

BERLIN: EAST MEETS WEST – PAST MEETS PRESENT

Course description and objectives:

The demise of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Germany's reunification in October 1990, and the federal parliament's decision in June 1991 to make Berlin not only the country's capital but also home of its national government, have triggered major changes in Berlin's political, economic, social, and cultural life. In no other European city do "east" and "west" encounter one another so vividly and dramatically as in the old/new German capital.

The main objective of this course is to explore the old, recent, contemporary, and future Berlin with all its diversity and richness as a major European metropolitan area. At times, the city will be analyzed in a broader, comparative (European) perspective. It is hoped that students completing this course will leave with a deeper appreciation of the complexities characterizing Berlin's urban life and history as well as Germany's overall reunification experience.

The course will consist of a series of lectures, group discussions, student presentations, and local excursions to sites of interest.

Course requirements:

1. Attendance and participation. This includes the excursions/field-trips scheduled mostly for the afternoons of every day the class meets: 40%
2. Written, final exam: 60%

Required readings:

* *Course Reader* with photocopied readings; supplied by the Freie Universität.

Course schedule:

This course will meet in regular sessions on a total of 8 days: July 21, 24, 28, and 31, and August 4, 7, 11, and 14. On most of these days, class sessions will be 9:00-10:30 a.m. (noted as "session 1" below), 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (noted as "session 2" below), followed by a third, excursion-oriented session starting at 2:00 p.m. and normally lasting until the end of the afternoon (noted as "session 3" below). On August 14, session 3 will take place at the Freie Universität and focus on student reports regarding assigned exploration of specific areas of the city. A written final exam (two hours in length) for this course will be held on Thursday morning, August 14.

Monday, July 21:

Session 1: Introduction and overview: Berlin in transition.

Readings: Barbara Becker-Cantarino, "Reflections on a Changing Berlin"; Fritz Schmoll, "Metropolis Berlin? Prospects and problems of post-November 1989 urban developments"; Hartmut Häußermann and Elizabeth Strom, "Berlin: The once and future capital"

Session 2: Berlin's history: from medieval settlement to *Reichshauptstadt* (1237-1871)

Reading: Dirk Verheyen, "From Medieval Settlement to Devastated Metropolis", pp. 31-51 (manuscript page numbering)

Session 3 (off-campus): Exploration of Berlin's *historische Mitte* (historical center)

Thursday, July 24:

Session 1: Berlin's history: imperial, republican, and totalitarian metropolis (1871-1945)

Reading: Dirk Verheyen, "From Medieval Settlement to Devastated Metropolis", pp. 51-69 (manuscript page numbering)

Session 2: Rise of the modern European metropolis: Berlin in European comparative perspective

Reading: Andrew Lees, "Berlin and Modern Urbanity in German Discourse, 1845-1945"

Session 3 (off-campus): Märkisches Museum and the historical roots of Berlin (from Klosterstrasse to Nikolaiviertel)

Monday, July 28:

Session 1: Berlin's history: the Cold War

Reading: Dirk Verheyen, "Divided and Reunited: Berlin since 1945"

Session 2: The Cold War's legacy: what traces remain?

Reading: Christof Ellger, "Berlin: legacies of division and problems of unification"

Session 3 (off-campus): Visit to the Allied Museum and the Soviet memorial at Treptower Park

Thursday, July 31:

Session 1: Berlin's post-Cold War urban identity: (official) visions of divergent futures

Reading: Allan Cochrane and Andrew Jonas, "Reimagining Berlin: World City, National Capital or Ordinary Place?"

Session 2: Post-Cold War citizen identity or identities: one or two cities? Berlin as mirror of a dual German political culture?

Readings: John Borneman, "State, Territory, and Identity Formation in the Postwar Berlins, 1945-1989"; John Borneman, "Postscript: Unity"

Session 3 (off-campus): Visit to Normannenstrasse Memorial Site (former Stasi HQ)

Monday, August 4: **Session 1:** Post-Cold War urban development in Berlin: becoming a capital city once more

Reading: Michael Z. Wise, *Capital Dilemma* ("Introduction", "Master Plan for a Government District", "Choosing a Chancellery", "Presidential Office: Glittering Jewel or Dark Fortress?", and "Hesitation by Design")

Session 2: Post-Cold War urban development in Berlin: economic and financial challenges

Readings: Peter Hall, "Forces Shaping Urban Europe"; Jens Dangschat, "Berlin and the German System of Cities"; Elizabeth Strom, "The Political Context of Real Estate Development: Central City Rebuilding in Berlin"; Stefan Krätke, "Berlin's Regional Economy in the 1990s: Structural Adjustment or 'Open-Ended' Structural Break?"

Session 3 (off-campus): Visit to the DDR-Museum

Thursday, August 7: **Session 1:** Post-Cold War urban development in Berlin: social and societal challenges; special focus on Berlin as multicultural city

Readings: Manfred Stock, "Youth Culture in East Germany: From Symbolic Dropout to Politicization"; Franz-Josef Kemper, "Restructuring of Housing and Ethnic Segregation: Recent Developments in Berlin"; Heidrun Suhr, "*Fremde* in Berlin: The Outsiders' View from the Inside"

Session 2: Post-Cold War urban development in Berlin: the cultural scene

Reading: Carol Aisha Blackshire-Belay, "Berlin: A New Kaleidoscope of Cultures"

Session 3 (off-campus): "Tradition, gentrification, counter-culture": walking the area around the Oranienburger Strasse and the Hackischer Höfe

Monday, August 11: **Sessions 1/2 (off-campus):** Multicultural Berlin: the Turkish community (visit to the Kreuzberg area and conversation with Mr. Celal Altun, General-Secretary of the TGB – Turkish Community in Berlin)

Session 3 (Brentanostrasse 50): screening of "Berlin Metamorphoses", followed by discussion

Thursday, August 14: Sessions 1/2 (on-campus): Written final exam

Session 3 (on-campus): Student reports about their explorations based on assigned walking routes in *Berlin: Open City*.