COURSE DETAIL

PHILOSOPHY OF DEPRESSION
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) Free University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 119
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title PHILOSOPHY OF DEPRESSION
UCEAP Transcript Title PHIL OF DEPRESSION
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

Depression is a painful existential situation that seems to be quite widespread in our contemporary capitalist, ultra-individualistic societies. Recent and current interrelated crises, as for example the financial crisis, the climate crisis and the threat of a global war, seem to have exacerbated the phenomenon. But what does it mean exactly to be depressed, or to live with depression? How could we better conceive of it: as mental and bodily disorder, condition, disposition, mode of experience, habit, …? What kind of relations – to oneself, to fellow human beings, and to the world – does depression foster and is fed by? If one agrees to consider it as a pathology, is it just an individual or also a social, collective pathology? What does constitute its 'pathological' (i.e. 'wrong') character? Does depression also entail 'positive' aspects? This course follows various paths for developing a critical philosophy of depression, an undertaking that finds itself, in the current philosophical landscape, at its outset. Note that the preposition "of" has a double meaning: on the one hand, we will study and articulate philosophical, conceptual and also nonconceptual tools for understanding what depression is; on the other hand, we will explore the cognitive (and affective) resources that the depressive experience disclose and unleash, what their epistemological, ethical and political values can be. The seminar aims at addressing and discussing the topic by drawing upon a vast range of theoretical and literary resources, from psychoanalysis to philosophy, from sociology to literature.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
16054

Host Institution Course Title
PHILOSOPHY OF DEPRESSION

Host Institution Course Details
https://fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/862993?query=depression&sm=814672

Host Institution Campus
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Institut für Philosophie
Course Last Reviewed 2023-2024

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