COURSE DETAIL

THINKING SEX: SOME RADICAL THEORIES OF THE POLITICS OF SEXUALITY
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Women’s & Gender Studies Sociology
UCEAP Course Number 108
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THINKING SEX: SOME RADICAL THEORIES OF THE POLITICS OF SEXUALITY
UCEAP Transcript Title THEORIES POL SEX
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This seminar introduces students to a series of crucial texts in the development of radical theories of the politics of sexuality. Taking its title from Gayle Rubin's seminal 1984 intervention into the field, this seminar takes seriously her challenge to use the politics of sexuality – pleasures, desires, transformations, and the regulations thereof – as a point of departure from which to reconsider the ways we make and understand our world. Beginning with Rubin’s essay as a guide to our general approach, the seminar will then focus around five main points of departure: firstly, gay liberation and its discontents; secondly, queer challenges to those politics around both infectious disease and gender; thirdly, sexuality in women-of-color feminism; fourthly, queer theory’s move from queer lives as its object of inquiry to a nebulous ‘queering’ as its mode of analysis; and finally, the reintegration of queer theory and materialist analysis. Throughout, we will be attentive to our location in Berlin and to how manifestations of sexual politics in Berlin are similar to and different from those articulated in the canonical texts in the field. Students will leave with a broad sense of the evolution of and relationship between activist and academic debates about sex and sexual politics, and will be able to apply these theoretical insights and approaches to the analysis of a broad variety of research questions in the study of political theories, actors, institutions, and conflicts.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
15141

Host Institution Course Title
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Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/799266?sm=754328

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft
Course Last Reviewed 2023-2024

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