

COURSE DETAIL

UNMAPPING POWER

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Urban Studies Political Science Geography

UCEAP Course Number

137

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

UNMAPPING POWER

UCEAP Transcript Title

UNMAPPING POWER

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

Maps hold power. They represent a reality that is shaped by those creating the map and have been used as instruments of empire, governance and surveillance. This seminar looks at both the embedded power dynamics of maps as well as their contestation. The title of the seminar shall serve as a guidance in which “un-”, “mapping” and “power” are the main foci of the seminar. It starts by understanding how power is embedded in maps and explores how to analyze maps as political instruments. Students then look at various cases of mapping as critical and creative practices that challenge dominant cartographies from around the globe. In addition to building a solid understanding of power dynamics entrenched and contested through practices of (counter-)mapping, the course aims to offer students the opportunity to explore different methods of mapping and provide insight into how they could be used in the study of political science. Therefore, the course incorporates different exercises and group work through which students explore techniques of mapping, counter-maps, critical mapping, mental and narrative maps and get an overview of basic tools.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

15133

Host Institution Course Title

UNMAPPING POWER

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/1044732?m=406351&pc=559434&sm=965826>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)