COURSE DETAIL

IMAG(IN)ING THE CAPITAL: BERLIN IN CINEMA
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Berlin Summer
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) German Film & Media Studies
UCEAP Course Number 103
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title IMAG(IN)ING THE CAPITAL: BERLIN IN CINEMA
UCEAP Transcript Title BERLIN IN CINEMA
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This course offers students an introduction to the cultural politics of cinematic imaginings of Berlin, a dynamic European capital that has become a laboratory for creative urban studies. Students examine Berlin's unique twentieth and twenty-first century history of expansion, destruction, division, unification, and urban marketing in relation to films that pictured the city for various political regimes and cultural objectives. The course questions this film legacy through the lens of political events, urban change, virtual technologies, spatial memory, geographical orientation, and location politics in the Berlin-Brandenburg region. Inviting students to critically reexamine filmic representations of Berlin, the course focuses on several key time periods in German film production: 1) the Weimar Republic; 2) the Nazi Era and the immediate postwar years; 3) the Cold War; and 4) the postwall era. Not only are these time periods important to German cinema and its representations of Berlin; they also fostered competing cultural political versions of the city that would continue to circulate in the digital age. One goal of the course is to introduce students to audiovisual analysis through a number of Berlin films spanning German film history. A second goal is for students to acquire knowledge of the sociocultural discourses that inform the production and reception of these films. Students work on a number of questions in small groups and then are asked to share their analyses and thoughts with the rest of the class. A third goal of the course is to introduce students to relevant cultural and geographical resources in Berlin through field trips to, for example, the Museum of Film and Television and Studio Babelsberg. By the end of the course, the students have gained a better understanding of Berlin's history, its cinema, and its current film production and urban marketing discourses. They are able to analyze the ways in which film form, content, geographical orientation, and historical context create meaning. Not only do students enhance their skills in audiovisual analysis; they also acquire the ability to interrogate the political circumstances that led to these films' creation and reception.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

3.23

Host Institution Course Title IMAG(IN)ING THE CAPITAL: BERLIN IN CINEMA
Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus FUBiS- Track B
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed

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