Courses in English

Course Description

13 General and Interdisciplinary Studies Department

Critical Literacy in a Post-Truth Era Course title

Hours per week (SWS)

Number of ECTS credits 2

Course objective This is a course in which critical literacy will be taught, both in theory and practice. Upon successful

> completion students will be familiar with Freire's Pedagogy of the Oppressed, know about Foucauldian and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and be able to identify ideology and populist manipulation in texts. Moreover, students will possess a basic toolkit that will help them struggle against the discourse

hegemony of post-truth populists.

Excellent English required, materials will be provided by the instructor. **Prerequisites**

Recommended reading The course takes a cultural studies approach with special emphasis on critical discourse analysis and

the occasional foray into rhetorics. Reading will include excerpts from Paolo Freire, The Pedagogy of the Oppressed; Michel Foucault, Order of Discourse; Norman Fairclough, Critical Discourse Analysis.

Material will be provided by instructor

Teaching methods Some lecture, group discussion, group work, text analysis, debate and in-class presentation. Grading is

based on in-class assignments, homework (40%) and a final exam (60%).

Weekly student assignments (visual and written), research, class presentations, final project **Assessment methods**

Language of instruction **English**

Prof. Dr. Silke Järvenpää Name of lecturer

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Link

Course content Partly linked to the digital age, but also due to other phenomena, we are seeing a rise of authoritarianism

around the world. Trump immediately comes to mind, so does Erdogan. Yet we should not forget that is closing in on Europe, too, and even to Germany. Our own right-wing party has included in their programme the goal of building state-controlled media channels and other institutions (museums and theatres are to show more patriotic works), of allowing the army to police Germany within, and ultimately

of reducing the checks and balances in the country.

All the authoritarians cited here represent right-wing populism, an attitude to reality that has been termed post-truth (or in German: post-faktisch), and the rhetorics to match. - The main question of this course

will be: Which antidotes does education hold to some of the worrying trends in the world?

Remarks

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