

COURSE DETAIL

THE LIVES OF INSECTS: LITERATURE & FILM

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

German Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number

125

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

THE LIVES OF INSECTS: LITERATURE & FILM

UCEAP Transcript Title

INSECTS: LIT & FILM

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

The seminar deals with the literary representations of insects. The introduction to the topic is the Czech play by the Capek brothers "From the Life of Insects" from the 1920s, in which the society of the interwar period is criticized in an allegorical manner. The traces of this short text can be found in the Russian novel "The Life of Insects" by Viktor Pelevin. The novel captures another transformative era - the geopolitical change of the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The characters show the characteristics of insects, but act like humans and experience both physical and social metamorphoses. In addition to considering the obvious intertextual references, the inclusion of Jan Švankmajer's animated film "Insects", a free film adaptation of the play, also opens up a further intermedia perspective. The theoretical focus is on the concepts of allegory, metaphor and metamorphosis. Knowledge of the Slavic languages (Czech/Russian) is not a prerequisite for participation.

Language(s) of Instruction

German

Host Institution Course Number

16406

Host Institution Course Title

THE LIVES OF INSECTS: LITERATURE & FILM

Host Institution Campus

Free University of Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft

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