

Course title:	Architecture in Berlin. A Walk through History
Instructor:	Dr. Gernot Weckherlin
Email address:	g.weckherlin@berlin.de
Track:	A-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS credits:	5
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher.

Course description

This course gives a wide overview of the development of public and private architecture in Berlin during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Following an introduction to the urban development and architectural history of the Modern era, the Neo-Classical period will be surveyed with special reference to the works of Schinkel. This will be followed by classes on architecture of the German Reich after 1871, which was characterized by both modern and conservative tendencies and the manifold activities during the time of the Weimar Republic in the 1920s such as the Housing Revolution. The architecture of the Nazi period will be examined, followed by the developments in East and West Berlin after the Second World War. The course concludes with a detailed review of the city's more recent and current architectural profiles, including an analysis of the conflicts concerning the re-design of Berlin after the Cold War and the German reunification.

Seven walking tours to historically significant buildings and sites are included (Unter den Linden, Gendarmenmarkt, New Housing Estates, Chancellory, Potsdamer Platz, Holocaust Memorial etc.). The course aims to offer a deeper understanding of the interdependence of Berlin's architecture and the city's social, economic and political structures. It considers Berlin as a model for the highways and by-ways of a European capital in modern times.

Student profile

The course addresses students of any subject, especially History of Art, Architecture and related subjects, such as History, Design or Fine Arts. An elementary knowledge of architecture and architectural history is welcome but not necessary. More advanced students or those interested in a particular field can - on request - be given special assistance and further material for self-study.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced Intermediate level (Mittelstufe II) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>

Course requirements

Regular and active participation, Midterm exam, Final exam

Grading

Attendance and participation: 30%
 Midterm exam: 30%
 Final exam: 40%

Reading

A course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Monday, July 25, 2022	Introduction Urban History of Berlin Architectural Terminology 1st Study Trip: Berlin-Mitte: Historic center of Berlin, Gendarmenmarkt, Forum Fridericianum, Neue Wache, Zeughaus (armory), Werdersche Kirche, Museum Island
Thursday, July 28, 2022	19th-Century and German Empire (1871-1918) From Schinkel (Neoclassicism) and Historicism to the beginnings of Modernity 2nd Study Trip: Industrial Architecture: P. Behrens' AEG factories
Monday, August 1, 2022	Modern Architecture of the "Golden Twenties" Weimar Republic I, 1918-1933 3rd Study Trip: Residential Architecture, Berlin-Zehlendorf, settlement „Uncle Tom's Cabin“ (Bruno Taut)
Thursday, August 4, 2022	Midterm Exam Official Architecture of the 1920s and 1930s Weimar Republic II, 1918-1933, and 3rd Reich, 1933-1945 4th Study Trip: Architecture and Politics, New governmental buildings and the Nazi-heritage: The Federal Ministry of Finance
Monday, August 8, 2022	Architecture after the war: 1940s to the present East/West: Two German States, the divided Berlin 5th Study Trip: East – West: Stalinallee/ East Berlin and the International Building Exhibition 1957 in West-Berlin

Thursday, August 11, 2022	6th Study Trip (all day): The City and its periphery from the 1970s to today. A field trip to unknown Berlin. Architecture off the beaten track.
Monday, August 15, 2022	7th Study Trip (all day): Architecture after reunification and contemporary problems in urban development From Postmodernism to new Simplicity – a new capital: Pariser Platz, US Embassy, Holocaust-Memorial, Kulturforum, Philharmonic hall, Potsdamer Platz
Thursday, August 18, 2022	Final Exam

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