



Course Title

Place – Building – Time.

The Architecture of Berlin: Innovations, Confrontations and Redefinitions

Course Number

SOC-UA.9941D01, ARTH-UA.9651D01

Spring 2020

Syllabus last updated on: [14-Jan-2020]

Lecturer Contact Information

TBA

Course Details

Mondays, 2:00pm to 4:45pm

Tour meeting locations will be announced in class or please check your email the day before the class.

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

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Course Description

Berlin's urban landscape and architectural history reflect the unique and dramatic history of this metropolis. Rarely has any city experienced equally radical waves of growth and destruction, of innovation and fragmentation and of opposing attempts at urban redefinition. Particularly in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the city developed into a cultural and industrial metropolis. Berlin, the latecomer among European metropolitan cities, became a veritable world city with an outstanding heritage of baroque, classicist and modern architecture. Destruction during the Second World War and the separation of the city led to opposing planning concepts for its reconstruction, which contributed to significant new layers of the urban pattern. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, a major building boom made Berlin a hotspot for

often controversial building and planning debates. This course will enable students to see, describe and understand the complex historical, cultural and social conditions of the different layers of Berlin's architecture.

Course Objective

1. This course is an introduction to Berlin's architectural history, as well as an introduction to methods of describing and reflecting upon architecture and built urban spaces. Students will gain a differentiated understanding of the form, function and style categories used in art history. They will become familiarized with the proper terminology and will be trained in using historical sources such as historical city plans and historical illustrations.
2. By understanding architecture and urban space not only in its aesthetic value, but also in its political, social and cultural context, the course will lead to complex approaches to urban history and architecture.

Assessment Components

Class Participation comprises 15% of the total grade.

5 Reading Response Papers of 1 page each and 6 Brief Verbal Introductions to case studies make up 15% of the total grade.

Reading Responses: Students should identify an idea or argument in the reading that has surprised, perplexed or inspired them. Reading responses should be submitted to the instructor by email the day before the class.

Case Studies: Students should give brief introductions to monuments discussed during the tours.

The midterm essay of 5 pages comprises 15% of the total grade. Midterm essays must be submitted via Email and as hardcopies during session 7.

One research paper of 10 to 15 pages comprises 30% of the total grade. The research papers must be submitted via Email and as a hard copy during session 14.

The final exam comprises 25% of the total grade. This will be a short written exam (about 45 minutes) concerning the major monuments discussed in the course.

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)

Course Reader on NYU Classes.

Rainer Haubrich / Hans Wolfgang Hoffmann / Philipp Meuser: *Berlin. The Architecture Guide*, Verlagshaus Braun, Berlin 2012. **(No need to purchase this book, your professor will provide loan copies that you need to return at the end of the semester.)**

Brian Ladd: *The Ghosts of Berlin. Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1997.

This book is available as an ebook through the NYU library:
(<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/nyulibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=408534>).

[NYU Berlin Library Catalogue](#) or follow the link on NYU Berlin's website (Academics /Facilities & Services).

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.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)

Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000.

Bernd Stöver: *Berlin. A Short History*, C.H.Beck, München 2013.

James Stevens Curl: *A Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2006.

Barry Bergdoll: *Karl Friedrich Schinkel: An Architecture for Prussia*, Rizzoli, New York 1994.

Wolfgang Sonne: "Berlin. Capital under Changing Political Regimes", in: David L.A. Gordon (Ed.): *Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities*, Routledge, New York 2006, pp. 196 – 212.

Internet Research Guidelines

To be discussed in class

Additional Required Equipment

None

Session 1 – Monday, 3 Feb 2020

General Introduction to the course:

The Architecture of Berlin: Innovations, Confrontations and Redefinitions

Introduction to the history and architectural history of Berlin

Short Excursion: First steps into Berlin's history

Session 2 – 10 Monday, Feb 2020

From the Traces of the Medieval City to the Baroque Capital Architecture Terminology 1

Reading:

Rainer Haubrich / Hans Wolfgang Hoffmann / Philipp Meuser: *Berlin. The Architecture Guide*, Verlagshaus Braun, Berlin 2012, pp. 34-35, 38-39, 42-43.

Session 3 – Monday, 17 Feb 2020

Schinkel's Berlin: From Classicism to Historicism

Architecture Terminology 2

Reading:

Bernd Stöver: *Berlin. A Short History*, C.H.Beck, München 2013, pp. 7-36.

Harald Bodenschatz: *Berlin Urban Design. A Brief History of a European City*, DOM Publishers, Berlin 2013, pp. 14-28.

Barry Bergdoll: *Karl Friedrich Schinkel: An Architecture for Prussia*, Rizzoli, New York 1994, pp. 45-102.

Assignments: Reading Response 1 due this session.

Session 4 – Monday, 24 Feb 2020

Tour 1: Tour through the Historic City Center

Reading:

Peter Davey / Doug Clelland: "Berlin Origins to IBA; 750 Years of Berlin", in: *Architectural Review*, CLXXXI, April 1987, pp. 23-40.

Bernd Stöver: *Berlin. A Short History*, C.H.Beck, München 2013, pp. 37-52.

Assignments: Brief verbal introduction to chosen monuments. Choose one case study based on Sessions 2 and 3: Practice using the proper terminology. Assignment is due during this session.

Session 5 – Monday, 2 Mar 2020

The Rise of the Modern City

Reading:

Harald Bodenschatz: *Berlin Urban Design. A Brief History of a European City*, DOM Publishers, Berlin 2013, pp. 29-42.

Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani: "Modernism, Lifestyle Reforms, City and Nature", in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 29-40.

Assignments: Reading Response 2 due this session.

Session 6 – Monday, 9 Mar 2020

Housing Reform between 1900 and 1930

Reading:

Barbara Miller Lane: *Architecture and Politics in Germany 1918-1945*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts 1985, pp. 87-124.

Manfred Speidel: "Bruno Taut and Berlin Architecture", in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 105-120.

Assignments: Reading Response 3 due this session.

Session 7 – Monday, 16 Mar 2020

Tour 2: From the Gründerzeit Tenement Housing to Bruno Taut's Housing Estates

Reading:

Nike Bätzner: "Housing Projects of the 1920s. A Laboratory of Social Ideas and Formal Experiment", in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 149-160.

Assignments: Choose one case study based on Session 5: Practice describing architecture by using the proper terminology and by explaining stylistic categories. Analyze your case study as a typical example of housing architecture between 1900 and 1930. Assignment is due during this session.

Midterm Essay due (based on topics to be discussed individually with the instructor)

Monday, 23 Mar 2020

No class – Spring Break

Session 8 – Monday, 30 Mar 2020

Berlin under the NS-Regime

Reading:

Barbara Miller Lane: *Architecture and Politics in Germany 1918-1945*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts 1985, pp. 147-167.

Andrea Mesecke: "The Specificity of Prestige Architecture in the Nazi Period", in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 187-199.

Andrea Bärnreuther: "Berlin in the Grip of Totalitarian Planning. Functionalism in Urban Design between Hostility to the City, Megalomania and Ideas of Order on a New Style", in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 200-211.

Assignment: Reading Response 4 due this session.

Session 9 – Make-up-Day (for 13 Apr): Friday, 3 Apr 2020

Tour 3: Traces of NS-Berlin

Reading:

Bernd Stöver: *Berlin. A Short History*, C.H. Beck, Munich 2013, pp. 70-82.

Brian Ladd: *The Ghosts of Berlin. Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1997, pp. 126-173.

Assignments: Choose one case study based on session 8. Practice describing architecture. Analyze your case study as an example of NS-architecture. Assignment is due during this session.

Session 10 – Monday, 06 Apr 2020 Cold War Confrontations

Reading:

Klaus von Beyme: “Ideas for a Capital City in East and West”, in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 238-249.

Dorothea Tscheschner: “Sixteen Principles of Urban Design and the Athens Charter?”, in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 258-269.

Brian Ladd: *The Ghosts of Berlin. Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1997, pp. 174-215.

Bernd Stöver: *Berlin. A Short History*, C.H.Beck, München 2013, pp. 82-137.

Assignment: Reading Response 5 due this session.

Monday, 13 Apr 2020 No class. Public Holiday

Session 11 – Monday, 20 Apr 2020 Tour 4: East-West Perspectives: Karl-Marx-Allee / City West

Reading:

Dieter Hoffmann-Axthelm: “Locational Shift – The 1960s: City Center Planning in East and West”, in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 294-305.

Assignments: Choose one case study based on Session 10: Practice describing architecture. Analyze your case study as an example of post-war architecture regarding the specific political and cultural conditions. Assignment is due during this session.

Session 12 – Monday, 27 Apr 2020 Tour 5: Western Perspectives: Hansaviertel / City-West / Kulturforum

Reading:

Martin Kieren: "The Legacy of Modernism – Curse or Blessing", in: Thorsten Scheer / Josef Paul Kleihues / Paul Kahlfeldt (Editors): *City of Architecture. Architecture of the City*, Nikolaische Buchhandlung, Berlin 2000, pp. 282-293.

Assignments: Choose one case study based on the reading for session 10. Practice describing architecture and analyze your case study as a typical example of postmodern architecture. Assignment is due during this session.

Session 13 – Monday, 4 May 2020

Tour 6: The New Berlin between Innovation and Reconstruction

Reading:

Claire Colomb: "Requiem for a Lost Palace", in: *Planning Perspectives*, 22 (3), pp. 283-323.

Bruno Flierl: "On the Significance – Historically and within the City Surroundings – of the Area Mitte Spreeinsel in Berlin", in: Thomas Flierl / Hermann Parzinger (Eds.): *Humboldt Forum Berlin. The Project*, Berlin 2009, pp. 108-115.

Hans Stimmann: "Outstanding!", in: Thomas Flierl / Hermann Parzinger (Eds.): *Humboldt Forum Berlin. The Project*, Berlin 2009, pp.137-138.

Assignments: Choose one case study based on Session 13. Analyze your case study and refer to recent and contemporary discourses on reconstruction, the re-discovery of the European city and innovative approaches to urban design. Assignment is due during this session.

Session 14 – Make-up-Day (for 11 May): Thursday, 07 May 2020

Consultation / Individual Research Project Discussions

Monday, 11 May 2020

No class

Session 15 – Monday, 18 May 2020

Course Summary and **Exam**.

Exam: Short written exam (about 45 minutes) concerned with the major monuments discussed in the course.

Submission of Research Papers (papers based on topics to be discussed individually with the instructor)

Classroom Etiquette

To be addressed in class

Suggested Co-Curricular Activities

To be announced in class

Your Lecturer

Dr. phil. habil. Paul Sigel is an art historian with a special focus on architectural and urban history. He received his PhD at the University of Tübingen 1997 and submitted his *Habilitation* (professorial dissertation) at the Technical University of Dresden 2010. He has taught as a guest professor at the TU Dresden, the Center for Metropolitan Studies at the TU Berlin and the HafenCity University Hamburg. His main areas of research are architectural history and theory from the 19th century to today, architecture and national representation, and discourses on urban identity.

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](#).