COURSE DETAIL

CRITICAL THEORIES OF CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science History Economics
UCEAP Course Number 154
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title CRITICAL THEORIES OF CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM
UCEAP Transcript Title CONTEMP CAPITALISM
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

The course is part of the Laurea Magistrale program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrolment is by permission of the instructor. Through the critical review of classical theories of capitalism, students discuss both fixed and invariant elements in the development of modern capitalism and what makes peculiar its contemporary forms. Students examine some of the most important concepts in present intellectual and political debate, such as globalization, financialization, etc. The course begins with a historical and theoretical framing of the question regarding the peculiarity of contemporary capitalism, briefly considering some of the most influential classical approaches to the study of capitalism. The course subsequently focuses on more recent debates and examines several proposals to conceptually grasp the specific capitalist formation that began to take shape in the early 1970s. Such concepts as flexible accumulation and late capitalism, the knowledge economy and neoliberalism, cognitive and postcolonial capitalism, Empire and postfordism, "racial capitalism" and feminist critique of political economy are critically discussed. The course then focuses on the so-called "platform capitalism." Taking platforms both as emerging business model and as a political form the course investigates their origins in the intertwined domains of logistics and digitization. It then focuses on the operations of some of the most important platforms - from Uber to Amazon, from Deliveroo to Airbnb - and discusses their implications both for the transformation of urban spaces and for labor (introducing such notions as "algorithmic management" and "digital labor"). In general, platforms are taken both as a specific research object and as a lens that allows discerning wider tendencies in the development of contemporary capitalism.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
81968

Host Institution Course Title

CRITICAL THEORIES OF CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM (LM)

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2021/412826

Host Institution Campus
BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
LM in HISTORY AND ORIENTAL STUDIES

Host Institution Department
History and Cultures

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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