

COURSE DETAIL

BRITISH IDENTITIES IN SPOKEN WORD POETRY

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Women's & Gender Studies English

UCEAP Course Number

125

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

BRITISH IDENTITIES IN SPOKEN WORD POETRY

UCEAP Transcript Title

BRIT IDNTY POETRY

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

Structured as a chronological survey, this class provides a historical overview of British and Commonwealth spoken word poetry from the late 1960s to the present day. Beginning with US American influences from beat poetry and the Liverpool poets, the class moves on to the “punk poet” John Cooper Clarke and dub poetry by Benjamin Zephaniah and Linton Kwesi Johnson from the 1970s and 1980s. It then discusses work from the 1990s and early 2000s by spoken word performers such as Roger Robinson and Malika Booker, ending with Jay Bernard’s contemporary archival poetry. Students use these primary texts to introduce and revise concepts from literary studies such as intertextuality, reader-response theory, the archival turn, and autotheory. Incorporating modes of writing like Saidya Hartman’s “critical fabulation” and Antonio Gramsci’s and Stuart Hall’s figure of the “organic intellectual” into the discussion, the class attempts to conceptualize spoken word poetry as a uniquely ephemeral and performative form of knowledge production. In addition to discussing the role of spoken word poetry for marginalized communities and identities, the class attempts to understand how it challenges categories like authorship and genre, as well as distinctions between e.g. fiction and nonfiction or high and popular culture.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

5250026GS

Host Institution Course Title

BRITISH IDENTITIES IN SPOKEN WORD POETRY

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

Zentrum für Transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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