

COURSE DETAIL

OBSERVING THE SELF OBSERVING THE WORLD

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Women's & Gender Studies Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

110

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

OBSERVING THE SELF OBSERVING THE WORLD

UCEAP Transcript Title

OBSERVNG SELF/WORLD

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course regards the researcher's self as a critical resource for ethnographic inquiry, observation and representation in anthropology. Building on queer-feminist debates around participation and positionality and taking *The Vulnerable Observer* (Ruth Behar, 1996) as a starting point, students are asked to introspectively examine who they are in the world and how that unique location informs the questions they are able to pose and pursue. This includes an understanding of the politics of belonging, experiences of class and queerness, racial or gendered difference, de/coloniality and so on, but equally the ethical and emotional dilemmas posed by their research engagements. Students read works that call into question the sharp divides between academic and other forms of writing, theory and poetry, ethnography and memoir. The course is designed to be interactive and workshop-oriented. Participants engage in short writing exercises in class and are encouraged to draw on their own experiences of life and learning in research.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

29653

Host Institution Course Title

OBSERVING THE SELF OBSERVING THE WORLD

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/en/lv/1047452?query=Observing+the+Self+Oberserving+...>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Institut für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)