

COURSE DETAIL

DICTATORSHIP AS EXPERIENCE: THE COEXISTENCE OF CONSENSUS AND REFUSAL IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

University College London

Program(s)

University College London

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

160

UCEAP Course Suffix

B

UCEAP Official Title

DICTATORSHIP AS EXPERIENCE: THE COEXISTENCE OF CONSENSUS AND REFUSAL IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

UCEAP Transcript Title

GDP DICTATORSHIP EX

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

In March 1990 the East German writer Stefan Heym feared that the GDR could wind up as "footnote in world history". As far as historiography is concerned, this prophecy turned out to be too pessimistic. The opening of the archives resulted in an upsurge in historical analyses of the East German state and thereby new insights into its politics, culture and society. However, the availability of new material did not result in historical consensus about the nature of the socialist system. The revival of totalitarian theory, with its focus on the instruments of repression and control, was challenged by models that sought to understand GDR society from the inside, as a 'participatory dictatorship' (Fulbrook), in which individuals negotiated a 'normal life' within the boundaries of the regime. Nevertheless, focusing on cultural aspects of the GDR run into danger to downplay the ever-present confinement and the subtle practices of intimidation. The seminar aims for a holistic approach to the history of the German Democratic Republic. Hence it covers political, economic, social and cultural issues as well.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HIST0479

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

University College London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

History

Course Last Reviewed

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