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, 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 lead a class discussion and 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 10am on the following days: June 6, 13, 20, 27 (30% of grade). Finally, a 5-6 page take home final is due in class on Friday, July 5 (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: (May 31): Walking Tour of Third Reich Government District (former Gestapo Headquarters, Luftwaffe and Propaganda Ministries, site of Reichskanzlei).


(June 6): Discussion of Larson. Film Berlin As It Was (1941). 1st Paper Due in My Box 10am.

Reading: Larson, In the Garden of Beasts, pp. 155-366.

Week 3: (June 12): Walking tour of the Scheunenviertel/Hackescher Markt area including the Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt.

(June 13): Discussion of Jalowicz Simon. Film Marriage in the Shadows (1948). 2nd Paper Due in My Box 10am.


Week 4: (June 19): Visit to Liebermann Villa and Haus der Wannseekonferenz (to 6pm).


Week 5: (June 26): **Class will meet from 3:30 to 6:30** to allow a visit to the giant Luftschutzbunker (air raid shelter) and Flakturm (anti-aircraft tower) at Gesundbrunnen/Humboldthain.


Week 6:  (July 3): Visit to German-Russian Museum Karlshorst (Site of German Surrender).

(July 4): Discussion of Vassiltchikov. Film Germany Year Zero (1948).


TAKE HOME EXAMS DUE FRIDAY, JULY 5 AT FAREWELL DINNER