

COURSE DETAIL

BALKAN ROUTE VS. US-MEXICO DRUG TRAFFICKING CORRIDOR

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

International Studies History

UCEAP Course Number

131

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

BALKAN ROUTE VS. US-MEXICO DRUG TRAFFICKING CORRIDOR

UCEAP Transcript Title

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UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

The seminar begins with discussing the challenges academic research – even if mostly historically oriented – faces when investigating clandestine phenomena such as criminal networks. It then introduces core concepts of illicit markets including trafficking corridors, and the political economy of criminal violence. The seminar goes on to explore the historical origins (starting in the 1970s and 1980s) of drug trafficking in both regions using, among others, historical, journalistic and criminological accounts. From then on it proceeds chronologically until the 2010s with an outlook on the current situation. For both regions, the class examines and reviews the historical interface/interlinkages between state secret services and criminals (e.g. the use of criminals by the UDBA to eliminate Yugoslav dissidents in the West, or the use of Mexican drug trafficking networks to support clandestine aid to anti-Sandinista Contras). The final part uses the comparative material to formulate a historically grounded puzzle: Why did the two corridors follow such different trajectories of organized violence? The seminar concludes by mapping the divergence of historical pathways of violence and discussing tentative explanations suggested in the literature.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

51456

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/lupo/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&publ...>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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