COURSE DETAIL

CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND DEMOCRACY

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
King's College London

Program(s)
English Universities,King's College London

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Sociology

UCEAP Course Number
172

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND DEMOCRACY

UCEAP Transcript Title
CONSPIR THRY&DEMRCY

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

This course explores the facts that some conspiracy theories are popularly believed and increasingly "mainstream" rather than the reserve of small, outlying minority groups. It examines the kinds of assumptions and logical errors that help to construct identifiable conspiracy theories, and how these can also be seen in a whole range of other analyses and explanations, from contemporary political debates to the essays of academics and students. Conspiracy theories prosper, in part, because they involve the hijacking of heuristics and intellectual habits which are usually thought to be desirable: scepticism, worldly cynicism, and an interest in subtext and the less-visible causes of events. This course examines the phenomenon of conspiracy theories, and evaluates their implications for contemporary democracy. Students construct a conspiracy theory of their own, before demonstrating their ability to recognize, critique, and "debunk" conspiratorial reasoning.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

5ABLCF03

Host Institution Course Title

CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND DEMOCRACY

Host Institution Campus

King's College London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Liberal Arts

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