Course Title
Cities, Communities, and Urban Life: Exploring Historical and Contemporary Berlin

Course Number
GERM-UA 9293-001 (2721); HIST-UA 9460-001 (2777); SOC-UA 9460-001 (2776)

Summer 2018

Syllabus last updated on 28-May-2018

Instructor Contact Information
Dr. Martin Jander
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Course Details
Wednesdays, 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Thursdays, 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Location: NYU Berlin Academic Center, Room: “Pankow” (BLAC 204) and many other locations in the city of Berlin.

Prerequisites
Interest in the history of Germany and Berlin; interest in questions of public memory and urban design; motivation to engage with sites, their development, meaning and architecture; willingness to contribute to discussions during excursions as well as in class.

Units earned
4

Course Description
Berlin was a focal point of 20th century German, European, and international history. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the city has undergone profound transformation, redefining both its relationship with the past and its identity in the present. This course will introduce you to historical and contemporary Berlin by exploring key sites connected with the Imperial Germany, Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, the division of Germany, as well as the post-Wall period. Organized chronologically, the course will give you the opportunity to gradually expand your knowledge of the city and its history. At the same time, a major focus will be the overlaying of past and present in Berlin’s cityscape and the processes of repurposing and memorialization that these illustrate. In addition to the spatial experience of the sites, we will use testimonial accounts, historiographical texts as well as artistic responses to critically engage with the palimpsest of Berlin’s urban structure.
Course Objective
Explore key sites of German history; trace the transformation of Berlin since 1900; analyze and interpret urban space; use testimonial, historiographical, and artistic material for contextualization.

Assessment Components

Class participation: 20% of total grade
Students are expected to attend all sessions, do the reading on time, and productively contribute to discussion on site as well as in class and to demonstrate knowledge of the prescribed texts.

1 Midterm Essay (5-6 pages, double spaced, standard font and margins) 25% of total grade
Students will read the book “The Ghosts of Berlin” by Brian Ladd and give an extended review. The book can be found in the NYU Berlin’s Reading Room and at in the Internet at “ebookcentral”: (https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/nyulibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=408534).
The paper is due to 1.30 pm on June 14th. Students bring a printed version and hand it to the instructor. Students should read “A brief guide to writing the history paper” (http://hwpi.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/bg_writing_history.pdf) before they write their midterm essay.

1 Report of a site visit (2 pages, double spaced, standard font and margins): 20%
After each visit to a site one or two students will write a summary of the visit. They will summarize the visit and add their reflections. These summaries will be presented to the group at the beginning of the following session. They bring these printed summaries to the session and give a copy of it to all the students and the instructor.

1 Final Paper (8-10 pages, double spaced, standard font and margins): 35%
In the final paper, students will give an extended review of one book dealing with history of Berlin, Germany or Europe that they think is very interesting. The book that you will review will be based on your own suggestion, to be confirmed by the course instructor. For your extended review you will be required to consult and reference the relevant scholarly literature. The deadline for submission is 1.30pm on 4th July (in paper before the session).

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:

\[
\begin{align*}
& A = 94-100 \\
& A- = 90-93 \\
& B+ = 87-89 \\
& B = 84-86 \\
& B- = 80-83 \\
& C+ = 77-79 \\
& C = 74-76 \\
& C- = 71-73 \\
& D+ = 67-69 \\
& D = 65-66 \\
& D- = 61-64 \\
& F = below 65
\end{align*}
\]
Alternatively:

\[ A = 4.0 \]
\[ A^- = 3.7 \]
\[ B+ = 3.3 \]
\[ B = 3.0 \]
\[ B^- = 2.7 \]
\[ C+ = 2.3 \]
\[ C = 2.0 \]
\[ C^- = 1.7 \]
\[ D+ = 1.3 \]
\[ D = 1.0 \]
\[ F = 0.0 \]

\[ A^- = 90-93 \]
\[ B^- = 80-83 \]
\[ C^- = 70-73 \]

**Attendance Policy**

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success. 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, religious observance or emergencies. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach the summer program director Tom Ertman (te11@nyu.edu).

Unexcused absences affect students’ grades: Missing one week’s worth of classes (consecutive or non-consecutive) without an excuse 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. Furthermore, your Professor is 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 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 Program Director Tom Ertman 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 the Program Director Professor Tom Ertman 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 Program 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. See also [http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines/compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines/compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html)

**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 Program Director, 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,
unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor’s note or by approval of the Program Director), 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 weekdays following the submission 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

Required Texts

The literature for this course can be found in the Reading Room of New York University (Berlin). Additional literature is provided in a folder at NYU Classes/Ressources.

Course Schedule

Session 1 – 30 May 2018: Course Introduction: Berlin and it’s more than thousand faces

How can we explore a city’s past and present through its spaces? What kinds of spaces are we going to discover in the case of Berlin, and what is their interrelation? The first session will begin by introducing you to the German capital in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century as well as canonical approaches to the
semantics of space and the construction of memory. During our first session we will discuss the history of Berlin, Germany and Europe and how it is reflected in the city of Berlin. The instructor will give an overview on the entire class and the group will discuss how we will work together in this semester.

Readings:

Session 2 – 31 May 2018: Berlin as a structure and as a site of Public Memory; Excursion. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp on the platform of the subway station (U-Bahn) Jannowitz Brücke
Expanding on our first exploration of the city in the classroom we will visit a model of the city (http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/index_en.shtml) and get a first impression how many different history layers can be found on this planet of its own.

Readings:

Session 3 – 6 Jun 2018: Potsdam - From Prussia to Germany; Excursion. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp in front (“Kronprinzessinnenweg”) of the S-Bahn Stop “Wannsee”
In this class, we will take a closer look at the city of Potsdam which is located close to Berlin. Before Germany was created a nation state Germans where living in different kingdoms. One of these kingdoms was Prussia. The capital of Prussia and later one of the capitals of Germany has been the city of Potsdam. We will walk through the city of Potsdam and get a first impression of its different history layers. This session will last from 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

Readings:
- Potsdam Portrait History: https://en.potsdam.de/kategorie/portrait-history

Session 4 – 7 Jun 2018: Berlin and German Colonialism: Hidden memories
In the end of 19th century Germany became a colonial power. After WWI it had to give away it’s colonies. Sites that remember German colonialism do exist in Berlin, but you have to do a lot of research. In this session we learn about German colonialism and start to understand how and where this history is shown.

Readings:


Session 5 – 13 June 2018: Berlin and the Shoah; **Excursion. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp in front (“Am Bahnhof Grunewald”) of the S-Bahn stop “Grunewald”**

On January 20, 1942, 15 high-ranking Nazi Party and German government officials gathered at a villa in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee to discuss and coordinate the implementation of what they called the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question." We will visit the place, see the exhibition and discuss the form of this representation of the Holocaust in Germany.

Readings:
• Wannsee Conference and the "Final Solution":

Session 6 – 14 June 2018: Berlin and the “war of annihilation”; **Excursion. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp on the platform of the S-Bahn stop “Treptower Park”**

The Soviet War Memorial is a vast war memorial and military cemetery in Berlin's Treptower Park. It was built to the design of the Soviet architect Yakov Belopolsky to commemorate 7,000 of the 80,000 Soviet soldiers who fell in the Battle of Berlin in April–May 1945. It opened four years after World War II on May 8, 1949. The Memorial served as the central war memorial of East Germany. We will see the memorial and try to understand how the war of annihilation that Germany fought against Soviet Union is represented here.

Readings:
• Soviet War Memorial (Treptower Park):

*deadline for the midterm paper: in hard copy on site*

Session 7 – 20 Juni 2018: Berlin and the resistance against Nazis; **Excursion. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp at the Bus Stop “Philharmonie”**

German resistance to Nazism was the opposition by individuals and groups in Germany to the National Socialist regime between 1933 and 1945. On the initiative of the circle of resistance fighters of July 20, 1944, the Berlin Senate in 1967 resolved to establish a memorial and educational center intended to inform the public about resistance to National Socialism. We will visit the museum and discuss with one of the guides the form of presentation of Resistance.

Readings:
• German Resistance Memorial Centre Berlin:
  https://www.gdw-berlin.de/en/recess/topics/1-resistance-against-national-socialism/
• German Resistance to Hitler:
Session 8 – 21 June 2018: Berlin new democracy; *Excursion*. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp in front of the subway station (U-Bahn) “Oskar Helene Heim”.

Germany had to be liberated from Nazism by the allied armies. In the first time after WWII the USA, France, Britain and Soviet Union cooperated. In the year 1948 the Cold War started. During this session we will visit the “Alliierten Museum” and parts of the Freie Universität Berlin. These places tell about the liberation of Germany and the start of a new democratic (West-)Germany.

**Readings:**
- AlliiertenMuseum:  

Session 9 – 27 June 2018: Berlin “SED-Diktatur”; *Excursion*. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp on the platform of the subway station (U-Bahn) “Magdalenenstrasse”.

The former headquarters of the GDR Ministry for State Security (MiS or “Stasi”) in Berlin is a key site for remembering political persecution in the Soviet occupied zone and the GDR. Erected in 1960-61, the building complex also housed the offices of Erich Mielke, who served as Minister for State Security from 1957 until the end of the GDR. These rooms have been preserved in their original condition and form the centerpiece of the historic site, which also offers various exhibitions that provide information about the State Security and how its activities affected the GDR population.

**Readings:**

Session 10 – 28 June 2018: Divided Berlin; *Excursion*. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp on the platform of the subway Station (U-Bahn) “Bernauer Strasse”

At the Berlin Wall Memorial, we will gain a concrete spatial and visual sense of the German division. We will understand where the erection of the Berlin Wall began on 13 August 1961 and how the border developed until the end of the 1980s. Traces and testimonies will help to illustrate how citizens were affected by the division. In a second step, we will discuss how the original infrastructure was preserved after 1989 and how it was complemented with historical information.

**Readings:**
Session 11 – 4 July 2017: Berlin “Multi Kulti”; Excursion. Meeting Point: 1.30pm sharp on the platform of the subway station (U-Bahn) “Hermannplatz”

Germany and Berlin are influenced by many groups of different immigrants. People from Poland, from Soviet Union, from Turkey, refugees from all over the world see Berlin as their new home. Many of these groups live in the district “Berlin-Neukölln”. Some years ago citizens have established in Neukölln “Werkstatt der Kulturen” to give room for the expression of all these different “cultures”. We will visit the place and discuss with the founders about the idea to create a center for cultural events in Neukölln.

Readings:
- Werkstatt der Kulturen:

*deadline for the final paper: in hard copy on site


After a time of heated debate Germany started to understand that it had become a “Einwanderungsgesellschaft”. During the last years German society is confronted with a new wave of racism and anti-Semitism. German democracy is in danger. In this session we will discuss the findings of the entire semester and listen to a talk by Anetta Kahane, founder and director of the “Amadeu Antonio Stiftung”. In her talk Kahane will explain why democracy and the freedom of expression for different memories is a basic idea for every democracy.

Readings:
- Germany after 1945:

Classroom Etiquette

No laptops or other electronic devices are allowed during class. Mobile phones are to be switched off. Drinks are allowed in the classroom, but food is not. For the excursions, please dress accordingly to the weather yet appropriately for the specific sites. Wear comfortable footwear and bring along water for refreshment.

Your Instructor

Dr. Martin Jander was born in Freiburg im Breisgau. During his studies of German, History, Sociology, and Political Science in the late 1970s and early 1980s in West-Berlin, he established contact with several opposition members in the GDR and followed their activities. Since then, the topic of opposition in the GDR has been one of his main research fields; he was devoted to it in the research group on the East German Communist State at Freie Universität Berlin, during his graduate studies in Political Science, and through his activities as associate professor in the Political Science department atFU Berlin. Since 2001, Dr. Jander has worked as author and journalist in Berlin and teaches German and European history in the Berlin programs of Stanford University.
FU-BEST aside from New York University, and does research on German left-wing terrorism in a project of the Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung. His many publications include „Formierung und Krise der DDR-Opposition“ (Berlin, 1996) as well as teaching materials on various German historical topics for “Geschichte betrifft uns” (Aachen) and several guide-books focused primarily on Berlin (www.unwrapping-history.com).