Global Connections – Berlin Trends

Course Number
SCA-UA 9634 – 004

Instructor Contact Information
Ares Kalandides (Ph.D)
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Course Details
Spring 2016
Monday, 2pm – 4:45pm
Location of class: Academic Center, Room Tempelhof (tbc)

Prerequisites
none

Units earned
4

Course Description
This course examines current urban development in Berlin and its connections to worldwide phenomena. It focuses on the way that different social groups (according to class, milieu, origin, gender or sexuality) appropriate urban space and constitute place-specific identities. It uses the city of Berlin with its multiple layers of history as a laboratory for contemporary urban research with historical, empirical and theoretical material. We will study key debates on urban developments, partly through field visits. We sill research issues of housing, migration and gentrification and will search for the creative and the sustainable city. You will be introduced to the contemporary discourses on those trends and to new ways of reading and seeing a city.

After a snapshot of the current situation, and with a glance at Berlin’s development since the 19th century, the first classes offer a short introduction to Berlin in the years that followed German reunification (1990) and focus on the political powers and social struggles that have shaped it: the planning of reunification, large iconic projects and urban regeneration are some of the issues discussed here.

The next block concentrates on how Berlin was reshaped in the new millennium to become one of the most vibrant, yet contradictory, cities in Europe. Here we focus on the images, discourses, practices and materialities of gentrification, as well as the role of the creative milieus in it.

A further block is dedicated to the way in which different identities are manifested in the city, looks for the signifiers of social spatial concentrations and discusses possible explanations behind them. It looks at the issue from several points of view and tries to discern differences in
class (deprived neighborhoods), origin (ethnic neighborhoods), sexuality (gay and lesbian neighborhoods), etc.
Finally, the class closes with a discussion on governance in Berlin, the role of urban movements, practices of resistance, modes of participation and the "Right to the City".

Course Objective
This course is based on theoretical approaches, debates and personal observations. At the end of this course you will:
- have the tools to analyze, to "read and see" Berlin and to understand what is happening beneath the surface.
- be familiar with common terms in urbanism and will know how to use them properly.
- be able to link your everyday life experience to the academic discourse on cities.

Assessment Components
Active class participation (+ weekly assignments): 20%
Midterm exam (session 6): 10%
Final exam: 25%
Preliminary research paper (session 10; 1,500 - 2,000 words): 15%
Final research paper (session 15; 2,500 - 3,000 words): 30%

Readings/Assignments
Every session is accompanied by readings – approximately 3 papers or 50 pages per session. Papers for the first 5 sessions will be uploaded to NYU Classes. After that you are expected to use the NYU library services. One text will always be “basic reading” and students are expected to read it in depth and be able to discuss it in class. Additional reading will be marked as such. Please choose 3-5 takeaways from each paper that have caught your attention and that you would like to discuss in class. Send these to your professor 24 hours before class at the latest.

Midterm exam
Session 6 is an exam based on material from all 5 previous sessions. (150 minutes)

Final exam
The last session is an exam based on material from all sessions. (150 minutes)

Individual research
This is the backbone of the course and particular attention should be paid when choosing the subject, conducting the research and composing the essay.
a) Subject. You can choose any subject from the syllabus and focus on a particular case study. If you are interested in a subject that is not in the syllabus, please contact your instructor to define whether this fits into the course. When choosing a subject pay attention to certain elements: Is it linked to the course syllabus? Is it realistic that I can conduct research in one semester? Will I have access to documents in English?
b) Research. Base your research on observation. This should be undertaken in a systematic way. Ask your professor if you are not sure. If you need to conduct interviews, don't leave it
until the end. Interview partners are often hard to reach. It is recommended that you plan all interviews in the first half of the course.

c) Composition. The composition will take place in two parts: You are expected to deliver a preliminary essay by session 10 (1,500 - 2,000 words). This can still be explorative in style, but your research question(s), your research method(s), your observations, link to the course content, references and preliminary findings should already be clear. Your final essay (2,500 - 3,000 words) will elaborate the preliminary one and needs to be more focused on answering a clearly stated research question. Both essays need to include the above-mentioned elements: research question; research methods; results from observations, interviews and/or readings respectively; findings; open questions/further research recommendations; references/literature.

NYU Berlin offers a workshop in academic writing and it is highly recommended that students attend it.

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 use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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\begin{align*}
A & = 94-100 \\
B & = 84-86 \\
C & = 74-76 \\
D & = 65-66 \\
F & = \text{below 65}
\end{align*}
\]

Alternatively:

\[
\begin{align*}
A & = 4.0 \\
A- & = 3.7 \\
B+ & = 3.3 \\
B & = 3.0 \\
B- & = 2.7 \\
C+ & = 2.3 \\
C & = 2.0 \\
C- & = 1.7 \\
D+ & = 1.3 \\
D & = 1.0 \\
F & = 0.0
\end{align*}
\]
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. 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. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Assistant Director for Academics or the Arts Coordinator, who will inform your professors.

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 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 their instructor AND NYUB’s Academic Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will re-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.

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, 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.

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 (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/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).

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

Internet Research Guidelines
to be discussed in class

Session 1: 1 Feb 2016
Introduction to the main issues and concepts of the course. Urban development in Berlin since the 19th century. Suggestions for individual research projects.
Session 2: 8 Feb 2016
Field trip: Introduction to urban development in Berlin. Visit to the Berlin Planning Department (Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt, Am Köllnischen Park 3).
Basic Reading:
Additional Reading:

Session 3: 15 Feb 2016
Discussion on possible individual research projects.
Basic Reading:
Additional reading:

Session 4: 22 Feb 2016
Field trip: Prenzlauer Berg. Gentrification in a local and global context.
Final date for decision on individual research projects.
Basic Reading:
Additional reading:
Session 5: 29 Feb 2016
The discovery of Berlin as a “creative city”. Social and economic consequences of the creative economy. Introduction to urban development in Berlin since 1990 (II). Progress of individual research projects.
Basic Reading
Additional Reading:

Session 6: 7 Mar 2016
Midterm Exam

Session 7: 14 Mar 2016
Migrant Communities. Exclusion/Inclusion; Integration. Progress of individual research projects.
Basic Reading:
Additional Reading:

Session 8: 21 Mar 2016
Basic Reading:
Additional Reading:
Session 9: 4 Apr 2016
Field Trip: Kreuzberg. New forms of community building: Interim uses and urban gardening. Local initiatives and public space.

Basic Reading:

Additional Reading:

Session 10: 11 Apr 2016

Basic Reading:

Additional Reading:

Session 11: 18 Apr 2016
Field Trip: former Tempelhof airport development area.

Basic Reading:

Additional Reading
Session 12: 25 Apr 2016
Field trip: Mauerpark and Wedding. Public Spaces and Social housing.
Progress of individual research projects.
Basic Reading:
Additional Reading:

Session 13: 2 May 2016
Field Trip: Development along the Spree river,
Final individual research paper due.
Basic Reading:
Additional Reading:
- Huron, A. (2015), "Working with Strangers in Saturated Space: Reclaiming and Maintaining the Urban Commons", Antipode, first published online

Session 14: 9 May 2016
Gender, sexuality and space: Women at work and queer neighborhoods.
Basic Reading:
Additional Reading (please choose 2):

Session 15: 13 May 2016 (Make-up Friday!)
Final exam.
**Classroom Etiquette**
You are expected to be present and active in class, pay attention to your professor and your fellow students, participate in discussions and ask questions. If a student for any reason is not feeling well, she or he should contact the professor before class and ask to be excused. A field trip is not leisure time. You are expected to pay attention as you do in class. Students that have missed classes for any reason (excused or unexcused) are expected to compare notes with their fellow students.

We generally discourage students from using computers in the classroom except when indicated otherwise. Any use of mobile devices, in particular the use of social media, chat, etc. is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Cell phones need to be switched off when class begins and can only be switched on again during break.

No eating is allowed in the classroom, even during breaks. Water, soda or hot drinks are permitted.

**Your Instructor**
Professor Ares Kalandides (PhD) is the founder and CEO of the Berlin-based company INPOLIS, which offers consulting services on urban development. He is also a director of the Institute of Place Management (Manchester, UK) and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Place Management and Development. He teaches Creative Economy at the Hertie School of Governance and Urban Economics at TU Berlin. He has served as a member of the board of Create Berlin, member of the committee on creative industries at the Berlin Chamber of Industry and Commerce, as well as a member of the Arts Council, Berlin. He has worked in several places around the globe including South America, Africa, Australia, Asia and Europe.