COURSE DETAIL

ART AND DICTATORSHIP
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) European Studies
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Art History
UCEAP Course Number 100
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ART AND DICTATORSHIP
UCEAP Transcript Title ART & DICTATORSHIP
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

The course provides an introduction to art and politics in the context of dictatorship, focusing on the examples of Hitler's Germany, Stalin's USSR, Mussolini's Italy, and Franco's Spain. In the first part of the semester, the students gain an understanding of art in a democratic society by analyzing the art and architecture of the Weimar Republic in Germany. Special attention is paid to Jewish artists like Max Liebermann, Erich Mendelsohn, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, and El Lissitzky. The course examines the official art and architecture in Germany, Italy, and the Soviet Union, focusing on the works of Albert Speer, Giuseppe Terragni, Arno Breker, and Leni Riefenstahl. Modernist and Jewish artists were persecuted, forced into emigration, or deported to concentration camps. Under the Nazi regime in Germany, the exhibition "Degenerate Art" served to propagate the fascist idea of what art should not be like. The course further examines the relation between art and the Holocaust. After 1945, artists like Wolf Vostell, Max Grundig, or George Segal focused in their paintings, sculptures, and installations on the totalitarian experience and the Shoah in particular. Additionally, art also served as a medium to commemorate the Holocaust: the memorials at Buchenwald concentration camp or the Holocaust memorial in Berlin are prominent examples. In the course of the semester, students gain an overview of important European art and architecture movements of the early twentieth century. In addition, the course provides a deeper understanding of art under totalitarian conditions. As a complement to the lectures, formal field-trips to historically significant sites and museums constitute an integral component of the course.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
FU-BEST 19

Host Institution Course Title
ART AND DICTATORSHIP

Host Institution Course Details

http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/fubest/prog/courses/19_art_and_dictatorship.ht...

Host Institution Campus
Free Univ. Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
FU-BEST

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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