This course explores the remnants of Hitler’s capital and the crimes planned within it through visits to historical sites in contemporary Berlin including the former Luftwaffe and Propaganda ministries, the 1936 Olympic Stadium, the Wannsee Conference villa, Sachsenhausen concentration camp and several surviving bunker complexes. Readings will center on diaries and memoirs of Berlin life between 1933 and 1945 written from a variety of perspectives: that of an American journalist, a young Jewish woman, and an aristocratic member of Berlin high society.

Course requirements: Class members are expected to attend all sessions, do the reading on time and participate in class discussions (30% of grade). In addition, students will write 4 two-page response papers (double-spaced, 12 point) on one of the week’s readings. Each paper should address some aspect of the previous week’s material that the writer found surprising, provocative or inspiring. These papers are due in my box at the Academic Center, printed out, by 11am on the following Tuesdays: July 12, July 19, July 26, August 2 (30% of grade). Finally, a 10 page take home final is due in class on Monday, August 15 (40% of grade). Any cases of plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment in question and the reporting of the incident to the appropriate dean of your college.

THE USE OF ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING COMPUTERS AND I-PHONES, DURING CLASS TIME INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

While it is possible that you might be able to find the three books used in the course in Berlin, it is highly recommended that you purchase them in the U.S. beforehand and bring them with you to Germany. All are available on amazon.com. If you do not wish to keep them, they can most likely be sold to the English-language bookstore St. George’s (Wörtherstrasse 27, Prenzlauer Berg) after the program is over.

Professor Ertman can best be reached by e-mail (te11@nyu.edu). If you wish to speak to him please make an appointment either just before or after class.
SCHEDULE OF TOURS AND READINGS

Week 1:  (Friday, July 8): Course Introduction; Film *Berlin wie es war* (1941/1950).


Week 2:  (July 11): Visit to former *Reichssportfeld* (Olympic Stadium).

(July 12): Film *Olympia* (1936/1938).


Week 3:  (July 18): Visit to concentration camp *Sachsenhausen* in *Oranienburg*.

(July 19): Visit to Deportation Memorial in Grunewald and the Haus der Wannseekonferenz in Wannsee.


Week 4:  (July 25): Walking tour of the Scheunenviertel/Hackescher Markt area including the Rosenstrasse, the Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt, Grosse Hamburgerstrasse and the Oranienburgerstrasse Synagogue.

(July 26): Film *Marriage in the Shadows* (1948)


Week 5:  (August 1): Walking Tour of Third Reich Government District (former Gestapo Headquarters, Luftwaffe and Propaganda Ministries, site of Reichskanzlei).

(August 2): Visit to the giant Luftschutzbunker (air raid shelter) and ruins of the Flakturm (anti-aircraft tower) at Gesundbrunnen/Humboldthain.

Week 6:  (August 8): Visit to Bendler-Block, former Wehrmacht headquarters.

(August 9): Film Der Untergang (“Downfall”-2004).


Week 7:  (August 15): Film Germany Year Zero (1948)/ TAKE HOME EXAMS DUE!