COURSE DETAIL

ANTHROPOLOGY OF LABOR
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 109
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ANTHROPOLOGY OF LABOR
UCEAP Transcript Title ANTHRO OF LABOR
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

Throughout history, people have always worked, not only to survive, but also to create material and social conditions that allow them to recover and reproduce. However, Karl Marx (2004 [1867]) has shown that the way people work is shaped by the unequal relations of production between those who must labor to survive and those who can enjoy the labor of others. But how is work different from labor and other activities, as another German philosopher, Hannah Arendt (2013 [1958]), once noted? And what role does work play, for example, for different societies where the distinction between work and non-work is not so clear (Spittler, 2015)? This is the task of this seminar, which aims to introduce classical (Durkheim, 1984 [1893]; Godelier and Ignatieff 1980) and contemporary anthropological and non-anthropological studies of labor that incorporate a variety of issues such as gender (Narotzky, 2014), "race" (Stuesse, 2016), postcoloniality (Appel, 2019), and intimacy (Schields, 2023). The seminar aims not only to deconstruct "Western" notions of work and labor, but also to explore how these notions cannot be reduced to a physical activity, usually performed in an industrial or agricultural setting. Care work and domestic work (Amrith, 2017; Parreñas, 2011) are equally important forms of labor that have often been neglected in social theory. Moreover, with the development of new digital technologies and infrastructures, this seminar will also address new forms of digital (Gregg, 2011), post-Fordist (Hardt and Negri, 2000), affective (Muehlebach, 2011), and platform (Jones, 2021) forms of labor. It will offer methodological tools to examine the meaning of labor in people's everyday lives and its various entanglements with their environment, as well as to understand the emerging labor struggles that address past and contemporary exploitation and discrimination (Kasmir and Carbonella, 2008).

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
29644

Host Institution Course Title ANTHROPOLOGY OF LABOUR
Host Institution Course Details https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/860228?query=Anthropology+of+Labour&sm=814672
Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie
Course Last Reviewed 2023-2024

Print