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<b>Course title:</b>	Urban Places and Spaces: Analyzing Berlin
<b>Track:</b>	B-Track
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Contact hours:</b>	48 (6 per day)
<b>ECTS-Credits:</b>	4

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### 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. 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.

In-class analysis and discussion of academic and literary texts about Berlin will prepare you for our course excursions. We begin at the Pariser Platz, Berlin’s “living room” and connected to such important sites as the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. Here you will learn more about these landmarks and their meaning in Berlin’s social imaginary, linking temporal layers of past and present in Berlin.

In the following sessions, we continue our temporal-topographical inquiry, discovering quite diverse sites in Berlin (such as the Alexanderplatz, the Topography of Terror, 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.

### 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.

#### II. Seminar Times and Fieldwork

The seminar takes place on Tuesdays and Fridays and includes fieldwork 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. Course Blog

You will contribute 4 (four) 500-word posts to the class blog. Analyzing a specific aspect of a seminar topic or reading, your blog post will adhere to academic style.

### Grading

Active Participation:	35%
Presentation:	30%
Course Blog:	35% (4 posts à 500 words per post. Evaluation based on content, style, and quality of analysis)

### Reading

A reader will be provided at the orientation meeting.

Suggested pre-reading:

- Brenner, Neil and Nik Theodore (eds.). Spaces of Neoliberalism: Urban Restructuring in Western Europe and North America. Oxford and Boston: Blackwell, 2012.
- Gottdiener, Mark; Hutchison, Ray; Ryan, Michael T. (ed.): The New Urban Sociology, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2015.
- Soja, Edward W. Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.

**Course schedule**

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 16, 2019	<p><b>Week 1: Historicizing Berlin</b></p> <p><b>Session 1.1</b>            Barthes, Roland. "Without Words," "Center-City, "Empty Center," "No Address," "The Station," "Inside/Outside," "Millions of Bodies." Empire of Signs. 1970. Trans. Richard Howard. New York: Hill and Wang, 1982.</p> <p>Ladd, Brian: The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018, pp. 70-81.</p> <p>Excursion: Pariser Platz, Reichstag Building</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BLOG POST 1: DUE BY MON., 7/22/19</b></p>
Friday, July 19, 2019	<p><b>Session 1.2</b>            Allen, John: The Cultural Spaces of Siegfried Kracauer: The Many Surfaces of Berlin, in: New Formations: A Journal of Culture/Theory/Politics 61 (2007), pp. 20-33.</p> <p>Weszkalnys, Gisa: Berlin, Alexanderplatz: transforming place in unified Berlin. New York: Berghahn, 2010, pp. 1-30.</p> <p>Excursion: Alexanderplatz</p>
Tuesday, July 23, 2019	<p><b>Week 2: Imagining Berlin</b></p> <p><b>Session 2.1</b>            Schütz, Erhard, 'Beyond Glittering Reflections of Asphalt: Changing Images of Berlin in Weimar Literary Journalism', in Thomas W. Kniesche and Stephen Brockmann (eds.), Dancing on the Volcano: Essays on the Culture of the Weimar Republic. Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1994, pp. 119-126.</p> <p>Anderson, Benedict: Buried City, Unearthing Teufelsberg. Berlin and its Geography of Forgetting. London, New York: Routledge, 2017, pp. 109-135.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BLOG POST 2: DUE BY MON., 7/29/19</b></p>
Friday, July 26, 2019	<p><b>Session 2.2</b>            Pike, David L. "Wall and Tunnel: The Spatial Metaphorics of Cold War Berlin." New German Critique: An Interdisciplinary Journal of German Studies 110 (2010): 73-94.</p> <p>Hochmuth, Hanno: Contested Legacies. Cold War Memory Sites in Berlin, in: Jarausach, Konrad H.; Etges,</p>

	<p>Andreas; Ostermann, Christian (ed.): The Cold War. History, Memory, Representation. Berlin, Boston: Walter de Gruyter, 2017, pp. 283-299.</p> <p>Excursion: Berlin Wall Memorial (Bernauer Straße) <a href="http://www.berliner-mauer-dokumentationszentrum.de/">http://www.berliner-mauer-dokumentationszentrum.de/</a></p>
<p>Tuesday, July 30, 2019</p>	<p><b>Week 3: Appropriating Berlin</b></p> <p><b>Session 3.1</b>          Kosnick, Kira: Conflicting Mobilities: Cultural Diversity and City Branding in Berlin, in: Donald, Stephanie Hemelryk; Kofman, Eleonore; Kevin, Catherine (Hrsg.): Branding Cities: Cosmopolitanism, Parochialism, and Social Change. New York, London: Routledge, 2009, S. 28-41.</p> <p>Colomb, Claire: Pushing the Urban Frontier: Temporary Uses of Space, City Marketing and the Creative City Discourse in 2000s Berlin, in: Journal of Urban Affairs 34 (2012), 2, pp. 131-152.</p> <p>Excursion: Potsdamer Platz</p> <p><b>BLOG POST 3: DUE BY MON., 8/5/19</b></p>
<p>Friday, August 2, 2019</p>	<p><b>Session 3.2</b>          McElligott, Anthony, 'Walter Ruttmann's Berlin: Symphony of a City: Traffic-mindedness and the City in Inter-war Germany', in Malcolm Gee, Tim Kirk and Jill Steward (eds.), The City in Central Europe: Culture and Society from 1800 to the Present. Aldershot: Scolar Press, 1999, pp. 209-238.</p> <p>Ganeva, Mila. "No History, Just Stories: Revisiting Tradition in Berlin Films of the 1990s." Berlin: The Symphony Continues: Orchestrating Architectural, Social, and Artistic Change in Germany's New Capital. Ed. Carol Anne Costabile-Heming, Rachel J. Halverson, Kristie A. Foell. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2004, pp. 261-277.</p> <p>Screening of film excerpts.</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 6, 2019</p>	<p><b>Week 4: Contesting Berlin</b></p> <p><b>Session 4.1</b>          Costabile-Heming, Carol A.: Tracing History Through Berlin's Topography: Historical Memories and Post-1989 Berlin Narratives, in: German Life and Letters 58 (2005), 3, pp. 344-356.</p>

	<p>Langenbacher, Eric: The Mastered Past? Collective Memory Trends in Germany since Unification, in: German Politics &amp; Society 28 (2010), 1: Special Issue, Part One: From the Bonn to the Berlin Republic: The Twentieth Anniversary of German Unification (Spring 2010), pp. 42-68</p> <p>Excursion: Topography of Terror</p> <p><b>BLOG POST 4: DUE BY ** FRI., 8/9/19**</b></p>
<p>Friday, August 9, 2019</p>	<p><b>Session 4.2</b></p> <p>Cohen, Hadas; Kranz, Dani: Israeli Jews in the New Berlin: From Shoah Memories to Middle East Encounters, in: Bauer, Karin; Hosek, Jennifer Ruth (ed.): Cultural Topographies of the New Berlin. New York: Berghahn Books, 2018, pp. 322-346.</p> <p>Kaya, Ayhan: "Sicher in Kreuzberg": Constructing Diasporas: Turkish Hip-Hop Youth in Berlin. Bielefeld: transcript, pp. 87-126, 155-178.</p> <p>Concluding Remarks and Summary</p> <p><b>FUBiS Farewell Ceremony</b></p>

\*Field trips may be subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, adaptation of class times is possible.