

COURSE DETAIL

MAGICAL URBANISM: VISIONS OF THE METROPOLIS BERLIN IN LITERATURE AND FILM

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Urban Studies German Film & Media Studies Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number

128

UCEAP Course Suffix

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UCEAP Official Title

MAGICAL URBANISM: VISIONS OF THE METROPOLIS BERLIN IN LITERATURE AND FILM

UCEAP Transcript Title

MAGIC URBAN BERLIN

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

The literary and cinematic reception of the metropolis is often marked by the mysterious, the uncanny, and the surreal. Urban experience seems to reject and transcend a realistic way of perception. Magical urbanism reflects both the threatening aspects of modernity as well as its utopian promises. This comparative and interdisciplinary seminar explores the history of urban fantasies in Berlin and London literature and discusses its aesthetical and political implications. Students read Chloe Arjidis' celebrated surreal Berlin novel *BOOK OF CLOUDS* and short excerpts of Walter Benjamin's *BERLIN CHILDHOOD AROUND 1900* and Alfred Döblin's *BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ* as well as the short story *THE MAN OF THE CROWD* by Edgar Allen Poe, all written in English. In German, students read two short stories *VON EINEM, DER ALLES DOPPELT SAH* by Martin Stade and *SCHLÜSSEL* by Rudolph Herzog. Reflecting the cinematographic tradition, students discuss Fritz Lang's movie *METROPOLIS* and *THE MATRIX* trilogy by Lana and Andy Wachowski. As theoretical background, excerpts are covered from Lucy Huskinson's (ed.) *THE URBAN UNCANNY. A COLLECTION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES* and Enda Duffy's and Maurizia Boscagli's *INTRODUCTION TO JOYCE, BENJAMIN AND MAGICAL URBANISM*.

Language(s) of Instruction

Host Institution Course Number

2181313

Host Institution Course Title

MAGICAL URBANISM: VISIONS OF THE METROPOLIS IN LITERATURE AND FILM

Host Institution Campus

Bologna.lab

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Berlin Perspectives

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