

Course Description
MEDD6344 Aims of Higher Education

Course description	
<p>This course draws on the aims of higher education from both historical and sociological perspectives. It will consider the development of different higher education traditions, including liberal, civic and Humboldtian models, discuss the aims of higher education in the modern age, and explore what future university aims should be. The aims of higher education in the modern age will be considered in the context of the changing nature of the academic practice, such as massification, technological advance, and globalisation. The course will also discuss controversial issues regarding the aims of higher education across institutional types and educational levels.</p>	
Course objectives	
<p>The participants in this course will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the aims of higher education by reference to the history of the university; • An understanding of various theoretical perspectives on the aims and values of higher education; • Individual and social dimensions of higher educational aims • An understanding of different aims of higher education according to institutional types • How to articulate their analysis of the aims of higher education by reference to contemporary university mission statements; • An understanding of different aims of higher education by educational levels; undergraduate and postgraduate • An understanding of teaching, research, and social engagement functions in contemporary higher education 	
Course learning outcomes	Aligned programme learning outcomes (PLOs)
1. To understand the historical and philosophical foundations of higher education	PLOs 1, 2, 3
2. To examine the changes of higher education aims/values across different contexts	PLOs 1, 2, 3
3. To apply the aims of higher education to organizational managements in higher education	PLOs 1, 2, 3
Course assessment methods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual essay • Group project • On-line discussions 	
Course content and topics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aims of higher education: an introduction; A definition and scope of higher education; A brief history of higher education • Higher education: Past, present, and future; Traditional ideas of university; The changing higher education environment and future university • Aims of undergraduate education (1): Employability, learning, or both? • Aims of undergraduate education (2): Citizenship and social participation • Aims of community college • Aims of postgraduate education: Master's education and doctoral education • Changing academic profession: teaching, research, and social engagement in future university 	
Required / recommended readings and online materials	
<p>Barnett, R. (1988) Does Higher Education have Aims?, <i>Journal of Philosophy in Education</i>, 22(2), 239-250.</p>	

<p>Barnett, R. (1990). <i>The Idea of Higher Education</i>. Buckingham: Society for Research into Higher Education/Open University Press.</p> <p>Barnett, R. (2000). <i>Realizing the university: in an age of super complexity</i>. Buckingham: Society for Research into Higher Education/Open University Press.</p> <p>Barnett, R. (Ed.) (2012). <i>The future university: Ideas and possibilities</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Enders, J., & De Weert, E. (Eds.) (2009). <i>The changing face of academic life: Analytical and comparative perspective</i>. Palgrave Macmillan: UK.</p> <p>Kerr, C. (2001). <i>The uses of the university</i>. (5th edition). Harvard University Press.</p> <p>Newman, J.H. (1976) <i>The Idea of a University</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press (originally published in 1853)</p> <p>White, J, (2009) Philosophy and the aims of higher education, <i>Studies in Higher Education</i>, 22:1, 7-17.</p>
Other additional course information
Nil