

JUNE 2020

OGM NEWS



Welcome to RL class 29 April 16.30-18.30!

For help on using BigBlueButton see these (short) tutorial videos.

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OGM News

The academic year 2019-2020 will be engraved in our memories forever. An academic year full of measures around the world to try to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, with loss of lives, shelter in place, a one-and-a-half meter distanced society, travel bans, loss of tourism as well as work for many, and in education, the sudden transition to online teaching. However, I hope that in a few years time we will also be able to look back on the good things this period has brought us in terms of awareness of the importance of nature, relationships, cooperation, creativity and how we want to organize our society. The OGM team thanks the students and lecturers/staff for their demonstrated flexibility, resilience, commitment and mutual support to successfully complete the academic year 2019-2020.

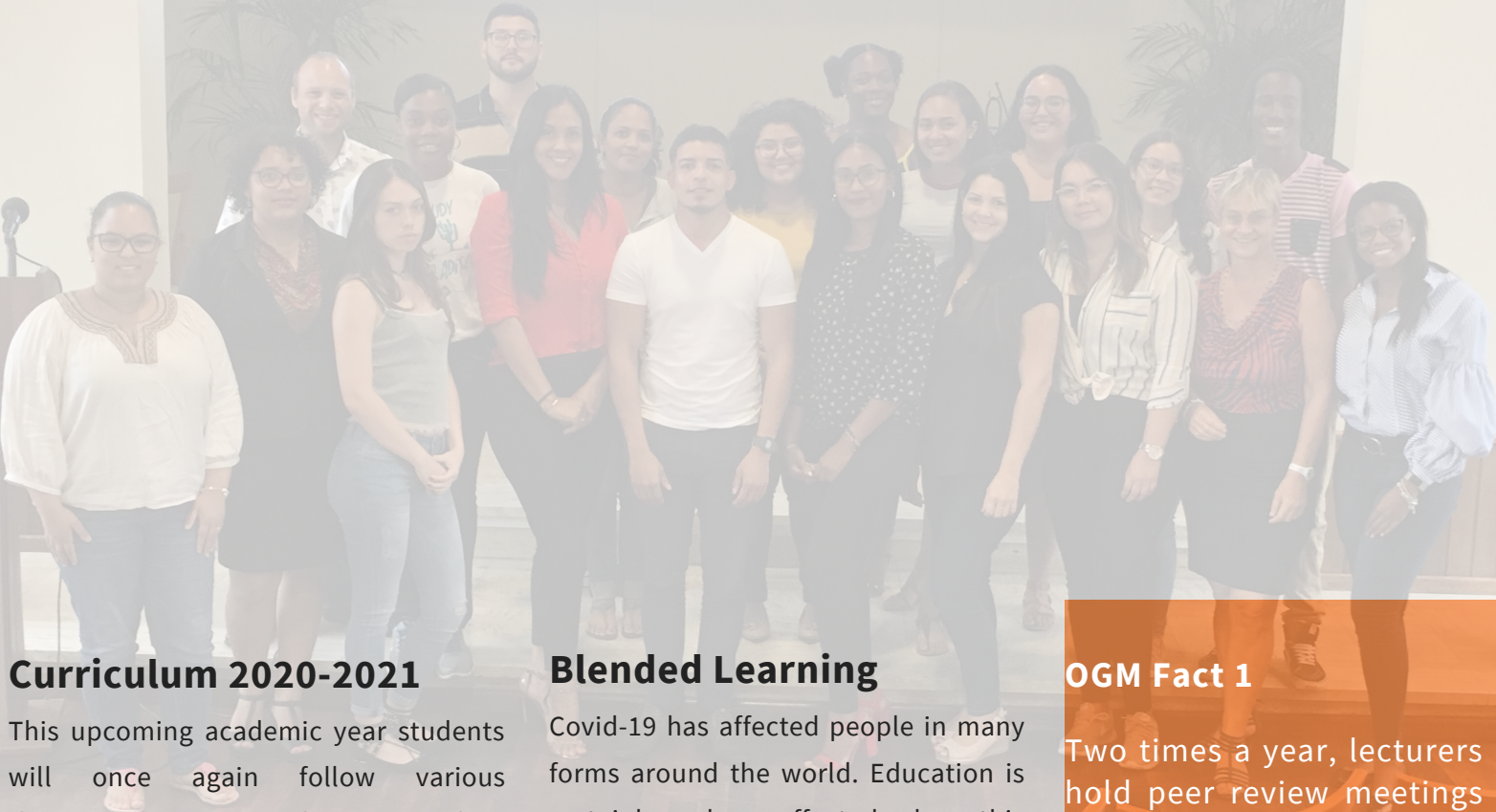
We are not there yet, the pandemic has not yet been fully fought, we do not know what 2020-2021 will bring for us. It is most likely that a lot of flexibility, commitment and cooperation will still be required from all of us. It is therefore even more important to look back on this academic year in the upcoming focus group meetings and closure event in order to learn from best practices, celebrate the end of the academic year, and look a little ahead to what is planned for the upcoming year. Wishing you a lot of reading pleasure, and a well deserved summer break to recharge yourself.

On behalf of the OGM team,
Mieke de Droog,
Program Manager OGM

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Curriculum 2020-2021

This upcoming academic year students will once again follow various theory/practice oriented courses such as Project Management & Community Project (PMCP1&2) in collaboration with ArubaDoet in Bachelor 2. Bachelor 3 students will be going on an Exchange or doing their Internship and the Bachelor 4 students will be embarking on their graduation journey starting with their thesis research proposal. They will do this parallel to their free electives (or internship) and also participate in various modules such as Between Plan and Practice (BPP) and Philosophy of Science (POS).

***"Life is a journey,
not a destination."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson***

Blended Learning

Covid-19 has affected people in many forms around the world. Education is certainly also affected by this pandemic. Lecturers are requested to reconsider work forms, assessment forms and class hours to fit with the online education style. Lecturers are dedicating their time to this energy and time consuming process as is also the case world wide. The aim is to learn from best practices and to explore what works best for the students, course and lecturers' teaching style. As it looks at the moment, in the upcoming academic year online teaching will be combined with face to face teaching at the UA. It is therefore important to receive feedback from students and lecturers in order to constantly evaluate the process of transitioning to a combined form of teaching.

OGM Fact 1

Two times a year, lecturers hold peer review meetings before the start of each semester. The 4-eye principle by a (buddy) lecturer is used to peer review module descriptions and assessments.

FACT

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Bachelor 2 Project Management & Community Project

In Bachelor 2 students follow the course Project Management and Community Project. Students organize their own developed projects to take place during the ArubaDoet weekend and assist a project as project managers for ArubaDoet in a neighborhood. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 break out in Aruba, students were not able to complete their projects as fully planned. Regardless of this situation, students gained a lot of experience to share with their OGM peers. The video presentations of the groups of 2019-2020 are available on the 'OGMS' course on Stone. In the videos students share their experience, goals achieved and lessons learned.

Alignment modules Bachelor 3 Semester 1 & Research Line

Based on the students' feedback, OGM enhanced the alignment of the modules in Bachelor 3 Semester 1 with each other and with the OGM research line. The OGM Research Agenda will be introduced in the module Qualitative Research in Organizations. Students can choose a related topic for their research and will have the opportunity to connect their research question to the research assignment in the module Public Management. The course name Communication in Organizations will be changed to Organizational Communication (OC). Another change that will take place in this course is that students will learn and practice the research-approach content analysis.

OGM Fact 2

In 2017, the NVAO (Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatie-Organisatie) gave their positive advice on the quality of the OGM program. There is a 6 yearly quality cycle. A positive advice is needed again in 2023. Therefore, a midterm review is scheduled for March 2021. In order to do this, the OGM team is currently working on a Self-evaluation Midterm Review Report (SER).

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Free Electives 2020-2021

The OGM Team would like to offer two OGM free electives in the Academic year 2020-2021, however it is still uncertain if this would be feasible budget-wise.. In Bachelor 4, Semester 1 there are 10 ECs scheduled in the curriculum for free electives. Nevertheless Bachelor 2 students have the opportunity to request the FAS Exam Committee for permission to fulfill the Free Elective requirement earlier on. A Google Form has been uploaded to Stone giving students the opportunity to cast their preference for an OGM free elective (deadline 18 June 2020). The two presented free electives are Politics, State and Migration (5 ECs) and Super-Diversity and Doing Business (5 ECs).

A special thank you to all students for filling out the form. Students are reminded to watch the free elective videos and read the short module descriptions available on 'OGMS' Stone course. Additionally, students are requested to send their request for their free electives before July 3rd, 2020 to the exam committee at fas.examcommittee@ua.aw with a carbon copy (CC) to ogm@ua.aw.

Of course, students can also choose other courses as free electives. For more information on free electives, see OGM study guide pp. 22-23. The students will be informed as soon as possible whether the OGM free electives of their choice can be offered in the upcoming academic year, and if their request(s) is approved.

OGM Fact 3

The OGM team is developing a part-time Master in Governance and Leadership in collaboration with our visiting professors to comply with the needs of our society. The intended start date for this Master program is September 2021.

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."
-Francis Bacon

FACT

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Shoco Wellness

Shoco Wellness was introduced by the UA in 2018. The goal is to help students succeed and achieve their goals academically and personally. This program supports mental health and well being of students. It is the mission of the UA to help students succeed and flourish in their pursuit of higher education. Therefore, it is critical that the UA supports the mental health and wellbeing of its students. Students who need support and additional guidance can request Shoco Wellness for counseling services and/or make use of other Shoco Wellness activities. It is important to mention that the 'academic advisors' of OGM support students in their academic progress and can play a role in supporting students by being a bridge between the student and Shoco Wellness. Do not forget to watch the slideshow introducing the academic advisors on 'OGMS' course on Stone. Furthermore, from the academic year 2020-2021 onwards, 'mentors' will be referred to as 'academic advisors' as a result of a recommendation given by Shoco Wellness to use uniform terms UA wide.

E-portfolio

Students have given a lot of feedback on the practicality of using Mahara as an E-portfolio. Meetings have been organized with the mentors (academic advisors) and PSP coordinator to enhance the structure and content of the E-portfolio. The restructured E-portfolio is a clear tool for students to make the connection between their reflections and program learning outcomes. Reflecting with this tool is valuable considering that Bachelor 4 students have to showcase to which extent they have obtained the program learning outcomes in the module PAS. In this module students also reflect on outcomes that still need development after program completion. IT gave two workshops on Mahara Skills and Stone in April. These workshops will be structurally planned in September and April to support students.

Check it out

- Free Electives video explanations
- Project Management & Community Project video presentations
- Mentor (Academic Advisor) Information



**OGMS course
on Stone.**

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Joint Classes

In the academic year 2019-2020, two joint classes by our visiting professors from Utrecht University (USBO) were organized for all OGM students. In November 2019, Prof. Dr. Mirko Noordegraaf held a joint class on the “OGM Research agenda” and in March 2020 Prof. Dr. Wieger Bakker, held a joint class on “The good society, academic freedom and the responsibility of universities and academics”. Students had the opportunity to have a dialogue on these key topics and work together in groups with students from different cohorts. Students expressed the added value of these joint classes from the visiting professors. The next joint classes will be structurally planned in November 2020 and March 2021.

“Willingness to learn is important, but willingness to act on what you learn is critical.” - Kevin Kelly

Educational Excursion

In 2019, a group of twenty students along with three lecturers traveled to Washington DC. Students made a huge effort to sell raffle tickets to experience this Educational Excursion. The plan is to return in October 2021; it is suggested that students remain pending for the following steps in preparation for this excursion. The needed preparations and planning of fundraisings are scheduled to start in January 2021. This educational excursion is offered as a free elective. Students who comply with the assignments will obtain 3 ECs.

Student testimonial:

“There is much I would like to do for my country. I learned during the program that outside our own island there is a bigger world waiting for us to discover...Personally the biggest achievement was the fear I overcame during this trip. I am really proud of this personal achievement, academically I enjoyed the professor at the University of the District of Columbia; I asked questions that will help me academically and personally.”

Jennyfer Geerman, Bachelor 1

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From this to that!

Communication in
Organizations

**Organizational
Communication**

Mentor

Academic Advisor

Face to Face
Education

**Online
Education**

**Blended
Education**

To watch list

- Free Electives video explanations
- Project Management & Community Project video presentations
- Mentor (Academic Advisor) Slideshow

Be pending for the first graduations of 2020!

*"Every mountain top is within reach if you
just keep climbing." — Barry Finlay*

