various tools including films, quest speakers, lectures, in-class exercises and class discussion. It provides an understanding of the basic verbal communication differences between men and women. It provides useful strategies in dealing with mixed gender situations. A high degree of class participation is both expected, and required to maximize student learning through integration

and extrapolation of personal experience with in-class guided curriculum. To facilitate discussion, students are expected to have completed all reading and writing assignments.

After finishing this course students should be able to:

- Understand the difference between sex and gender.
- Identify the multiplicity of feminisms.
- Discuss prominent theories used in the study of gender and communication.
- Identify the major theorists in gender and communication research.
- Identify the various methods used to study gender communication.
- Understand how one's gender culture influences verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Describe masculine and feminine speaking styles.
- Recognize the impact of gender on nonverbal communication.
- Know the problems with and the future directions of this area of communication studies.

1. Students shall become familiar with major issues regarding communication and gender through critical analysis and discussion of pertinent readings, writing assignments, guest lecturer presentations, on-campus activities, in-class activities, and service learning experiences.

2. Students will understand the critical and-dynamic roles of age and culture as these concepts interrelate to the development of gender attitudes and behavior this will be accomplished through service learning experiences, assigned readings, and by integrating personal and classroom experiences.

3. Students will develop and strengthen their ability to critically analyze the influence and role of gender in their lives through increased self-awareness, gender-awareness, and hopefully, age and cultural awareness by successfully completing course requirements

4. Student participation in the service learning opportunity will combine meaningful community service with in-class learning through a process of guided/structured reflection exercises.

Didactic method: The course will be delivered in the form of theoretical seminars and in the form of presentations by students. It will also consist of debates and discussions on the assigned subjects.

Gender and Media Studies

This course intends to consolidate students' knowledge and understanding of the cultural construction and representation of gender in contemporary media; it equally aims at familiarizing them with the notion of gender and its operation in society. It will also present them an up-to-date assessment of the key issues and debates. Through five areas of media – talk shows, magazines, news, advertising, and contemporary screen, the course intends also to examine how representations of women and men are changing in the twenty-first century.

This course examines various contemporary images of gender in media focusing on the 20th century to the present. Using theories from cultural studies, film and gender studies, and communication studies, we will explore different processes and practices of gender, specifically in terms of media representation of femininity and masculinity. The purpose of the course is to gain insight into the ways in which gender and its intersections with race, ethnicity and class, is enacted, represented and has an impact on cultural formations and communication. In examining cultural myths about gender as well as ongoing debates on gender construction, we will consider how gender is tied in with notions of power, identity, voice, and other defining categories (race, socio-economic status, ethnic group, etc.)

Didactic Method: The course objectives will be met through readings, presentations, discussions, lectures, screenings, research, projects and graded papers.

The Representation of Women in English Literature

The course is one-semester patterns course that introduces students to the history, traditions, and forms of literature in which women were portrayed by male and female writers. We will also consider the multiple ways women writers have responded to being silenced throughout history. The module will explore a rich and diverse range of writers and works to identify the recurrent images, themes, and styles of an evolving canon. Works of prose, drama, non-fiction, and film will be studied.

The course is an introductory study to the representation of women in English Literary texts of female and male writers, and the role women occupy in literature, both as writers and as protagonists. Literary genre may include novels, short stories, and plays. Special attention will

be paid to analyzing literary themes that use gender as a lens to explore complex matrices of social power and social position, including race, class, age, ethnicity, marital status, and religion. The aim is to go beyond the classical imageries and to address the modern and contemporary forms to analyze the differences between men's and women's roles in literature, including stereotypes and archetypes of women, as a reflection of the historical and social conditions of women. Also to gain broader and deeper understanding of the cultural, social, literary, historical, and personal range of literature written by women over time

Didactic Method: The course will be delivered in the form of theoretical seminars and in the form of presentations by students. It will also consist of close readings of some texts (plays, novels) in the light of stimulating debates and discussions on the assigned subjects, authors and intellectuals.

Academic Reading & Writing

Academic Reading skills aim at improving the way in which students carry out research reading. It directs students towards developing their skills for reading articles and masterpieces in gender studies academically so that they could be more efficient and learn to read for academic purposes. Similarly, it will explore how they can develop critical reading skills, how to interact more effectively with texts and avoid plagiarism. The Academic Writing course is designed to help students develop the academic research and writing skills needed to complete the thesis and other requirements for the MA degree. It will provide students with the basic tools to write on different topics, to organize arguments and respect the APA style and other norms of writing. They will be introduced to different forms of academic writing.

Students will be required to relate readings to their research projects. The students' skills of writing are linked to what they read. In the academic reading part, students will learn:

- How to select sources
- How to read efficiently using reading strategies (scanning and skimming)
- How texts are structured
- How to make notes of what they read
- How to paraphrase, summarize and synthesize what they read
- How to comment and evaluate what they read
- How to cite what they read
- How to use what they read to support their own writing

- How to compare and differentiate views from the books and articles they read
- How to be consistent using academic writing styles (Focus on The APA style)

The academic writing part will cover:

- Organizing arguments
- Writing and evaluating arguments
- Outlining
- Writing the paragraph, the chapter, the part and the paper
- Abstract, introduction and conclusion
- Revising, editing and proof-reading
- Paraphrasing and quoting
- References (Bibliography and Webiography)

Teachers will give lectures on the theoretical aspects of the course and they will direct some seminars in class. Students will be required to prepare some tasks outside the class.

Maghrebin Women's Writing

The course explores Women's writing from the Maghreb and the literary theory of diverse places and historical periods.

Upon successful completion students will be able to:

- Appreciate the role of gender in shaping texts as a product of particular cultures and historical moments, especially unfamiliar ones.
- Consider women's writing as a significant influence in the construction of individual and cultural experiences within specific historical contexts.
- Observe elements of form, grammar, dialect, and various language devices as a means by which texts create meaning.
- Challenge cultural norms and limits of analysis/criticism to create a richer experience of the texts, including multiple interpretations of the text as a complex fabric.

The course examines the Maghrebin Women's Writing from a variety of time periods, backgrounds and genre as a means to discuss the difficulties of achieving a public voice and representing female experiences, the effects of female women's voices and experiences being silenced, and the narrative methods women use to challenge and even subvert social

expectations about female identity. By exploring what kind of stories women choose to tell, and what images and themes they have chosen to focus on over time, we will be able to determine how gender can unify women and provide them with a sense of power, while by paying particular attention to such elements of difference as class and culture we will be able to appreciate the word “women” as representatives of multiple experiences and possibilities.

Gender and the popular culture (in Arabic)

Objectives of the course:

- Make students aware of the status of women in popular culture.
- Reconsider popular culture and its social and cultural dimensions.
- Highlight the importance of popular discourse in education.
- Shed light on women's /man’s popular creativity, and highlight the aspects of the similarities and difference between the two parties.
- Make students open up more to the manifestations of popular culture and grasp the results of the creativity of ancestors.
- Highlight the most important literary and artistic forms of the popular discourse on the basis of the status of women.
- Reconsider the image of women in the popular literature.
- Make students know the relations between the formal literature and the popular literature.
- Enable students know the heart of the knowledge in the popular literature and the depth of the cultural and artistic and rhetorical heritage.
- Enable students of the mechanisms of the analysis of the speech, the image of women and its symbolism.

The first component:

- The popular speech: definition and characteristics.
- Defining the concept of popular speech
- Why speech? and why the popular ?
- The relation of the formal and the popular: manifestations of difference and the coalition.
- The picture of women in popular culture and the literary works that emanate from it.
- Definition of popular literary genres (Story, proverb, poetry. . .)

The second component:

- Analysis of popular speech: the image of women as a model
- Poetic model: popular songs, melhoun,...
- Narrative model: folk tale, proverbs,...

Women's writing

This module intends to consolidate students' knowledge in the domain of women's writing. It principally aims, through a profound analysis of selected female texts, to closely and deeply explore feminism, gender and gender theories and concepts, and also to better understand the implications and significance of the emergence of this type of literature and artistic production. Women's writing equally constitutes a special field of human interactions and reactions, which will be considered in the light of existing theories, concepts and paradigms, which are studied during the first semester.

This course seeks to make students able to: - Approach gender as a cultural category of analysis and understand how gender organises identity or destabilises it around the 'masculine' and the 'feminine'; - Examine a woman-centred spectrum of feminist positions in theory and practice; and - Read how women writers have remapped gender power relations by rethinking identity, history and culture.

Didactic Method: Readings at home and lectures and discussions in class. Students are expected to engage regularly in discussions and presentations. The latter, mainly one presentation at least, constitutes the personal work. Students should also be prepared to produce two term papers of about 1500/2000 words each.

Cultural Representations of Gender

The subject is designed to provide students with an understanding of gender as a social and cultural construct from a transdisciplinary perspective; and to analyze and understand the basic mechanisms behind gender relations differentiation. Cultural representations of gender will be studied to enable students to examine the conceptual foundations to gender and cultural representations, and investigate the socially-constructed roles of women and men which are attributed to them on the basis of their sex across cultures and spaces. This course is intended also to acquaint students with the full participation of women, to recognize their contributions to literature, arts and culture across many historical areas. And it offers young people the means to observe the evolution of gender development in the various sectors of society.

This course is devised to deepen students-researchers' knowledge of gender cultural representations and to offer them the adequate critical tools and techniques of approaching and analyzing gender similarities and differences. This course addresses the questions of how "woman" and "the feminine" have been represented in various cultural systems, and how actual women have functioned as creators of literature, art, music, film, and other cultural products. Throughout this course, students will "read" gender across interrelated systems of representation including those of race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age and sex. Theoretical discussions may center around the (presumed) oppositions between absence and presence, silence and speech, representation and self-presentation.

Didactic Method: The course will be delivered in the form of lectures video projections, in addition to a series of seminars and exposés on cultural representations of gender.

Gender Issues in Muslim Societies

The class aims at exploring the dynamics and changes witnessed in contemporary Islamic society and thought with regard to gender. Several issues will be considered such as gender equality, gender and public sphere, Feminist readings of history, body politics, women and agency, the representation of woman in media, etc. The ultimate aim of this class is to raise an academic debate about gender and to deconstruct patriarchal and normative discourse. It also aims at encouraging research in such fields that have not been sufficiently explored by Moroccan researchers.

This course explores questions pertaining to gender and women in Islam. It begins by examining the visual and written representations of women in Muslim societies. This allows the students to self-critically reflect upon their own "knowledge" of Islam and Muslim women, and the historical and political background to this understanding. It will also discuss the different views of women, family, and gender roles in Islam, as well as the identities and lived experiences of Muslim women living in Muslim societies.

The focus will be on different cultural and religious ideas on gender relations and the hijab, Islamic feminism, and how Muslim women negotiate race, class, and gender, with respect to Islamophobia and the political rhetoric of "war on terror" and "clash of civilizations," significant issues concern the gap between media representation, on onehand, and self-representation, on the other hand, and how Muslim women are making sense of their own lives and identities drawing on different messages and discourses. Selected topics may include: gender socialization; the female body and the socio-political context of reproduction, body

image, appearance and of sexuality; similarities and differences between the genders; marriage and the family; work roles, inequalities and the global economy; health issues; violence against and by women; women in religion and politics; and, an historical and contemporary look at global feminism.

Gender Issues in Language

The course is designed to simultaneously introduce students to the field of language and gender (as a subfield of sociolinguistics) and to women's studies. It equally intends to make visible the unseen but ever-present force of language in one's life as a gendered person, including how categories of language and communicative habits shape one's beliefs about one's self and others. It also aims at introducing students to a wide range of linguistic analyses of language used by and used about women and men and to examine models of explanation for gender differences.

This course is designed to introduce students to the large body of literature on Language and Gender within Sociolinguistics and within studies of language in social context more generally. Students will investigate how language in use mediates, and is mediated by, social constructions of gender. Particular attention will be paid to the evolution of feminist theory, ideology, hegemony, performativity, and the “borders” of gender identities. Students will read scholarly articles and write critical reflection papers, and complete a final paper on a topic related to language and gender. Therefore, Questions that this course will address include:

- Do men and women speak differently? If so, in what ways?
- What kinds of distinctions in languages are made between men and women (for example, in lexicon/ phonology/ morphology, etc.)?
- What do these differences mean for the lives of men and women in various societies?
- How do societies differ in the role of language in creating gender roles?
- Why do languages and language users make the kinds of distinctions discussed above?
- How is gender related to power, socio-economic class, and race in different societies with regard to language use?

Didactic Method: Readings at home and lectures and discussions in class. Students are expected to engage regularly in discussions and presentations. The latter, mainly one presentation at least, constitutes the personal work.

Gender & Professional Development

This course is designed to enable students to improve their abilities to relate their learning to the requirements of professional life and transfer these abilities to future careers and lifelong learning. More particularly, it enhances students' understanding of the gender differences in learning and professional life. Students can reflect on their personal, academic and career development in order to achieve more of their potential in line with realistic aspirations and, therefore, overcome gender discrimination in different sectors of life. To this end, the course seeks to improve strategies that can contribute to personality change in a positive way to reach equality and improve skills useful in all areas of life.

The course will introduce the students to the ways to reach personal, academic and career development. It will examine different skills that enable them to be exposed to new professional experiences such as volunteering for seminars, giving presentations, attending conferences, consulting colleagues, and getting to know their environment better. The course will cover the following points in consideration with gender differences:

- Introduction to Professional Development and factors for developing professionally: collaboration/collegiality/peer observation
- gender issues in Professional Development
- Identifying Professional Talents in students (leadership skills, Reflective thinking, Team work, Professional communication, among others)
- Giving presentations and learning constructive criticism
- Developing a Professional Resume
- Applying for a job and conducting Interviews
- Professional use of ICT

Teachers will give lectures on the theoretical aspects of the course and they will direct some seminars in class. Students will be required to prepare some tasks outside the class.

Research Instruments & Statistics

This module aims at consolidating students' knowledge of the tools and instruments used in their research. It is primarily fundamental and relevant to those envisaging conducting research projects where qualitative and empirical quantitative studies are cited. The course will also introduce students to an advanced use of statistics such as sampling, comparison of means, the use of t-test and ANOVA. Finally, the use of statistical software will be more elaborated allowing student to make their analysis in a simplest and efficient way

The course incorporates the following items: - Research design - Data collection instruments : questionnaires, interviews, observations, focus groups. - Data analysis and interpretation - Rationale of descriptive versus inferential statistics. - Comparison of Means - Correlation analysis - Basic inferential tests (t-test, one way ANOVA, etc.) - Reporting the research

The theoretical lecture will be reduced to the minimum. The course is mainly practical. Students are required to practice in class using computers and software appropriate to the tasks given.

The Research Project

The whole of semester 4 is devoted to the research project; nonetheless, students can start it at the beginning of the 3rd semester. Moreover, students could be allowed to continue working on their research project during the following year, the third year.

The research project consists in putting into practice the different skills and research methods acquired by the students during the last 3 semesters. Also, students have to display their intellectual and research capacities as well as their mastery of language and methodology. The completion of a research project should enable the student to enrol in a more profound research.

Activities:

- regular organized meetings between supervisor and supervisee, at least once in a month.
- organization of study days on the students research fields. Students are expected to write a paper on a topic of their own choice or on a topic elaborated together with their supervisor.

The topic should be relevant to the concerns of the master. Their work includes the following:

- suggestion of a relevant topic, following their acquisitions in this master formation.
- researching the topic (learning about the topic through reading or interviewing in case of fieldwork, and specifying the scope of the topic) - suggesting a proposal
- elaborating a bibliography
- sketching an outline
- submitting the parts of the research project to their supervisor
- correcting and proofreading
- submitting the paper
- defending their paper.

Discussion of the research project in front of a jury consisting of at least 3 members. The assessment of the student's work will focus principally on the following:

- relevance of the topic
- quality of the oral presentation of the student, which is expected to address the following: - justification of the choice of the subject - explanation of the relevance of the topic - methodology followed - difficulties and solutions - bibliography - findings or conclusions - research perspectives - assessment of the quality of the work: - content - analysis - language - methodology, - theory and concepts, - presentation - conclusions - research perspectives .
- quality and relevance of the students' feedback.