

COURSE DETAIL

CRISIS AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

125

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

CRISIS AND ANTHROPOLOGY

UCEAP Transcript Title

CRISIS/ANTHROPOLOGY

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This seminar explores crisis as both a topic of ethnographic research and a way of understanding contemporary social and political change, including economic breakdown, humanitarian intervention, environmental disaster, and political upheaval. Organized into three thematic blocks, the course begins with ethnographic case studies that examine how different communities, experts, and anthropologists experience and respond to crisis in everyday life. These cases are situated within broader historical and political processes such as imperialism, capitalism, and authoritarianism. The second block introduces crisis as an analytical concept, focusing on questions of time, rupture, repetition, and chronic or overlapping crises. Building on this approach, the final block explores alternative ways of thinking about social and political transformation beyond crisis. Through close reading, discussion, collaborative work, and selected multimedia materials, students move from concrete ethnographic analysis to theoretical comparison and critique, gaining the tools to critically assess dominant narratives of crisis and to develop alternative frameworks for understanding social and political transformation within or beyond crisis.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

51710

Host Institution Course Title

CRISIS AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Host Institution Course Details

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

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Institut für Europäische Ethnologie

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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