Course Title

Global Connections – Berlin Spaces

Course Number
SCA-UA 9634

Spring 2020

Syllabus last updated on: 9-Dec-2019

Lecturer Contact Information
TBA

Course Details
Monday, 2:00pm to 4:45pm

Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class. Please double check whether your class takes place at the Academic Center (BLAC – Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin) or at St. Agnes (SNTA – Alexandrinenstraße 118–121, 10969 Berlin).

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 politics of urban development and the ways in which different social groups appropriate urban space and constitute place-specific identities.

The course uses the city of Berlin with its multiple layers of history as a laboratory for contemporary urban research with historical, empirical and theoretical material. Students will be introduced to useful methods of research, contemporary discourses, central concepts and key thinkers in the field. The following topics will be covered: citizen participation, urban social movements, urban commons, urban citizenship, housing, gentrification, placemaking, the ‘creative city’, migration, urban tourism and city marketing.

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 other cities;

- 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: 10%
Weekly reading responses*: 20%
Midterm exam** (session 7): 10%
Individual research paper***, 3,000-3,500 words (session 14): 35%
Final exam**** (session 15): 25%

*Readings/Assignments
Every session is accompanied by readings. Papers can be accessed on NYU library services. Students are expected to prepare readings in depth and be able to discuss them in class. Any additional reading will be marked as such. Please send a one-page summary (per reading) to your professor by Friday before class via NYU Classes.

**Midterm exam
Session 7 is an exam, in which students will be asked to answer comprehension questions and integrate readings and lectures from all 6 previous sessions (120 minutes).

***Individual research paper
Particular attention should be paid when choosing the subject, conducting the research and composing the essay (3,000 - 3,500 words). Additional essay guides and grading criteria can be found under NYU Classes/Syllabus. The composition will take place in two parts: You are expected to deliver a draft of your essay by Session 7 (1,500 - 2,000 words) via NYU Classes. This can still be explorative in style, but your research question(s), your research method(s), literature review, your preliminary case study observations, link to the course content, references and preliminary findings should already be clear. Your final essay, due by Session 14, will elaborate the preliminary one (3,000 - 3,500 words) and should be sent via NYU Classes.

****Final exam
The last session is an exam in which students will be asked to answer comprehension questions and integrate readings and lectures from all sessions (120 minutes).

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

**Required Text(s)**
Electronic Resources (via NYU Classes / NYU Library). Required texts are listed under each session.

[Enter titles of books that are not available electronically and need to be purchased by your students here.]

One copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYU Berlin's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.
Please follow this link for the NYU Berlin Library Catalogue or the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)


Internet Research Guidelines
to be discussed in class

Additional Required Equipment
none

Session 1 – Feb 3
Introduction to the course. Introduction to Berlin.
Main concepts: Urban studies, urban planning, urban geography, urban sociology, urban anthropology, etc.
Individual research/essay: List of possible general topics.

Session 2 – Feb 10
Berlin after the Wall.
Main concepts: Neoliberalism
Key thinkers: David Harvey
Methods: How to do online research.
Individual research/essay: First ideas on possible general topics. Request office hours.
Readings:

Session 3 – Feb 17
Urban renewal in Berlin.
Main concepts: Gentrification
Key thinkers: Neil Smith
Individual research/essay: Choice of general topic.
Readings:

Session 4 – Feb 24
Field trip Prenzlauer Berg.
Methods: Introduction to ethnographic research.
Individual research/essay: Preliminary literature review of general topic due.
Readings:

Session 5 – Mar 2
Transnational migration in Berlin.
Main concepts: Place/space/identity
Key thinkers: Doreen Massey
Methods: Introduction to mapping I
Individual research/essay: Choice of case study.
Readings:

Session 6 – Mar 9
Field trip Kreuzberg.
Individual research/essay: Request office hours.
Readings:

**Session 7 – Mar 16**
Midterm exam
*Individual research/essay: Preliminary essay due.*

***SEMESTER BREAK*** **NO CLASS Mar 23**

**Session 8 – Mar 30**
The ‘creative’ Berlin.
*Main concepts:* Gender
*Key thinkers:* Angela McRobbie; Nancy Frazer; Linda McDowell
*Methods:* Introduction to mapping II
*Individual research/essay:* Discussion on progress.
*Readings:*

***MAKEUP FRIDAY*** **Session 9 – Apr 3**
Housing in Berlin.
*Main concepts:* Financialization
*Key thinkers:* Friedrich Engels
*Individual research/essay:* Discussion on progress.
*Readings:*

**Session 10 – Apr 6**
Field trip: Wedding.
*Individual research/essay:* Case study (descriptive/narrative) due.
*Readings:*


***Apr 13 – Public holiday – NO CLASS***

**Session 11 – April 20**
Participation in urban development in Berlin I.
*Main concepts:* Urban social movements; urban citizenship
*Key thinkers:* Henri Lefebvre
*Individual research/essay:* Request office hours.
*Readings:*

**Session 12 – April 27**
Participation in urban development in Berlin II.
*Main concepts:* Urban commons; placemaking.
*Key thinkers:* Jane Jacobs
*Individual research/essay:* Discussion on progress.
*Readings:*

**Session 13 – May 4**
‘New urban tourism’ in Berlin.
*Main concepts:* Globalization; Place marketing
*Key thinkers:* Saskia Sassen; John Urry
*Individual research/essay:* Discussion on progress.
*Readings:*

**Session 14 – May 11**
Field trip: City Model.
*Individual research/essay:* Final paper due.
Readings:

**Session 15 – May 18**
Final exam

**Classroom Etiquette**
The use of computers and tablets is only allowed in the classroom when indicated. Exceptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center. Any unsolicited use of mobile devices, in particular the use of social media, chat, etc. is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated. Cellphones must be switched off when class begins and can only be switched on again during break. Exceptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center.

No eating is allowed in classroom, even during breaks. Water, soda or hot drinks are permitted. Exceptions will be made if health issues are involved.

For further information on Classroom Etiquette please see NYU Classes/Syllabus.

**Suggested Co-Curricular Activities**
"Milestones of Berlin"
Friday, Feb 14: Intro & Vietnamese Berlin Walk
Friday, Feb 21: Turkish Berlin Walk & Black Histories in Berlin Walk (tbc)
Friday, Feb 28: LGBTQI+ in Berlin Walk & Black Histories in Berlin Walk (tbc)
Friday, Mar 13: Jewish Berlin Walk
Tuesday, Mar 17: Concluding Seminar

**Your Lecturer**
Ares Kalandides (M.A. French studies, M.Sc. Urban and Regional Planning, Ph.D Urban and Regional Planning) is Professor of Place Management and director of the Institute of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University (UK). He is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Place Management and Development and of the Journal Γεωγραφίες/Geographies (Greece). He has taught at NYU Berlin (Met Studies) since September 2012 and also teaches Political Economy at the international Master's Program “Urban Management” at the Berlin University of Technology. He has worked in several places
around the globe including South America, Africa, Australia and Europe. Kalandides is a trained conflict mediator and moderator. He is also the founder and CEO of the Berlin-based consultancy in urban development Inpolis Urbanism.

**Relevant publications:**


Academic Policies

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:

- A = 94-100 or 4.0
- A- = 90-93 or 3.7
- B+ = 87-89 or 3.3
- B = 84-86 or 3.0
- B- = 80-83 or 2.7
- C+ = 77-79 or 2.3
- C = 74-76 or 2.0
- C- = 70-73 or 1.7
- D+ = 67-69 or 1.3
- D = 65-66 or 1.0
- F = below 65 or 0

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, Moses Center accommodations, 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. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. 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.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.

**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 [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#).

**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 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.

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.

Note that some assignments in the course may be checked for plagiarism by using TurnItIn or other another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

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 please follow the link to NYU Global's academic policies.