

## COURSE DETAIL

### THINKING ABOUT OBJECTS AND MATERIALITY BEYOND REPRESENTATION

**Country**

Germany

**Host Institution**

Humboldt University Berlin

**Program(s)**

Humboldt University Berlin

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Anthropology

**UCEAP Course Number**

107

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

THINKING ABOUT OBJECTS AND MATERIALITY BEYOND REPRESENTATION

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

OBJECTS&MATERIALITY

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

### **Course Description**

The course focuses on the conceptual work that terms like aura and mimesis, totem and animism, taboo and the sacred, have encompassed in the past and in the present. The works of key figures such as Benjamin, Freud, and Adorno, early anthropological texts, and more recent reinterpretations or re-adaptations are all covered in the course. The goal is to gain an overview of the different histories and approaches towards thinking about the power of objects and materials. By doing so, the course also opens up the question of how useful these terms are in thinking about how we relate to the objects and materials around us, whether in museum collections, as consumer items, or as the waste and ruins of capitalist landscapes; and for understanding dynamics of attraction, attachment, and seduction that are central to contemporary political dynamics.

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

51712

### **Host Institution Course Title**

AURA, FETISH, MANA, ETC.: THINKING OBJECTS AND MATERIALITIES BEYOND REPRESENTATION

### **Host Institution Campus**

PHILOSOPHISCHE FAKULTÄT

### **Host Institution Faculty**

### **Host Institution Degree**

### **Host Institution Department**

Europäische Ethnologie

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