

Name:	Dr. Silke Schade
Email address:	silke.schade@vanderbilt.edu
Course title:	Memory Culture in Berlin
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	72 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	6

Course Description

Coming to terms with the tumultuous 20th century – the Nazi Era, the Holocaust, and division of Germany - is central to German literature, culture, and public debate. Just as narratives of memory drive 20th and 21st-century German literature, memory culture permeates the urban landscape of Berlin. This course explores memory narratives in the form of fiction, autobiographical texts, films, a graphic novel, and a historical reader. Topics of discussion include history, politics, literature, film, music, architecture, and the urban landscape. Field trips to the German Historical Museum, the Holocaust Memorial, The Berlin Wall Memorial, the Stasi Museum, the Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen, and more will inform, reinforce, and broaden our understanding of the material discussed in class.

Student profile

The course is open to all students who are interested in deepening their experience of Berlin's history and culture through this topical exploration of the city. No prior knowledge is required. Students must be willing to participate actively in class discussions and field trips to museums and other sites around the city. Attendance is crucial; no unexcused absences.

Prerequisites

Minimum language proficiency of B2 in English is required. No German is required for this course. All readings, course materials, and discussions will be in English.

Course Requirements

For successful completion of the course, students must (1) thoroughly read and view the assigned materials in preparation for class; (2) attend the course and participate actively in class discussions and field trips; (3) write three two-page essays; (4) take a final exam in form of a take-home essay; and (5) expand their exploration of Berlin's memory culture with a research presentation on a topic of choice.

Grading

Attendance, participation, preparation: 30%

Short essays: 30%

Final Presentation: 15%

Final exam: 25%

Reading

A reader provided at orientation will contain excerpts from various additional texts. Films will be made available for viewing.

Günter Grass, *Crabwalk*
 Ruth Klüger, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered*
 Brian Ladd, *Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*
 Art Spiegelmann, *Maus I and II*

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, June 5, 2018	<p><u>Introduction: What is Memory?</u> Caroline Pearce, “German, European, and Global Recollection of the Nazi Past”</p> <p>Field Trip: German Historical Museum</p>
Friday, June 8, 2018	<p><u>Remembering the Nazi Era and WWII: Introduction</u></p> <p>Read/watch for today: Ladd, “Nazi Berlin” Max Färberböck, <i>Aimee und Jaguar</i></p> <p>Field Trip: Topography of Terror</p>
Tuesday, June 12, 2018	<p><u>Remembering the Nazi Era and WWII: Coming to terms with the past?</u></p> <p>Read/watch for today: Günter Grass, <i>Crabwalk</i></p>
Friday, June 15, 2018	<p><u>Remembering the Nazi Era and WWII: Remembering the Resistance</u></p> <p>Watch for today: Marc Rothemund, <i>Sophie Scholl, The Final Days</i></p> <p>Field Trip: Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand</p> <p>SHORT ESSAY 1 DUE</p>
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	<p><u>Remembering the Holocaust: Literature as Memorial</u></p> <p>Read for today: Paul Celan, “Death Fugue”</p> <p>Field Trip: Memorial and Museum Sachsenhausen</p>
Friday, June 22, 2018	<p><u>Remembering the Holocaust: Autobiography</u> Read for today: Ruth Klüger, <i>Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered</i></p> <p>Field Trip: Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Stolpersteine</p>

<p>Tuesday, June 26, 2018</p>	<p><u>Remembering the Holocaust: Postmemory</u></p> <p>Read for today: Art Spiegelmann, <i>Maus I and II</i></p> <p>Field Trip: Jewish Museum</p> <p>SHORT ESSAY 2 DUE</p>
<p>Friday, June 29, 2018</p>	<p><u>Remembering Divided Berlin: The Berlin Wall</u></p> <p>Read/view for today: Ladd, "Berlin Walls" Lichtgrenze video</p> <p>Field Trip: Berlin Wall Memorial Bernauer Strasse</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 3, 2018</p>	<p><u>Remembering Divided Berlin: "Ostalgie"</u></p> <p>Read/View for today: Ladd, "Divided Berlin" Wolfgang Becker, <i>Goodbye, Lenin!</i></p> <p>Field Trip: GDR Museum</p>
<p>Friday, July 6, 2018</p>	<p><u>Remembering Divided Berlin: The Stasi</u></p> <p>Read/view for today: Henckel von Donnersmarck, <i>The Lives of Others</i> Excerpts from Christa Wolf, <i>What Remains</i></p> <p>Field Trip: Stasi Museum</p> <p>SHORT ESSAY 3 DUE</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 10, 2018</p>	<p><u>The Politics of Memory</u></p> <p>Ladd, "Capital of the New Germany"</p> <p>FINAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE</p>
<p>Friday, July 13, 2018</p>	<p><u>Course Conclusion: Memory and National Identity</u></p> <p>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</p> <p>2:00 PM: FUBiS Farewell Ceremony</p>

*Field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.