COURSE DETAIL

CRITICAL UTOPIAS
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Women’s & Gender Studies Comparative Literature
UCEAP Course Number 186
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title CRITICAL UTOPIAS
UCEAP Transcript Title CRITICAL UTOPIAS
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This is a graduate level course that is part of the Laurea Magistrale program. The course is intended for advanced level students only. Enrollment is by consent of the instructor. The course focuses on women's popular culture with specific reference to travel literature and critical utopias, within a gender perspective. This course explores the multi-layered meanings that utopia as a literary genre and utopianism as a form of thought acquire for women’s access to writing and to the public and contemporary debates. Starting from the analysis of some emblematic texts written by male authors, for example UTOPIA (1516) by Thomas More and NEW ATLANTIS (1628) by Francis Bacon, the course investigates the way in which this hybrid genre initiates a dialogue with classical utopianism and the great tradition as well as intertwining it with other contemporary emergent literary genres (travel writing, romance, novel, closet drama, theater and scientific treatises). The course then explores female forms of utopia from the 17th century to the 20th century and examines the ways in which female writers read the utopian paradigm and interpret it as a possible space for female agency and empowerment. The course also questions how women used the utopian paradigm to discuss the obstacles and possibilities in women’s private and public life and to propose social and political changes.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
26029

Host Institution Course Title
CRITICAL UTOPIAS

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2021/328505

Host Institution Campus
BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty
LINGUE

Host Institution Degree
LETTERE

Host Institution Department
LETTERE

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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