Kiez Cinema Culture: Cinemas in Berlin and their audience

Semester: Summer semester 2019
Course instructor: Karl-Leontin Beger, leontin.beger@gmail.com
Subject area: Culture and Society / Kultur und Gesellschaft
Credits: 5 ECTS
Time: Wednesday 16-20 c.t.: 10./17./24. April, 8./15. May, 3./10. July + Excursion Friday 10. May, 10-12
Room: 0323-26 (HVT 5-7)

Course description:

Are still more cinemas going out of business? Are there just huge Multiplexes dominating the cityscape? Not everywhere. Berlin celebrates cinema culture in nearly 100 spaces from small shacks to expensively renovated pictures palaces. Each neighbourhood celebrates cinema. Various formats of frame programs and hybrid forms between gastronomy and classical cinema are reaching out for their niches. Explore Berlin’s cinema culture! Meet the cinema curators and the audiences! What does cinema mean to the Berliners and how do they shape it? The different aspects of Berlin’s cinema culture are researched on in project groups. Interviews, surveys and research are going to help you understand the essentials of Berlin’s cinema culture and what keeps the people behind the projectors going.

Learning objectives:

The objective of this Bachelor-level course is to equip students with an in-depth understanding of Berlin’s cinema culture. This interdisciplinary project seminar gives students the opportunity to research related to their own interests in ongoing exchange and discussion with a heterogenic project group and wide research field. It allows students to get to know and apply methods of film and media studies such as empirical cultural studies and sociology.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge
- Understand, describe, analysis and research on the current cinema culture of Berlin
- Learn about the diversity of Berlin’s cultural life
- Provide an overview of recent empirical developments in the field
- Knowledge about cinema’s theory and history
**Academic/Transferrable Skills**

- Learn about and apply explorative learning
- Use methods from various disciplines (Interview, Survey, media and discourse analysis, arts in research...)
- Learn to research open-ended based on the methodology of Grounded Theory
- Finding a reasonable and refreshing form of presentation connected to the research result
- Communicate and discuss key research result for wider audiences

**Competencies**

- Read, understand and discuss theoretical texts about cinema (as social meeting spot, as dispositif, ...)
- Select relevant methods connected to research aim
- Discuss the research results in the international context/classroom
- Strengthens a respectful and critical debate culture
- Finding niches and spots for active participation in the City Life

**Assessment**

- Regular attendance, active participation in the buddy system (25%)
- Group Presentation of the research results (50%)
- Project report. (Deadline: 12.07.2019 / Format: 1500 Words double-spaced, Times New Roman ft.12)

**Language requirements:**

min. English B2 and German A1-A2: a high level of academic spoken and written English or German is required for this course (at least B2). Some basic German (A-level) is necessary.

The Classroom is going to be bilingual. The Buddy-System gives you the opportunity to improve your German/English/XXX with the aim to give the final presentation in German or English depending on your mother tongue. The project report can be in German or English. Each seminar date is going to give exclusive time to improve your language skills dynamically within the field.
Timetable (4 hour sessions!)

Session 1:  10.04.2019  Berlin’s Cinema Culture – A research field

What does cinema mean to you? How can we research Berlin’s Cinema Culture exploratively? An first overview

Readings

Kinokompendium.de


When (tbd.), where WOLF KINO (Weserstraße 59, 12045 Berlin), 4 Hours, read about the history of WOLF Kino and get an overview of the curation by taking a close look at the website, Meeting the curator of the Kiez Cinema for an Q&A and watching and discussing “Endless Poetry”.

Session 2:  17.04.2019  Cinema as Dispositif

This session covers the most famous approaches media studies about Cinema as Dispositif. After a key note, short texts are worked on in groups and the key ideas are presented to the plenum.

Further Readings


Session 3:  24.04.2019  Cinema as Social Space

This session covers the most famous approaches film and cultural studies about Cinema as Social Space. After a key note, we work in groups and discuss in the plenum.

Readings

Hansen, Miriam (1995): Early Cinema, Late Cinema: Transformations of the Public Sphere. In:

**Further Readings**


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**Session 4:** 08.05.2019  Cinema as Cultural Site

In this session we learn about Cinema as Cultural Site. After a key note, we work in groups and discuss in the plenum. We also form the research groups.

**Readings**


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**Session 5:** FRIDAY! 10.05.2019, 10-12 o’clock: **Excursion**

WOLF Kino, Wildenbruchstraße/Weserstraße, Neukölln

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**Session 6:** 15.05.2019  Cinema as Commercial Business

In this session we learn about Cinemas as Commercial Business. After a key note, we work in groups and discuss in the plenum.

**Readings**

TBA.

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**Project Phase:** 22.05.2019, 29.05.2019, 05.06.2019, 12.06.2019, 19.06.2019, 26.06.2019

During the phase we examine problems, difficulties and potentials of the research field and explorativ learning in shortly fixed dates. Providing useful information on methods and approaches we dynamically find solutions.
Readings


Session 6: 03.07.2019 Title Group Presentation I

Tba.

Session 7: 10.07.2019 Title Group Presentations – Kiez Cinema Culture Worldwide?

Evaluation; We reflect and discuss on Kiez Cinema Culture in international comparison.

Further Readings


Literature: (literature partly available via moodle)


Knoch, Habbo & Geisthövel, Alexa (Hrsg.) (2005): Orte der Moderne : Erfahrungswelten des


**Remarks:**

Attendance policy: HU rules: 80% attendance needed in order to pass; absences need to be excused and backed up by doctor’s certificate etc.

Regular attendance is not only obligatory, but also necessary to create an inspiring and productive learning environment. Essential is giving each other feedback especially during the group presentations phase.