COURSE DETAIL

BERLIN OBJECTS: GRASPING CULTURAL HISTORY THROUGH ARTIFACTS AND EDIFICES

Country
Germany

Host Institution
Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)
Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
German Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number
119

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
BERLIN OBJECTS: GRASPING CULTURAL HISTORY THROUGH ARTIFACTS AND EDIFICES

UCEAP Transcript Title
BERLIN OBJECTS

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units
3.00

Course Description
This seminar approaches this city through specific artifacts and buildings–each of which has played a key role for modern Berlin and for the city's significance in Germany. This course understands the term “objects” in a double sense: first, in the academic sense as objects of study; second, in the physical sense as material items that we can see and grasp and which, in turn, render cultural processes manifest. Artefacts, such as maps and DJ consoles, as well as buildings, such as the Reichstag and the Spätkauf, offer kaleidoscopic views onto a city which in its overwhelming historical density constantly evokes its many pasts and presents in the streetscape and yet always eludes our full grasp. Building on the academic methodology of micro-history, the course draws on the specific and the small to develop a tangible understanding of large-scale developments in Berlin. This seminar investigates what objects teach us about ways of living and surviving in this city and about forms of being political, social, modern, and creative in Berlin's urban spaces. Material artifacts are connected to the socio-political climate in which people have created and used them. The seminar uses the widespread idea of Berlin as a museum that exhibits history in the cityscape, which has constantly been transforming itself, and which is continuously testing ideas about its past, present, and possible futures.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
2181306

Host Institution Course Title
BERLIN OBJECTS: GRASPING CULTURAL HISTORY THROUGH ARTEFACTS AND EDIFICES

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus Bologna.lab
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Berlin Perspectives
Course Last Reviewed

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