**SAMPLE SYLLABUS**

**Course Details:**
TUE 3.30pm – 6.15pm  
NYU Berlin AC, Room "TBD"

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**Course Description:**

This seminar investigates the role of places for thought and experience. The city of Berlin serves as our core text and research space. Focused on particular texts across the disciplines of literature, architecture, journalism, cultural studies, and sociology, we will explore how Berlin is defined today and how current definitions came about, particularly in relation to Germany’s cultural and political history.

This course combines classroom discussions, excursions, and community experience with individualized fieldwork. We will discuss how your diverse disciplinary and cultural backgrounds inform your experience of and critical engagement with Berlin and each other. This course is designed to provide you with the ability to gain insights into how personal and collective identity are constructed and problematized through art and culture. We will also consider questions of (national) identity with respect to the larger German, European and global contexts. It offers you a theoretical framework to complement your internship experience in Berlin.

The principal goal of Experiential Learning I is your immersion in the current and historical character of the site; whenever possible, you should practice your language skills as part of this immersion. Classroom discussion provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the local, regional, and global forces that have shaped life in Berlin. Community experiences situate you in the contemporary life of the city, giving an advanced introduction to the city’s local character and its intersection with global forces alongside four dimensions: politics, arts and media, economics, and the social practices of everyday life.

**Course Objectives:**

- to introduce you to modes of analyzing experiences in and representation of Berlin, in the context of Germany, the EU, and the world
- to generate dialogue across disciplines about how art, history and politics shape contemporary Berlin
- to explore the relation between theory and practice, experience and knowledge formation, and local and global spaces

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**Course Number**  
EXLI-UF.9301001  
Units earned – 4

**Lecturer Contact**  
Dania Hückmann – dania@nyu.edu  
Office Hours: Tue 6:20pm – 7pm
- to improve oral and written representation skills
- to use concepts of place/space to frame research questions and projects

**Assessment Components:**

**Participation (15%):** Active engagement with the texts and each other is key to the success of the class. You must bring the assigned texts to class and be ready to discuss them.

**Two Essays, 2-3 pgs. (20%):** The first essay will be on the figure of the Flaneur. No research needed. Pick a street or a building in Berlin and observe and analyze it. This is the first exercise and part of picking a place for the final assignment. The second essay involves researching the history of your place. How does the site you chose relate to the Berlin Wall? Is your site located in former East or West Berlin? Refer to the readings done in class (1) as well as to your own research perspective (2).

**Three Written Assignments (15%):** Critical discussion of reading assignments (around 2-3 pgs. each). They should not summarize the reading. Rather they should be anchored in a set of questions that the text raises in the context of our discussions, your fieldwork, or earlier studies at GLS. In short: They should consist of close readings.

**Midterm (15%):** The Midterm consists of a 3- to 4-page essay and an oral presentation. Before your paper is due you will give a class presentation: the presentation **needs to include**
  a) a description of the place, b) references to its history and its cultural significance, c) its relation to your field of study, d) a PPT. You will present your findings during a 3- to 5-minute in-class presentation. After receiving feedback from your peers, you will turn your presentation into a 3- to 4-page paper on October 24.

**Final Project (25%):** The final project will be an expansion of your midterm. It needs to include analysis and a presentation of your place in relation to the readings done in class. **Format:** Your final project can be a video, photo essay, interactive map, research paper. Regardless of the format, it **has to include**:
  a) 2 historical or theoretical sources, b) an interview, a work of art, or a photograph. The final project should be 5-7 pages (or the equivalent in another medium). Think of the audience for your final project as people who do not know Berlin.

**A Global Index Entry (10%):** This entry introduces a place to the future NYU Berlin GLS students. Topic: How is Living in Berlin? Entry needs to include a title, photograph, short description, your concentration, year, name (voluntary).

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in their work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and their work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

**Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

**Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.
Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade Conversion
Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or NYU Berlin's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the
missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html

Late Submission of Work
(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the lecturer or to the Academics Office, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

(3) Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.
Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

**Required Texts:**

All texts are available on NYU Classes.
Session Plan:

SESSION 1 – August 29: Introduction
We will discuss the concept of “experiential learning,” Berlin as our research environment and the set-up of the course over the year to come.
Prepare: a) Take notes: How do experience and learning relate in your opinion? How will (NYU)Berlin further your studies? and b) Prepare a brief introduction to yourself (30sec)
Visitor: Cultural Vistas Berlin

I. EXPLORING BERLIN

SESSION 2 – September 5 FLANEUR
This session focuses on artistic and philosophical depictions of the figure of the flaneur and what it tells us about the experience of modernity and the metropolis at the beginning of the 20th century. We will focus on movement, observation, and learning.
Essay I due: Project Flaneur: Pick one street/public place in Berlin and observe it for 2-3 days.
- Observe the street without any previous/knowledge of it.
- You do not need to do any research for this essay.
- Take field notes, i.e. What is the mood of the street? Does it have a sense of time? Are there businesses? Cultural sites? How do the people (inter-) act?
- Write a 2-page paper on your observations. Attach pictures, drawings, tokens.

SESSION 3 – September 12 RESEARCH:
class starts with Lunchtime Seminar at 1:30 pm!
This session will start with the lunchtime seminar on research and thesis development; attendance is mandatory. In class we will further discuss dealing with sources, research perspective, and taking field notes.
SESSION 4 – September 19  METHOD I: (SPATIAL) THEORY
This session will introduce you to a range of social, political, and philosophical conceptions of space. What differentiates place and space? (Certeau). (To what extent) is space a (social) construction? (Lefebvre). We will start a glossary of key terms that offer different approaches to perceive and analyze Berlin.

SESSION 5 – September 26  METHOD II: GEOGRAPHY (MAKE UP CLASS)
The discussion will focus on place and space in context: first in that of the university (Cresswell) and second with respect to globalization (Augé). We will expand our glossary of key terms.
Written Assignment I: Close Reading (2-3 pgs):
- Pick two terms from Certeau, Cressmann, Augé, Lefebvre; define them in your own terms and discuss their relation.
- Essay needs to include: a) evidence from text; b) a research question; c) working thesis

SESSION 6 – Sept 29 (MAKE-UP DAY):  METHOD III: CULTURAL HISTORY
WALL WALK: We will walk from the AC to the Visitor Center and discuss how and where the history of the wall is visible.
Prepare: Walk from the AC at the Kulturbrauerei to the Visitor Center (Bernauer Strasse 111). Pick a place along the way that confronts you (explicitly or implicitly) with the history of divided Berlin. Email the location of your place to dania@nyu.edu by 9 a.m. on the day of class. Be ready to talk about your location during our walk.

October 3 NO CLASS - Public Holiday

SESSION 7 – October 10  MIDTERM
You will present your place to the class (3-5 min.) Discussion: What is good feedback?
This session will allow you to get feedback from your peers on your project before you turn in the midterm paper on October 24.
Presentation: 3-5 min. email PPT to DH by noon on October 9
Essay II: Relate the place that you chose for your midterm to the history of divided Berlin. You may consider: Was your place located in former East or West Berlin? Was its development affected by historical events? Was the place renamed?

October 17 FALL BREAK – No Class
SESSION 8 – October 24:  
**METHOD IV: HISTORY**


*Midterm paper is due in class: bring a printed copy and email it to dania@nyu.edu*

SESSION 9 – October 31  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY – No Class

SESSION 10 – November 7:  
**INTERLUDE: YOUR CV**

This session starts with the lunchtime seminar “Trending Employability Skills” with guest speaker Mona Shair-Wloch from *key2advance* – attendance is mandatory. In class we will discuss your CVs.

*Prepare: Email your CV to dania@nyu.edu by October 22 at noon. Bring 2 copies of your CV to class.*

**III. PERSPECTIVES**

SESSION 11 – November 10:  
**PERSPECTIVE I: MUSEUM (MAKE-UP CLASS)**

We will visit the Museum of Medical History at the Charité as an example of how the history of a place can be presented by an institution.


Pamphlet A, B or C from the MUSEUM

*Written Assignment II: Close Reading (2-3 pgs):*

- How does the pamphlet you are assigned to present the Berlin Museum of Medical History? What is emphasized? What is left out? (1.5 pgs.)
- Discuss with your group: What would a museum look like if it were curated following the focus of the pamphlet you read? How would you organize the exhibition? You have 3 floor available. (1.5 pgs. per person)

SESSION 12 – November 14:  
**PERSPECTIVE II: DIVERSITY**

We will talk about the anchoring of identity in a world of flows with our guest speaker Linn Friedrichs. What is Appiah’s concept of globalization? What makes Mounk a “stranger in his own country”? What constitutes an open university community?


Watch: Anthony Appiah, *Rooted Cosmopolitanism:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inyq_tfm8jc

SESSION 13 – November 21:  
**PERSPECTIVE III: POLITICS**

This session focuses on (national) identity and how it is produced through inclusion and exclusion, namely through (national) border construction. We will discuss the social and political impact of borders. Are they a sign of strength or waning authority as Brown suggests? We will further consider Arendt and Mann’s depiction of refugees. (How) do their texts relate to the refugee situation in Europe and the US today?

Hannah Arendt, “We Refugees” in *Altogether Elsewhere*, ed. By Marc Robinson (Boston: Faber and Faber, XX), 110-117.

Thomas Mann, “The Exiled Writer’s Relationship to his Homeland” in *Altogether Elsewhere*, 100-106.

Prepare: Bring an article (that includes an image) about the refugee situation in Europe today to class. Take notes: Are there analogies/discrepancies between the assigned texts on exile and your understanding of home, exile, refuge today? And if so, what are they?

Written Assignment III: Close Reading (2-3 pgs):

- Describe how Brown, Arendt, Mann, Mounk or Mill’s documentary depict belonging.
- How does this understanding of belonging relate to your experience at home and in Berlin?
- Essay needs to include: a) evidence from text; b) a research question; c) working thesis.

SESSION 14 – November 28: **PRESENTATION OF FINAL PROJECT**

You will present your final project to the class (3-5 min.)

Prepare: 3-5 min. presentation. Email PPT to DH by noon on November 27.

SESSION15 – December 5: **FINAL DISCUSSION**

Revisit the semester and looking ahead.

Prepare: Your Global Index entry is due. Email it do dania@nyu.edu by 9am on the day of class.

December 12 **FINAL PROJECT DUE**