

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 (Schiels, 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 LABOR

Host Institution Campus**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie

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