COURSE DETAIL

LIFTING THE IRON CURTAIN. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY EASTERN EUROPE

Country
Netherlands

Host Institution
Maastricht University – University College Maastricht

Program(s)
University College Maastricht

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
International Studies

UCEAP Course Number
124

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
LIFTING THE IRON CURTAIN. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY EASTERN EUROPE

UCEAP Transcript Title
CONTEMPEASTERNEUROP

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units
4.00

Course Description

Lifting the Iron Curtain studies the political, social, and economic transformation of Eastern Europe from the end of the First World War till today. This multidisciplinary course can be divided into two major parts: a historical one devoted to the short twentieth century until 1989-91 and a more contemporary one exploring the achievements and shortcomings of the three decades since. The first half of the course starts by examining East-West relations in Europe on a material and discursive level. It continues by discussing the emergence and characteristics of the post-imperial order after the First World War. It also focuses on the practically simultaneous imposition of the Bolshevik regime in the (newly created) Soviet Union as well as the brutal development of this regime under Lenin and Stalin. The course subsequently includes four meetings on the post-war (Soviet) era west of the Soviet Union, respectively devoted to the origins of Soviet-type regimes in Eastern Europe; the major challenges these regimes had to face, such as the Hungarian uprising or the Prague Spring, and how they responded to them; the reasons behind their unexpected and sudden collapse in 1989-91; and, last but not least, continental and global perspectives on these developments. As mentioned, the second half of the course assesses the political and economic transformation of Eastern Europe since 1989-91. Questions regarding democratization and the quality of democracy in the region as well as the European opening and the related expectations, hopes, and frustrations are the center of attention. The course closes with a discussion of the major challenges Eastern Europe confronts today.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
SSC2024

Host Institution Course Title

LIFTING THE IRON CURTAIN. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY EASTERN EUROPE

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/file/ucm-course-catalogue-2023-2024pdf

Host Institution Campus
University College Maastricht

Host Institution Faculty
Humanities

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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