

HS/US320 THE POLITICS OF MEMORY

IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:

This course addresses the relationship between history, memory, identity, and trauma. Berlin's history has been shaped by conflicting ideologies, historical ruptures, and collective traumas. We will focus on how these events left traces in the urban geography. Discussions will revolve around the relationship between politics, memory, and identity by considering modes of commemoration and distinct instrumentalizations of commemorative forms in the divided city. While considering how memorials, exhibitions, art and architecture as well as mass media shape individual and collective memory, our approach will be comparative and interdisciplinary with an emphasis on relevant political and cultural events. How does the interplay between urban landscape, politics and memory create a sense of identity? How do we make sense of the multiplicity of meanings that resonate with hybrid memories in a city like Berlin where we encounter multiple Berlins and diverse stories of belonging? What is the relationship between narratives of memory and perceptions of the ongoing transformations of the city? How is the German historical legacy adopted by newcomers, migrants, and refugees? There will be regular course related field study trips, city walks and film screenings. The course will work with the following assumptions about memory politics:

- Memory is always selective. It reveals an interpretation rather than a mirror image of the past. National memory narratives promote an official version of events. They change in accordance with political and societal circumstances.
- Memories are symbolic representations of the past. They cannot recreate it, but only suggest what the past might have been, and what of it should or should not matter today.
- Memory is about identity and belonging. People's ability to remember always depends on socio-political and cultural circumstances. When individual memory disappears or must be suppressed for the sake of political norms, it gets replaced by an interpretation and (ab)use of that memory that claims to be objective.
- Memory is indeterminate and controversial. It can never be fully controlled by political elites. Nonetheless, governments shape the representation of what, when, and how people remember or forget the past by providing funds for official commemorative memorials and museums.
- Memory is about the interplay between remembering and forgetting. A city is composed of affective landscapes of intentional forgetting and painful remembering.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sabine Berking

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: German

ADDITIONAL COST: none

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Presentations (optional)
- Course related field study trips
- Films
- Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences.



REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Final grades will be based on:

- Course participation and Homework - 10%
- Midterm (project outline) - 20 %
- Presentation - 20%
- Term Paper - 25%
- Final Exam - 25%

Course Participation

Course participation includes attendance, active participation in class discussions, familiarity with the assigned readings, and the topics covered in class. Students are expected to come prepared with personal notes, comments and questions on the readings. The IES rubric for participation is available on Moodle.

Term Paper

Students will work on an individual project, developed in consultation with the instructor on a topic of German/European memory politics, integrating aspects of the material we read for this course with a focus on Berlin. Final papers (approx. 1,500 words/ 5 pages) are due in the last session before finals. Papers can revolve on a special topic, exhibitions, films, memorial site in Berlin or other. These papers can also include interviews with locals, visual material, personal experiences while visiting the memorial space, etc.

Presentation

Students present at least one time during the semester on a topic related to the seminar topics (a list will be provided at the beginning of the semester. Please use power point or other appropriate format, interact/encourage class discussion, provide handout before presentation. (about 10 minutes)

Midterms

Students will prepare an outline (approx. 300 words) and bibliography for their term paper (due at the end of the midterm week). Outlines should include a clear description of topic; central questions; at least three relevant scholarly sources!

Final Exam

The final exam will be a written in class exam (90 minutes) responding to questions in essay format.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- develop a critical understanding of concepts of identity and memory politics
- apply categories of political theory and cultural studies to German memory politics and history
- distinguish main concepts of historical thought relevant to memory politics (democratization and acceleration of history, individual vs. collective memory, the role of witness and historian, transformations of the ethics of memory)
- read historical sites as landscapes of memory and shifting identities
- develop key skills and abilities to deal with a multiplicity of meanings that resonate with historical landscapes and memories

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies are mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences can affect students' grades. Students who miss 25% or more of all class sessions will fail the course. Missed exams cannot be taken at another time except in case of documented illness. Late submission of term papers and other work will result in grade reduction unless an extension due to illness or an emergency is approved. Please consult the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle for additional details.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed. Poorly written and grammatically sloppy papers will be judged more severely. Work with a language tutor.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	Session 1: Introduction Introduction to the Course (syllabus, learning objectives, expectations)	<u>No readings assigned</u>
	Session 2: History – Memory – Trauma: Shifting Cultural Memory in Berlin’s Historical Center <i>Focal points:</i> New Guardhouse, Brandenburg Gate Balcony from the original castle, Memorial for the book burning, Humboldt Forum /Palace of the Republic, Old city center	<u>Recommended Readings:</u> - Kruse, Wolfgang (2002) <u>Schinkels Neue Wache</u>, Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft, 50. Jg. 2002, pp. 419-435 - Ekici, Didem (2007) <u>The Surfaces of Memory in Berlin</u>, Journal of Architectural Education October, pp. 25-34 - Assmann, Aleida (2008) <u>Gedächtnis-Formen</u>. Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, pp.1—2, https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/zeitgeschichte/geschichte-und-erinnerung/39786/gedaechtnisformen
Week 2	Session 3: Commemorating Berlin as a Colonial Metropolis <i>Focal points:</i> Traces of Colonialism in Berlin, Contested Street Names, Ethnological Museum in the Humboldt Forum: Can the Museum scrutinize and critically assess the legacy and consequences of colonial rule?	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Zimmerer, Jürgen (2015) <u>Das Humboldt Forum. Das koloniale Vergessen</u>, Blätter/ July 15, pp.1-5 - Ogunsade, Katrin (2010) <u>Das Afrikanische Viertel in Berlin</u>, Deutsche Welle, Sept 9, 2010 pp. 1-3 <u>Student Presentation:</u> Herero & Nama Genocide
	Session 4: A Late Recognition: The Sinti and Roma Genocide Porjamos <i>Focal points:</i> The Camp in Marzahn 1936; Antiziganism; the long way of Sinti & Roma to recognition and reparation; The Memorial for the murdered Sinti and Roma in Tiergarten	<u>Required Reading:</u> Sparing, Frank (2011) <u>NS-Verfolgung von „Zigeunern“ und „Wiedergutmachung“ nach 1945</u>, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, May 25, pp.1-8 https://www.bpb.de/apuz/33275/ns-verfolgung-von-zigeunern-und-wiedergutmachung-nach-1945?p=all <u>Student Presentation:</u> The Sinti & Roma Camp in Marzahn 1936
Week 3	Session 5: Memories of the Jewish Berlin and the Tole of Jews in Contemporary Germany for Memory Politics <i>Focal points:</i> the ideological work of the Jewish community in Germany within the Holocaust remembrance; the role of Jews for Germany’s recognition as a Western democracy	<u>Required Readings:</u> - Bodemann, Michael Y. (2002) <u>Einleitung. In den Wogen der Erinnerung</u>, München, pp. 7 – 13 - Gantner, Esther & Oppenheim, Jay (2014) <u>Jewish Space Reloaded</u>, Anthropological Journal of European Cultures Volume 23, No. 2, pp. 1-10

	Session 6: Walking Tour in the Scheunenviertel (former Jewish Quarter) <i>Focal points:</i> Stolpersteine; Neue Synagoge; Synagoge Addas Jisrael; Jüdische Mädchenschule; Kinderheim Ahawa; Clärchen's Ballhaus; Memorial "Der verlassene Raum" (Koppenplatz) Alter Jüdischer Friedhof with Mendelsohn grave); Jüdisches Gymnasium; The Missing House by Boltanski	<u>Recommended Readings:</u> Nachama, Andreas & Schoeps, Julius (eds.) (2001) Juden in Berlin, Berlin, 2001. pp. 96-98, 106-107, 110-130
Week 4	Session 7: Berlin under the Swastika – Hitler's Terror Regime and the German Resistance <i>Focal Points:</i> Commemoration of German Resistance in East and West; Why and how Sophie Scholl became an icon of remembrance culture	<u>Required Readings:</u> - Echternkamp, Jörg (2015) <u>Krieg und Holocaust</u>, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, April 4, pp 1-8 (online) https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-geschichte/der-zweite-weltkrieg/199409/krieg-und-holocaust - Probst, Maximilian (2021) <u>Die vielen Leben der Sophie Scholl</u>, Die Zeit, May 1, pp 1-5 - Film: Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage (to be watched before class) <u>Student Presentation:</u> Biography of Sophie Scholl (and Weiße Rose)
	Session 8: Field Trip Holocaust Memorial & Topography of Terror <i>Focal points:</i> The upsurge of memory politics after 1989 The role of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin; the Topography of Terror in its Shadow	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Kertesz, Imre (1998) <u>Wem gehört Auschwitz?</u> Die Zeit, Nov 19 - Ladd, Brian (1997) <u>The Topography of Terror</u>. In: Ghosts of Berlin, Univ. of Chicago Press, pp. 154-167 <u>Recommended Reding:</u> - Anne K., <u>Holocaustmahnmal (Debatte)</u>, online, 6 pages http://www.judentum-projekt.de/geschichte/nsverfolgung/holocaustmahnmal/index.html
Week 5	Session 9: Contested Memories of World War II – Three Soviet War Memorials in Berlin and their Role in Commemorative Events <i>Focal points:</i> the changing role of monuments and their adaptation to changing political contexts	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Berking, Sabine (2021) <u>Entblößt das Haupt! Berlins sowjetische Ehrenmale</u>, die tageszeitung, May 8, pp 1-5 <u>Recommended:</u> - Crimings, Courtney (2012) <u>Ruin, Restoration, and Return: Aesthetic Unification in Post-Socialist East Berlin</u>, Dissertation, University of Michigan, pp. 20-35 (online) <u>Student Presentation:</u> Soviet War Memorial Tiergarten & Schönholz

	Session 10: Field Trip to Soviet War Memorial Treptow	<u>Homework:</u> Essay of impressions on the field trip. (400 words minimum) Due midterm)
Week 6	Session 11: Consultations for Midterm/Term Paper Dates TBA	<u>Project outline due at the end of the week (Friday, 12:00)</u> <u>See information for outline and paper/project</u>
	Session 12: Midterm	
Week 7	Session 13: Contested Memories and WW II – Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation <i>Focal points:</i> repressed memories; forced migration in Europe; hierarchy of memory	<u>Required Reading:</u> Hirsch, Helga (2003) <u>Flucht und Vertreibung</u>. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte, Sept 29, pp. 1-27
	Session 14: Visit to Exhibition of the Foundation “Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation”	Homework: Please write a sum-up of the exhibition with a focus of what story/stories interested you most. (400 words minimum) due in session 19.
	Session 15/16: Visit to Memorial Space of the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp <i>Focal point:</i> Hybrid memorial sites Commemoration/ Remembrance without witnesses	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Heitzer, Enrico (2015) <u>Dealing with multiple pasts: Conflicts and memory politics in the Sachsenhausen memorial since 1989</u>, The Journal of Social Policy Studies, vol 13, Nr 3, pp. 489-499 - Elm, Michael (2008) <u>Erinnern ohne Zeugen</u>, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Dossier Geschichte und Erinnerung, August 26 (online) Homework: Essay of impressions on the field trip (500 word minimum)
Week 8	Session 17: After the Berlin Wall: Memories of a Divided City <i>Focal points:</i> Communist heritage and its manifestation after 1961 and 1989	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Johst, David (2020) <u>Schwieriges Erbe. Der Umgang mit politischen Denkmälern der DDR nach 1989</u>, Politik & Kultur (ed. Kulturrat)5/20, pp. 1-4 - Ladd, Brian (1997) <u>The GDR Monuments</u>, in: The Ghost of Berlin, Uof Chicago Press, pp.192-208 Student Presentations: Lenin Monument; Thälmann Monument and Marx-Engels Monument
	Session 18: History and Heritage – Check Point Charlie and the Heritage Industry <i>Focal points:</i> Remembrance in a post-Fordist society; Leisure time and heritage industry; commodification of memory	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Frank, Sybille (2011) <u>Der Mauer um die Wette gedenken</u>. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschehen 31-31, pp. 47 – 55 - Kellerhof, Sven Felix (2011) <u>Der Tränenpalast als Sackgasse im Herzen Berlins</u>, Die Welt, Sept 13

		Student Presentation: What was Check Point Charlie?
Week 9	Session 19: 1968 in East and West Germany: Protesting the Vietnam War (West) and the Soviet Invasion in Prague (East) <i>Focal points:</i> Civic disobedience and political protest in East and West Germany Leftist movements in the West; The dream of a another/ a third way between Communism and Capitalism	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Semler, Christian (2009) „1968 im Westen - was ging uns die DDR an?“, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, March 24 (online) http://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-einheit/deutsche-teilung-deutsche-einheit/43660/1968-im-westen> - Kowalczyk, Ilko-Sascha (2018) Der Prager Frühling 1968 und die DDR, Lernen aus der Geschichte (online) http://lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de/Lernen-und-Lehren/content/13943 - Remembering the Prague Spring: https://deutsch.radio.cz/prager-fruehling-und-sein-ende-1968-erinnerungen-eines-ddr-buergers-8154474
	Session 20: The Stasi (Secret Service) System in German Films	The Life of Others/ Barbara (In class)
Week 10	Session 21: Goodbye Lenin – (N)Ostalgie and Coping with Unification?	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Berdahl, Daphne (2010) Good Bye Lenin! Aufwiedersehen GDR, in: Post-Communist Nostalgia, Berghahn Books, pp. 177 – 190 <u>Recommended:</u> - Berdahl, Daphne (2010) '(N)Ostalgie' for the present: Memory, longing, and East German things, Ethnos, 64: 2, 192 — 211
	Session 22: Visit to GDR Museum	
Week 11	Session 23: The Future of Remembrance in a Multicultural Society – Round up <i>Focal points:</i> Memory and Remembrance in a multicultural society; the legacy of the Holocaust, WWII and East German communism for migrant; how to include the memory/traumas of migrant groups into German memory culture	<u>Required Reading:</u> - Wetzel, Juliane (2008) Erinnern unter Migranten. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung. August 26 (online) https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/zeitgeschichte/geschichte-und-erinnerung/39851/erinnern-unter-migranten - Rüschel, Uta (2018) Im Schatten der Geschichte. Ein Essay über den Einfluss von Erinnerungskultur und Beheimatetsein auf den Umgang mit Geflüchteten. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Jan 1 (online) https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/zeitgeschichte/deutschlandarchiv/262699/zum-einfluss-von-erinnerungskulturen-auf-den-umgang-mit-gefluechteten - Geschichten der Vielfalt. Erinnerungskultur in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft. Bündnis 90/Die Grünen. Fraktionsbeschluss, May 10, 2016 <u>Final papers due at the end of this week (Friday, 12:00)</u>
Week 12	Session 24: Final Exam	

COURSE RELATED FIELD STUDY TRIPS:

- Trip to Historical Berlin Center New Guardhouse, Sunken Library, Brandenburg Gate with Quadriga, Humboldt Forum/Castle, Balcony of Old Castle (declaration of the republic 1919)
- Jewish Quarter with New Synagogue, Jewish Girl's School, Adass Jisroel Congregation, Stumbling Stones, Orphanage Ahawa, the Deserted Room, old Jewish Cemetery with Moses Mendelsohn's grave, Jewish Gymnasium, Missing House Boltaski)
- Field trip to the Holocaust Memorial and the Topography of Terror
- Field trip to the Soviet War Memorial (Treptow Park)
- Foundation and exhibition "Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation" on Forced Migration
- Visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp
- GDR Museum

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIPS:

- House of the Wannsee Conference
- East Side Gallery
- Bendlerblock - Memorial to the German Resistance.
- Visit to Check Point Charlie Museum or Asisi Panorama The Wall

REQUIRED READINGS (SEE SESSION PLAN)

- Daphne (2010) Goodbye Lenin! Aufwiedersehen GDR, in: Post-Communist Nostalgia, Berghahn Books, pp. 177 – 190
- Berking, Sabine (2021) Entblößt das Haupt! Berlins sowjetische Ehrenmale, die tageszeitung, May 8, pp 1-5
- Bodemann, Michael Y. (2002) Einleitung. In den Wogen der Erinnerung, München, pp. 7 – 13
- Echternkamp, Jörg (2015) Krieg und Holocaust, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, April 4, pp 1-8 (online) <https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-geschichte/der-zweite-weltkrieg/199409/krieg-und-holocaust>
- Elm, Michael (2008) Erinnern ohne Zeugen, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Dossier Geschichte und Erinnerung, August 26 (online)
- Frank, Sybille (2011) Der Mauer um die Wette gedenken. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschehen 31-31, pp. 47 – 55
- Gantner, Esther & Oppenheim, Jay (2014) Jewish Space Reloaded, Anthropological Journal of European Cultures Volume 23, No. 2, pp. 1-10
- Geschichten der Vielfalt. Erinnerungskultur in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft. Bündnis 90/Die Grünen. Fraktionsbeschluss, May 10, 2016
- Heitzer, Enrico (2015) Dealing with multiple pasts: Conflicts and memory politics in the Sachsenhausen memorial since 1989, The Journal of Social Policy Studies, vol 13, Nr 3, pp. 489-499
- Hirsch, Helga (2003) Flucht und Vertreibung. Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte, Sept 29, pp. 1-27
- Johst, David (2020) Schwieriges Erbe. Der Umgang mit politischen Denkmälern der DDR nach 1989, Politik & Kultur (ed. Kulturrat) 5/20, pp. 1-4
- Kellerhof, Sven Felix (2011) Der Tränenpalast als Sackgasse im Herzen Berlins, Die Welt, Sept 13
- Kertesz, Imre (1998) Wem gehört Auschwitz? Die Zeit, Nov 19
- Kowalczyk, Ilko-Sascha (2018) Der Prager Frühling 1968 und die DDR, Lernen aus der Geschichte (online) <http://lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de/Lernen-und-Lehren/content/13943>
- Ladd, Brian (1997) The GDR Monuments, in: The Ghost of Berlin, Uof Chicago Press, pp.192-208
- Ladd, Brian (1997) The Topography of Terror. In: Ghosts of Berlin, Univ. of Chicago Press, pp. 154-167
- Ogunsade, Katrin (2010) Das Afrikanische Viertel in Berlin, Deutsche Welle, Sept 9, 2010 pp. 1-3
- Probst, Maximilian (2021) Die vielen Leben der Sophie Scholl, Die Zeit, May 1, pp 1-5
- Remembering the Prague Spring: <https://deutsch.radio.cz/prager-fruehling-und-sein-ende-1968-erinnerungen-eines-ddr-buergers-8154474>
- Rüschel, Uta (2018) Im Schatten der Geschichte. Ein Essay über den Einfluss von Erinnerungskultur und Beheimatetsein auf den Umgang mit Geflüchteten. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Jan 1 (online) <https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/zeitgeschichte/deutschlandarchiv/262699/zum-einfluss-von-erinnerungskulturen-auf-den-umgang-mit-gefluechteten>
- Semler, Christian (2009) „1968 im Westen - was ging uns die DDR an?“, Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, March 24

(online) <http://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-einheit/deutsche-teilung-deutsche-einheit/43660/1968-im-westen>>

- Sparing, Frank (2011) NS-Verfolgung von "Zigeunern" und Wiedergutmachung nach 1945. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, May 25, pp.1-8; <https://www.bpb.de/apuz/33275/ns-verfolgung-von-zigeunern-und-wiedergutmachung-nach-1945?p=all>
- Wetzel, Juliane (2008) Erinnern unter Migranten. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung. August 26 (online) <https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/zeitgeschichte/geschichte-und-erinnerung/39851/erinnern-unter-migranten>
- Zimmerer, Jürgen (2015) Das Humboldt Forum. Das koloniale Vergessen, Blätter/ July 15, pp.1-5

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Anne K., Holocaustmahnmal (Debatte), online, 6 pages <http://www.judentum-projekt.de/geschichte/nsverfolgung/holocaustmahnmal/index.html>
- Assmann, Aleida. Der lange Schatten der Vergangenheit. C.H.Beck Verlag, München 2018
- Berdahl, Daphne (2010) '(N)Ostalgie' for the present: Memory, longing, and East German things, *Ethnos*, 64: 2, 192 — 211
- Crimings, Courtney (2012) Ruin, Restoration, and Return: Aesthetic Unification in Post-Socialist East Berlin, Dissertation, University of Michigan, pp. 20-35 (online)
- Fulbrook, Mary. German National Identity after the Holocaust. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999.
- Ladd, Brian. The Ghosts of Berlin. Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1997.
- Large, David Clay. Berlin. Basic Books, 2000. (available in English and German)
- Nachama, Andreas & Schoeps, Julius (eds.) (2001) Juden in Berlin, Berlin, 2001. pp. 96-98, 106-107, 110-130
- Nachama, Andreas, Julius H. Schoeps, Hermann Simons (eds.). Jews in Berlin. Berlin: 2001.
- Till, Karen E. The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place. Univ of Minnesota Press, 2005.

FILMOGRAPHY

- Barbara, Christian Petzold. Germany 2012
- Das Leben der Anderen (The Life of the Others), Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. Germany 2006.
- Walküre/ Valkyrie. Regie: Bryan Singer. Germany 2009.
- The Baader Meinhof Complex. Regie: Uli Edel. Germany 2008.
- Nackt unter Wölfen/ Naked among Wolves, Frank Bayer/Phillip Kaddelbach. Germany 1963/2015
- Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage, Marc Rothemund, Germany 2005.