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
AUS DEM LEBEN DER INSEKTEN

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/de/lv/853907?m=183931&pc=74934&sm=814672

Host Institution Campus
Free University of Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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