

Name:	Dr. David James Prickett
Email address:	d.prickett@fu-berlin.de
Course title:	Urban Places and Spaces: Analyzing and Exploring Berlin
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	4

Course description

Urban studies and its discourse on the city combine scholarship in fields as diverse as human geography, history, and the arts. Berlin, with its seemingly infinite possibilities for creative societal- and self-fashioning, provides an excellent socio-cultural analytical model. It is at once a fixed “place” with a distinct topography and an interactive “space” comprised of residents and visitors of multifarious social groups.

A balanced appreciation of the interplay of place and space in Berlin’s cityscape is key for students eager to learn about the city’s past and present. In turn, one requires a sound historical overview of Berlin’s spatial and social makeup in order to comprehend contemporary Berlin fully.

FUBiS invites you to join us as we analyze and explore places/spaces in Germany’s ultimate “urban text”, Berlin. In-class analysis and discussion of academic and literary texts about Berlin will prepare you for our course excursions. We begin at the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin’s most important site that functions as place and space. Here you will learn more about this landmark and its meaning in Berlin’s social imaginary, linking temporal layers of past and present in Berlin.

In the seven sessions that follow, we continue our temporal-topographical inquiry, meeting with experts at other places/spaces in Berlin (including the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the Jewish Museum, and the Berlin Wall Memorial). We will conduct on-site discussions of these unique places/spaces in historical, spatial, social, and even literary terms. Upon completing the course, students will have compiled a portfolio of short essays reflecting their critical reception of Berlin’s place/spaces.

In this manner, our course not only teaches you how places/spaces fuse Berlin’s past and present and shape contemporary Berlin: it also enables you to create a uniquely personal connection to Berlin.

Learning Objectives:

After attending this seminar, students will

- understand the topographical, social, and symbolic organization of place/space in an urban setting and in Berlin in particular;
- gain insight into the meaning of place/space in their own culture by means of a critical comparison with place/space in their hometown and Berlin;
- be well familiar with Berlin’s key historical places/spaces and how these continue to shape contemporary Berlin and the social imaginary

Student profile

Ideal for students of cultural, political, and social sciences, this seminar seeks to bring to the foreground connections between Berlin's topography, its history, and its current functions as a political and cultural space.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course requirements

I. Active Participation

What is active participation?

- Being prepared for the seminar, e.g., having read the texts carefully.
- Constructive and productive participation in class and during the fieldwork.
- Respect for the opinions and comments of the other seminar participants.

II. Seminar Times and Excursions

The seminar takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays and includes excursions with the instructor in Berlin.

III. Presentation

You will prepare a 20-minute presentation (including discussion), in which you will present and explain a seminar topic. It is important that you prepare a handout with theses to debate with the other seminar participants.

IV. Weekly Assignments

Weeks 1 and 2: Essays – You will write 2 (two) 500-word essays. Analyzing a specific excursion through the analytical lens of a seminar reading, your essays will adhere to academic style (MLA).

Week 3: Podcast – You and a partner will write and record a podcast that presents and evaluates one of your favorite places/spaces in Berlin.

Week 4: Poster Presentation – You and a partner will present and explain a seminar topic, reflecting on how your academic work and personal experiences in Berlin affect your understanding of this topic.

Grading

Active Participation:	25%	
Presentation:	15%	
Weekly Assignments:	60%	(4 assignments [see above] à 15%. Evaluation based on content, style, and quality of analysis; grading rubrics will be provided at the outset of the course.)

Reading

A reader will be provided at the orientation meeting.

suggested pre-reading

- Fisher, Jaimey and Barbara Mennel, eds. *Spatial Turns: Space, Place, and Mobility in German Literary and Visual Culture*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2010.
- Massey, Doreen. *For Space*. London: Sage, 2005.
- Soja, Edward W. *Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Tuesday, July 25, 2017	<p>Week 1: Berlin: real/imagined; public/private Session 1.1 Barthes, Roland. "Without Words," "Center-City," "Empty Center," "No Address," "The Station," "Inside/Outside," "Millions of Bodies." <i>Empire of Signs</i>. 1970. Trans. Richard Howard. New York: Hill and Wang, 1982.</p> <p>Ledanff, Susanne. "The Palace of the Republic versus the Stadtschloss: The Dilemmas of Planning in the Heart of Berlin." <i>German Politics and Society</i> 21.4 (2003): 30-73 (excerpt).</p> <p>Excursion: The Brandenburg Gate; "Ribbon of Government"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHORT-FORM ESSAY 1: DUE BY MON., 7/31/17
Friday, July 28, 2017	<p>Session 1.2 Goebel, Rolf J. "Berlin's Architectural Citations: Reconstruction, Simulation, and the Problem of Historical Authenticity." <i>PMLA</i> 118.5 (2003): 1268-289. <i>JSTOR [JSTOR]</i>. Web. 15 June 2011.</p> <p>Prickett, David James. "'We will show you Berlin': Space, Leisure, Flânerie and Sexuality." <i>Sexy Spaces: Leisure and Geography</i>. Ed. Kath Browne and Jayne Caudwell. Spec. issue of <i>Leisure Studies</i> (2010): 157-77.</p> <p>Excursion: [TBA]</p>
Tuesday, August 1, 2017	<p>Week 2: Berlin: East/West; past/present Session 2.1 Marven, Lyn. "'Souvenirs de Berlin-Est': History, Photos, and Form in Texts by Daniela Dahn, Irina Liebmann, and Sophie Calle." <i>Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies</i> 43.2 (2007): 220-33.</p> <p>Rechtien, Renate. "From Places of Hope to a Nightmarish Non-Place. Chronotopes in Christa Wolf's 'June Afternoon', 'Unter den Linden' and What Remains." Ed. D. Clarke and R. Rechtien. <i>The Politics of Place in Post-War Germany: Essays in Literary Criticism</i>. Lewiston/Queenston/Lampeter: Edwin Mellen, 2009: 261-84.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHORT-FORM ESSAY 2: DUE BY MON., 8/7/17
Friday, August 4, 2017	<p>Session 2.2</p>

	<p>Pike, David L. "Wall and Tunnel: The Spatial Metaphorics of Cold War Berlin." <i>New German Critique: An Interdisciplinary Journal of German Studies</i> 110 (2010): 73-94.</p> <p>Knischewski, Gerd and Ulla Spittler. "Remembering the Berlin Wall: The Wall Memorial Ensemble <i>Bernauer Strasse</i>." <i>German Life and Letters</i> 59.2 (2006): 280–93.</p> <p>Excursion: Berlin Wall Memorial (Bernauer Straße) http://www.berliner-mauer-dokumentationszentrum.de/</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 8, 2017</p>	<p>Week 3: Berlin: language/narrative; stasis/motion Session 3.1</p> <p>Erling, Elizabeth J. "Local Identities, Global Connections: Affinities to English among Students at the Freie Universität Berlin." <i>World Englishes: Journal of English as an International and Intranational Language</i> 26.2 (2007): 111-30.</p> <p>Brockmann, Stephen. "Berlin as the Literary Capital of German Unification." <i>Contemporary German Fiction: Writing in the Berlin Republic</i>. Ed. Stuart Taberner. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007: 39-55.</p> <p>Excursion: Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Haus Unter den Linden) http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PODCAST DUE BY MON., 8/14/17
<p>Friday, August 11, 2017</p>	<p>Session 3.2</p> <p>Excursion: Meeting with Joe "Madog" Bliese, Team Wedding, Gangway e.V., Buttmanstraße 15, 13357 Berlin</p> <p>Soysal, Levent. "Rap, Hiphop, and Kreuzberg: The Institutional Topography of Migrant Youth Culture in the WorldCity Berlin." <i>New German Critique: An Interdisciplinary Journal of German Studies</i> 92 (2004): 62-81.</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 15, 2017</p>	<p>Week 4: Berlin: trauma/memory; center/margins Session 4.1</p> <p>Herz, Manuel. "Institutionalized Experiment: The Politics of 'Jewish Architecture' in Germany." <i>Jewish Social Studies, New Series, Jewish Conceptions and Practices of Space</i>, 11.3 (2005): 58-66.</p> <p>Young, James E. "Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum in Berlin: The Uncanny Arts of Memorial Architecture." <i>Jewish Social Studies, New Series</i>, 6.2 (2000): 1-23.</p> <p>Excursion: Jewish Museum Berlin</p>

	POSTER PRESENTATION: DUE BY ** FRI., 8/18/17**
Friday, August 18, 2017	<p>Session 4.2 Hamm-Ehsani, Karin. "Screening Modern Berlin: Lola Runs to the Beat of a New Urban Symphony." <i>Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies</i> 40.1 (2004): 50-65.</p> <p>Screening: Excerpts from <i>Run Lola Run</i> (1998).</p> <p>Poster Presentation</p> <p>Concluding Remarks and Summary</p> <p>FUBiS Farewell Ceremony</p>