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 Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/749074?id=749074&query=imaginary%20cities&sm=...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
PHILOSOPHIE UND GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Deutsche Philologie

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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