

# COURSE DETAIL

## IMAGINARY CITIES

**Country**

Germany

**Host Institution**

Free University of Berlin

**Program(s)**

Free University Berlin

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Sociology

**UCEAP Course Number**

103

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

IMAGINARY CITIES

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

IMAGINARY CITIES

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

## Course Description

Just as much as the city is a physical reality we all deal with in our daily lives, it is, and always has been, an idea. From ancient history onwards, planned cities (Caliph Al-Mansur's legendary Round City of Baghdad, Brasília) were thought up before they were built, and many cities of the imagination, such as Jonathan Swift's magnetic island of Laputa, were never built at all. While the biblical New Jerusalem was meant to inspire awe and glorify God, and Renaissance utopias illustrated a particular type of social organization, the modern imaginary cities that can be found in experimental urban planning, in literature and film offer a critique of contemporary urban life or serve as models for change. This course explores the history of the imaginary city from ancient times to the present, highlights a number of historical futuristic concepts such as Constant's New Babylon, and explores ideas ranging from a "velotopia" to the libertarian dream of seasteading. Student presentations round out the discussion by "visiting" imaginary cities in literature, film, land art, and gaming.

### Language(s) of Instruction

English

### Host Institution Course Number

16912

### Host Institution Course Title

IMAGINARY CITIES

### Host Institution Campus

### Host Institution Faculty

PHILOSOPHIE UND GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN

### Host Institution Degree

### Host Institution Department

Deutsche Philologie

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