



## HS/US320 THE POLITICS OF MEMORY: MUSEUMS AND MEMORIALS

IES Abroad Berlin

Summer

### DESCRIPTION:

There have been numerous 'Berlins' throughout a turbulent Twentieth Century. This course investigates the multiple layers of identity constructed by different political forms of remembering and representing the past: the bombast of a statuesque German Empire, the dizzying modernity of Weimar Berlin, the monolithic criminality of a National Socialist capital. After its almost wholesale destruction during World War II, the divided city was reimagined as both a model of democratic capitalism and of state socialism during the Cold War. An 'island mentality' informed the memorial cultures of both East and West Berlin. Their history remained linked, despite being drawn on the fault line of Cold War propaganda. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent reunification of East and West Germany in 1990 brought another reconstruction of the past and a new politics of memory. More recently, an invigorated debate of Germany's colonial past and persistent patterns of racism in remembering and representing the past has unfolded in Berlin. The course will investigate and unpack the politics of memory at various museums, memorials, and monuments in Berlin. Through numerous field trips and academic texts, it will provide a unique insight into the historical construction not only of Berlin, but also of Germany - itself closely interlinked with the history and politics of Europe in the long Twentieth Century

**CREDITS:** 3

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**ADDITIONAL COST:** None

### METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Presentations
- Course related field trips to historical sites and museums

### REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation - 10%
- Midterm exam (take home) - 30%
- Written assignment - 30%
- Final presentation - 30%

### 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 notes, comments and questions on the readings.

### Midterm Exam

The midterm will be a take-home written exam in essay format. Students are required to answer 2 of 3 essay questions, and each answer should be ca. 500 words / 2 pages double-spaced. Set in Week 3 (due within 48 hours).

Global brilliance begins here.®

Institute for the International Education of Students  
Africa | Asia Pacific | Europe | Latin America

### **Written Assignment**

Every student will work on an individual project, to be assigned at the beginning of Week 4. Projects will be developed in consultation with the instructor. Students are asked to write one essay on an aspect of Berlin's remembrance politics (approx. 1500 words /6 pages double-spaced). Assignment is due at the end of week 5.

### **Final presentation**

Students must adapt and expand upon their written assignment to present orally (5-10 minutes). Final presentations will be carried out in Week 6.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- develop a critical understanding of identity and memory politics
- apply categories of political theory and cultural studies to German remembrance politics
- distinguish main concepts of historical thought relevant to German remembrance politics
- (identity, narratives of collective/individual memory)
- read historical sites as shifting landscapes of memory
- develop a comparative perspective on remembrance politics in other countries

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies is 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 Abroad Berlin academics manual on Moodle for additional details.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assignments need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed, including images. This not only applies to written assignments but also presentations.

### **CONTENT:**

This class will provide students with introductory chapters of textbooks and expose them to research papers. Consequently, required and optional readings are assigned for each session. The students are encouraged to bring related material (in class and on field trips) to enhance discussions.

Sessions	Content	Readings and Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Session 1: INTRODUCTION</b> This introductory lecture will explore the processes through which 'memory' is created, altered or suppressed by different political systems to different ends.	MacGregor (2014), Neil, <i>Germany: Memories of a Nation</i> (London). Introduction: Monuments and memories & Chapter 1 - The view from the Gate. Copley, Clare (2020), <i>Nazi Buildings, Cold War Traces and Governmentality in Post- Unification Berlin</i> . (London) Introduction, pp. 1–8.  <u>Optional:</u> Judt, Tony (2010), <i>Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945</i> (London). Epilogue: From the House of the Dead. An Essay on Modern European Memory, pp. 803-831.

	<p><b>Session 2): CREATING MEMORIES IN BERLIN-MITTE</b></p> <p><u>Field Trip</u> --- Museum Island, Humboldt Forum („Berliner Schloss“), Neue Wache, Bebelplatz, Gendarmenmarkt, Brandenburg Gate ---</p> <p>What do the memorials and historic buildings in the centre of Germany’s capital tell us about the history of this city and this country?</p>	<p>Ward, Simon (2016), <i>Urban Memory and Visual Culture in Berlin</i>, ‘Introduction. Berlin and the Question of Urban Memory’, pp. 11-43.</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> Ekici, Didem (2007), ‘The Surfaces of Memory in Berlin: Rebuilding the Schloß’, in: <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i>, Vol. 61, No. 2, (Nov.), pp. 25-34.</p>
Week 2	<p><b>Session 3): THE MUSEUM’S ROLE IN MEMORY</b></p> <p><u>Field Trip: German Historical Museum</u> How is the past presented in the museum, and what does this tell us about modes of national and European memory?</p>	<p>Andrews, Mary (2014), “Memory of the Nation”: Making and re-making German history in the Berlin Zeughaus (University of Sydney, PhD thesis), Introduction, pp. 1-22.</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> Jaeger, Steven (2020), The Second World War in the Twenty-First-Century Museum, Ch. 1, pp. 8-39.</p>
	<p><b>Session 4): UNRAVELLING GERMANY’S COLONIAL PAST IN THE NEW HUMBOLDT FORUM</b></p> <p><u>Field Trip</u> --- Humboldt Forum --- Current debates on how to remember and ‘work through’ Germany’s colonial past will be explored through a field trip to the Humboldt Forum’s Ethnological collection in the rebuilt city palace.</p>	<p>Pape, Elisa (2017), ‘Postcolonial debates in Germany – An Overview’, in: <i>African Sociological Review</i>, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 2-14</p> <p>Al-Samarai, Nicola Lauré &amp; Lennox, Sara (2004), Neither Foreigners Nor Aliens: The Interwoven Stories of Sinti and Roma and Black Germans, in: <i>Women in German Yearbook</i>, Vol. 20, pp. 163-183.</p>
Week 3	<p><b>Session 5): TRACES OF NAZI BERLIN</b></p> <p><u>Field Trip</u> --- Hitler’s Bunker, Wilhelmstraße, Propaganda Ministry building, Aviation Ministry Building, <b>Topography of Terror</b> (visit)</p> <p>There is very little remaining of Hitler’s planned ‘Germania’ – however, what does remain informs us of how National Socialist repression, terror and murder is remembered today.</p>	<p>Till, Karen (2015), <i>The New Berlin</i>. Chapter 3: The Gestapo Terrain: Landscape, Digging, Open Wounds, pp. 63-105 &amp; Chapter 4: Berlin’s <i>Ort der Täter</i> – A Historic Site of Perpetrators, pp. 121-152.</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> Nachama, Andreas (2010), Introduction, pp. 6-9, &amp; Sybille Steinbacher, ‘Prosecuted, Spared, Integrated – SS and Police Perpetrators in Post-War German Societies’, pp. 406-415, in: Stiftung Topographie des Terrors (ed.) <i>Topography of Terror</i> exhibition catalogue (Berlin).</p> <p>Koshar, Rudi (2000), <i>From Monuments to Traces: Artifacts of German Memory, 1870-1990</i> (London). Conclusion, pp. 286-301.</p>
	<p><b>Session 6): MEMORIALS TO VICTIMS OF NAZISM</b></p> <p><u>Field Trip</u> --- Holocaust Memorial ---</p>	<p>Young, James E. (2000), <i>At Memory’s Edge: After-images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture</i> (New Haven). Chapter 7: Germany’s Holocaust Memorial Problem – and Mine, pp. 184-223.</p>

	<p>What does the architecture of the Holocaust Memorial tell us about how history is being communicated? This excursion will contextualise the politics of memory through the Peter Eisenman-designed <i>Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe</i> in the heart of Berlin. The subterranean <i>Place of Information</i> will also be visited. In this context, we will also address and discuss the representation of other victims of Nazism in the German and Berlin politics of remembrance.</p> <p><b><u>MIDTERM TAKE HOME EXAM (due Sunday 24:00h)</u></b></p>	<p>Till, Karen (2015), <i>The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place</i>. Chapter 5: Aestheticizing the Rupture: Berlin's Holocaust Memorial, pp. 161-188.</p> <p>Kurze, Arnaud (2019). "The Coming Out of Memory: The Holocaust, Homosexuality, and Dealing with the Past." In <i>Kritika Kultura</i>, n. 33, (36 pages).</p>
<b>Week 4</b>	<p><b>Session 7) IN-CLASS SEMINAR: THE POLITICS OF MEMORY IN COLD WAR EAST AND WEST BERLIN</b></p> <p><b><u>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN</u></b></p>	<p>Copley, Clare (2020), 'Difficult heritage in Berlin and beyond'. <i>Nazi Buildings, Cold War Traces and Governmentality in Post-Unification Berlin</i> (London,) pp. 28–38.</p>
	<p><b>Session 8) MEMORY CULTURE IN COLD WAR WEST BERLIN</b></p> <p><b><u>Field Trip</u></b> --- Platz der Luftbrücke / Tempelhofer Feld, German Resistance Memorial (visit) ---</p> <p>How was the Nazi period remembered in West Berlin during the Cold War? How did the American sector of Berlin differ from the British and French military sectors? What were (and are today) the places remembered or forgotten, and why was the man who attempted to assassinate Hitler labelled as a 'traitor' long after the end of the Third Reich?</p>	<p>Case, J. David (1998), The Politics of Memorial Representation: The Controversy over the German Resistance Museum in 1994, in: <i>German Politics &amp; Society</i>, Vol. 16, No. 1 (46) (Spring), pp. 58-81.</p> <p><b><u>Optional:</u></b> Lamberti, Marjorie (2014), 'The Search for the "Other Germany": Refugee Historians from Nazi Germany and the Contested Historical Legacy of the Resistance to Hitler' in: <i>Central European History</i>, Vol. 47, No. 2 (June), pp. 402–429.</p>
<b>Week 5</b>	<p><b>Session 9) MEMORY CULTURE IN COLD WAR EAST BERLIN</b></p> <p><b><u>Field Trip</u></b> --- Soviet War Memorial in Treptower Park, Alexanderplatz, Karl-Marx-Allee,</p> <p>How was the Nazi period remembered in East Berlin? The architecture of the Soviet War Memorial in Treptower Park, Alexanderplatz and Karl-Marx-Allee are visualisations of Soviet triumphalism and the 'real existing socialism' posited by the East German regime. What remains of East Berlin today? There will also be a comparison between modes of remembrance in East and West Berlin.</p>	<p>Gerstenberger, Katharina (2005), 'Reading the Writings on the Walls – Remembering East Berlin' in: <i>German Politics and Society</i>, Vol. 23, No. 3 (76) Special Issue: Transformations of the Past in Contemporary German Politics and Culture (Autumn), pp. 65-82.</p>

	<p><b>Session 10): A MEMORY-DIVIDING WALL?</b></p> <p><u>Field Trip:</u> -- Berlin Wall Memorial</p> <p>How (older) Germans remember the wall is conditioned by what side of it they found themselves on. It also affected how history was taught – in particular how the period of National Socialist dictatorship was ‘explained’. What were (and are) the repercussions of this for German history? What changed after the wall fell in 1989 and Germany reunified in 1990?</p> <p><b><u>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE AT THE END OF THE WEEK (Sunday 24:00h)</u></b></p>	<p>Major, Patrick (2010), <i>Behind the Berlin Wall: East Germany and the Frontiers of Power</i> (Oxford). Chapter 9: Seeking Closure – Remembering the Wall, pp. 258-293.</p> <p>Ward, Simon (2016), <i>Urban Memory and Visual Culture in Berlin</i>, Chapter: In Search of a City? Urban Memory in Unified Berlin, pp. 141-169.</p> <p><u>Optional:</u> Harrison, Hope (2017), ‘Berlin’s <i>Gesamtkonzept</i> for Remembering the Wall’, in: Konrad H. Jarausch et. al. (eds.) <i>The Cold War. Historiography, Memory, Representation</i>, pp. 239-265.</p> <p>Ladd, Brian (1997), <i>The Ghosts of Berlin</i>. Chapter 1: Berlin Walls, pp. 7-39</p>
Week 6	<p><b><u>Session 11: (IN-CLASS) DISCUSSION – MEMORY POLITICS IN GERMAN, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>FINAL PRESENTATIONS #1</u></b></p>	<p>Miller, Alexei (2020), <i>Russia and Europe in Memory Wars</i>. Report by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Oslo (11 pages)</p>
	<p><b><u>Session 12:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>FINAL PRESENTATIONS #2</u></b></p>	

#### **FIELD TRIPS:**

- Walking tour: Humboldt Forum, Museum Island, Neue Wache, Bebelplatz, Gendarmenmarkt, Brandenburg Gate
- Visit to the German Historical Museum
- Visit to Humboldt Forum
- Topography of Terror visit
- Holocaust Memorial (& visit to exhibition beneath)
- Walking tour – Platz der Luftbrücke, Tempelhofer Feld, German Resistance Memorial (visit)
- Walking tour: Soviet War Memorial Treptower Park, Alexanderplatz, Karl-Marx-Allee
- Visit to Berlin Wall Memorial (Bernauer Straße)

#### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Al-Samarai, Nicola Lauré & Lennox, Sara (2004), Neither Foreigners Nor Aliens: The Interwoven Stories of Sinti and Roma and Black Germans, in: *Women in German Yearbook*, Vol. 20, pp. 163-183.
- Andrews, Mary (2014), “Memory of the Nation”: Making and re-making German history in the Berlin Zeughaus (University of Sydney, PhD thesis), Introduction, pp. 1-22.
- Copley, Clare (2020), *Nazi Buildings, Cold War Traces and Governmentality in Post-Unification Berlin* (London, 2020) Introduction, pp. 1–8. & ‘Difficult heritage in Berlin and beyond’ pp. 28–38.
- Gerstenberger, Katharina (2005), ‘Reading the Writings on the Walls – Remembering East Berlin’ in: *German Politics and Society*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (76) Special Issue: Transformations of the Past in Contemporary German Politics and Culture (Autumn), pp. 65-82.

- Jaeger, Steven (2020), *The Second World War in the Twenty-First-Century Museum*, Ch. 1, pp. 8-39.
- Kurze, Arnaud (2019). "The Coming Out of Memory: The Holocaust, Homosexuality, and Dealing with the Past." In *Kritika Kultura*, n. 33, (36 pages).
- MacGregor, Neil (2014), *Germany: Memories of a Nation* (London). Introduction: Monuments and memories, & Chapter 1 - The view from the Gate.
- Major, Patrick (2010), *Behind the Berlin Wall: East Germany and the Frontiers of Power* (Oxford). Chapter 9: Seeking Closure – Remembering the Wall, pp. 258-293.
- Miller, Alexei (2020), *Russia and Europe in Memory Wars*. Report by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, (Oslo)
- Pape, Elisa (2017), 'Postcolonial debates in Germany – An Overview', in: *African Sociological Review*, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 2-14.
- Till, Karen E. (2015), *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place* (Minneapolis)
- Young, James E. (2000), *At Memory's Edge. After-images of the Holocaust in Contemporary Art and Architecture* (New Haven), Chapter 7: Germany's Holocaust Memorial Problem – and Mine, pp. 184-223.
- Ward, Simon (2016), *Urban Memory and Visual Culture in Berlin*, Introduction, pp. 11-43, In *Search of a City? Urban Memory in Unified Berlin*, pp. 141-169.

#### **OPTIONAL READINGS:**

- Ekici, Didem (2007), 'The Surfaces of Memory in Berlin: Rebuilding the Schloß', in: *Journal of Architectural Education*, Vol. 61, No. 2, (Nov), pp. 25-34.
- Harrison, Hope (2017), 'Berlin's Gesamtkonzept for Remembering the Wall', in: Konrad H. Jarausch et. al. (eds.) *The Cold War. Historiography, Memory, Representation*, pp. 239-265.
- Judt, Tony (2010), *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945* (London). Epilogue: From the House of the Dead. An Essay on Modern European Memory, pp. 803-831.
- Ladd, Brian (1997), *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape* (Chicago)