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

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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