Course Title

Place - Building - Time: The Architecture of Berlin

Course Number
CORE-UA.9722001

Fall 2015

Syllabus last updated on: 21-Aug-2015

Instructor Contact Information
Dipl. Ing. Architekt Sigismund Sliwinski
sigismund.sliwinski@nyu.edu

Course Details
Wednesdays, 1:30pm to 4:15pm
Location of class: NYUB St. Agnes
Tour meeting points will be announced, please check your email the night before class.

Prerequisites
None

Units earned
4

Course Description
Berlin is a unique modern Metropolis. Its alternating history with often-drastic changes offers a comprehensive background to explore and investigate the nature of architecture in correlation to the various developmental processes of urban life and culture.

Architecture is embedded in the urban fabric in which place and time serve as the main threads, constantly changing their multifaceted and layered relationships. This urban fabric provides the fertile soil for urban life and culture, which literally take place on various scales between the public and the private realm, two further threads intertwined in the urban fabric.

Experiencing the city through walking is essential for learning how to observe, see and read "Place, Building and Time" in Berlin.

Tours will alternate with classroom discussions and workshops.

Course Objective
The goal of the course is to introduce students to the constituent aspects of architecture and their complex relationships to urbanism, culture and life by using Berlin and its rich history as a laboratory.
Architecture and its complex and layered relationships to the threads of urbanism can be described through the essentials Place+Program, Space+Order and Construction+Expression. A set of tools and a strategy for applying these essentials will be established in order to analyze and understand the main aspects and essentials of architecture, urbanism and culture.

By the end of the semester, students will not only have gained a better understanding of Berlin, its architecture and urban life, but also of the main historical developments of Central European Architecture and their influence on present-day architecture and culture. Additionally, students will also know more about aspects of sustainability related to architecture and urban design.

Assessment Components

Class Participation 10% of total marks

2 Assignments (6 pages each) 25% of total marks
Each assignment will be a set of 3 double-sized pages (6 normal pages) minimum.
Each assignment is an analysis of a building which mixes text with graphic components such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams.

Midterm, Case Study 1 25% of total marks
The research paper will be a set of 4 double-sized pages (8 normal pages) minimum.
It is an analysis of a building which mixes text with graphic components such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams. The midterm includes a 7-minute presentation.

Final, Case Study 2 40% of total marks
The final research paper will be a set of 5 double-sized pages (10 normal pages) minimum.
It is an analysis of a building which mixes text with graphic components such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams. The final includes a 10-minute presentation and discussion.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / answers to exam questions and his/her 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 instructor may choose to use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 94-100 & B+ &= 87-89 & C+ &= 77-79 & D+ &= 67-69 & F &= \text{below 65} \\
A- &= 90-93 & B &= 84-86 & C &= 74-76 & D &= 65-66 \\
A &= 4.0 & A- &= 3.7 & B+ &= 3.3 & B &= 3.0 & B- &= 2.7 & C+ &= 2.3 & C &= 2.0 & C- &= 1.7 & D+ &= 1.3 & D &= 1.0 & F &= 0.0.
\end{align*}
\]

Alternatively:

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in NYU Berlin’s content courses that, unlike most courses at NYU NY, meet only once per week in a double-session for three hours. 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. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach NYUB’s Director or Wellness Counselor. Your professor or NYUB’s administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from the 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. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. In German Language classes three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, faculty is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
Exams, tests, 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; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. 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 because of any religious observance should notify the Director or Assistant Director for Academics in advance of the anticipated absence. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will reschedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments.

**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 instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, 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) Unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of the Director or Assistant Director), work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(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.

**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](http://nyu.libguides.com/citations)).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor 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](http://www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies)

**Required Text(s)**

Course Reader.

Books can be bought at Saint Georges in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB. Readers can be bought at Sprintout behind Humboldt University (Georgenstraße/Universitätsstraße – S-Bahn-Bogen 190 – please allow five hours between booking and collecting readers).

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**
Supplemental texts will be posted on NYU Classes from the following sources:


**Internet Research Guidelines**
To be discussed in class.

**Additional Required Equipment**
City map with an index of street names, for example *Falk Plan*; a journal/sketchbook; trace paper; a digital camera and a transportation ticket. Appropriate clothing for tours.
Session 1 – 2 Sept 2015

Place – Building – Time: The Architecture of Berlin
Classroom at NYUB Art Studio St. Agnes

Introduction to the Course
Lecture 1
Architecture in Berlin from the Beginning to Classicism and “Everycism”
and
Intro to Diagramming, “St. Agnes”

Session 2 – 9 Sept 2015
Classroom St. Agnes

Lecture 2 with a Focus on Place & Program
Architecture in Berlin from Classicism to WWII (1800-1945)

Tour 1, City Seems: East meets West 1 and Green Buildings
Meeting point St. Agnes.
Architecture and urban development along the former wall between
Checkpoint Charlie and Berlin Mitte.

Required Reading for Session 2:

*Berlin: The Architecture Guide:*
  - From the Beginnings to Baroque, pp. 8-9, 13, 17, 20-21, 29.
  - Historism, pp. 64-65, 77, 90-91, 103.
  - National Socialism, pp. 138-139, 140-141, 147.

In Reader:
Thorsten Scheer, Josef Paul Kleihues, Paul Kahlfeldt (editors),
  - Nike Bätzner, *Housing Projects of the 1920s: A Laboratory of Social Ideas and Formal Experiment*, pp. 149-159.
  - Andrea Bärnreuther, *Berlin in the Grip of Totalitarian Planning*, pp. 201-211.


Website:
St. Agnes
http://www.st-agnes.net/
Homework for Session 3:
Assignment 1, St. Agnes
A set of 3 double-sized pages, minimum. The double-sized pages are in A3 format. Analysis of St. Agnes and its place, which mixes text with graphic components like images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams.

Material for Diagraming will be posted on NYU Classes.

Session 3 – 16 Sept 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 3 with a Focus on Space & Order,
Architecture in Berlin from WWII until Today (1945-2014)

Required Reading for Session 3:

Berlin: The Architecture Guide:
• International Style, pp. 184-185, 191, 202-203.

In Reader:
• Peter Davey and Douglas Clelland, Berlin Origins to IBA, pp. 23-28.
• 750 Years of Berlin, pp. 29-40.
• Douglas Clelland, Neubau: In our times, pp. 43-46.
• Peter Davey, Altbau: STERN work, pp. 86-89.

Bernard Leupen et al., Design and Analysis.
• Chapter 1, Design and Analysis, pp. 13-22.

• Order, pp. 240-248.
• Space, pp. 256-275.

Workshop / Diagraming on Assignment 1, St. Agnes

Session 4 – 23 Sept 2015
Tour 2, Classicism and the New Berlin, City Seem: East meets West 2
Meeting point: “Pariser Platz” in front of “Brandenburger Tor”.
Architecture and urban development around Brandenburger Tor and along the edge of the former Wall.

Required Reading for Session 4:
Assignment 1 St. Agnes is due

Homework for Session 5:
Assignment 2, Academy of Arts, Pariser Platz
Assignment is a set of 3 double-sized pages (6 normal pages) minimum
Analysis of a building, which mixes text with graphic components
such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams.
Material for diagraming will be posted on NYU Classes.

Session 5 – 30 Sept 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 4 with a Focus on Space & Order and Construction & Expression
Architecture Highlights in Berlin

Required Reading for Session 5:

In Reader:

Bernard Leupen et al., Design and Analysis.
• Chapter 2, Order and Composition, pp. 24-65.

• Structure, pp. 276-286.

Workshop / Diagraming on Assignment 2
Session 6 – 7 Oct 2015
Tour 3, Berlin 300 Years of History (1700-2000) City West
Meeting point: to be announced.
Architecture and urban development in Charlottenburg.

Required Reading for Session 6:

On NYU Classes:
Jana Richter (editor), *The Tourist City Berlin, Tourism & Architecture.*
• *Berlin is a Tourist City*, pp. 10-27.
• *Tourist Spaces and the Phenomena of their Use*, pp. 28-107.
• *History of Berlin’s Sights based on the Baedeker Travel Guide*, pp. 108-146.
• *Catalogue of Berlin’s Top Sights*, pp. 146-173.

Assignment 2 is due, presentation with discussion.
Assignment is a set of 3 double-sized pages (6 normal pages) minimum
Analysis of a building, which mixes text with graphic components
such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams.
Material for diagraming will be posted on NYU Classes.

Case Study 1 must be selected and cleared with the professor;
work on Case Study 1 begins with Diagramming homework.

Session 7 – 14 Oct 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 5 and Workshop
Design & Architecture

Required Reading for Session 7:

In Reader:
• *Design*, pp. 136-141.

On NYU Classes:
Leland M. Roth, *Understanding Architecture, its Elements, History and Meaning*,
• Part 1, *The Elements of Architecture*,
“Commoditie”, “Firmness” and “Delight”, pp. 6-55.

Workshop / Diagraming on Case Study 1

21 Oct 2015: No Class – Fall Break
Session 8 – 28 Oct 2015
Tour 4, Berlin City East
Meeting point will be announced.

Required Reading for Session 8:

In Reader:
• Peter Buchanan, Green Culture and the Evolution of Architecture, pp. 10-29.
• Peter Buchanan, The Ten Shades, pp. 30-39.

On NYU Classes:
• Introduction, pp. 1-9.
• 1 Site and Land Use, pp. 11-50.

Session 9 – 4 Nov 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 6 and Workshop
Architecture and Sustainability

Required Reading for Session 9:

On NYU Classes:
• 2 Community, pp. 51-93.
• 3 Health and Well-Being, pp. 95-142.

Individual meetings on Case Study 1

Session 10 – 11 Nov 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Midterm Presentation, Case Study 1 with discussion
Case Study 1: Research paper will be a set of 4 double-sized pages (8 normal pages) minimum.
Analysis of a building, which mixes text with graphic components such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams and including a 7-minute presentation.

Case Study 2 must be selected and cleared with the professor; work on Case Study 2 begins.
Reading in relation to your Case Study 2 topic to be discussed with the professor.
Session 11 – 18 Nov 2015

Tour 5, Structuralism and the Timeless Way of Building
Meeting point: Eisenzahnstr. 37, Berlin Wilmersdorf, S-Bahnhof Hohenzollerndamm and visit of other buildings near by.
Architecture and urban development in the area of the City West.

Required Reading for Session 11:

On NYU Classes:
• The Structuralist Activity and Architecture, pp. 20-95.

Session 12 – 25 Nov 2015

Classroom St. Agnes
Lecture 7 and Workshop
Architecture as a Whole

Required Reading for Session 12:

On NYU Classes:
• Introduction to Design, pp. 9-32.
• Archetypes, Form, Materials, Climate, Orientation, pp. 33-124.

Workshop / Diagraming on Case Study 2
Reading in relation to Case Study 2 to be discussed with the professor.

Session 13 – 2 Dec 2015

Classroom St. Agnes
Tour 6 or Discussion and Workshop, depending on the weather

Required Reading for Session 13:

In Reader:
• Truth, pp. 289-303.

On NYU Classes:
Paul Jaques Grillo, What is Design?

Individual meetings on Case Study 2
Reading in relation to Case Study 2 to be discussed with the professor.
Session 14 – 9 Dec 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Discussion and Workshop

Required Reading for Session 13:

On NYU Classes:

Individual meetings on Case Study 2
Reading in relation to Case Study 2 to be discussed with the professor.

Session 15 – 16 Dec 2015
Classroom St. Agnes
Final Presentation,
Case Study 2: Research paper will be a set of 5 double-sized pages (10 normal pages) minimum.
Analysis of a building, which mixes text with graphic components such as images, sketches and/or photos as well as diagrams and including a 10-minute presentation and discussion.

Classroom Etiquette
No cell phone use during class time. Computers may only be used offline for course work.

Required Co-Curricular Activities
To be announced in class.

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities
To be announced in class.

Your Instructor
Professor Sigismund Sliwinski (Dipl. Ing. Architekt) is a practicing architect in Berlin. His projects range from private to institutional work. His current projects include the conversion of a former foundry into a center for acting and dancing, a Waldorf School, as well as further private projects. He has won several competitions, has published and exhibited. He has taught Architecture and Design in Berlin and at several universities in the US, such as UT Knoxville, UVA Charlottesville and Parsons, New York. His research project on sustainability, originally commissioned by the WWF, Germany, has been transferred into a teaching strategy.