

US/SO366 – THE POLITICS OF URBAN SPACE
IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:

Urban space is constantly structured and given meaning by different actors and changing constellations. In Berlin, the collapse of communism, the reunification of the formerly divided city, and the subsequent transformations created a new framework for its economic, social, cultural, political, and spatial development. This interdisciplinary course explores the politics of urban restructuring in contemporary Berlin -- keeping in mind the presences and absences of the German monarchy, the Weimar Republic, the National Socialist dictatorship, and the so-called Cold War division (capitalist West versus socialist East). The aim of the seminar is to figure out who the winners and losers of contemporary developments are and how this is manifested in and reproduced through urban space. If and how people can 'reclaim' urban space(s) will finally also be addressed in this course. Central points of interest will include the conflicts around the 'New Berlin' (renewal of brownfields, memories, and public space), gentrification, the potential and threats of Berlin as a 'Creative City', the spatial dimension of social exclusion, as well as the integration of migrants and the perspectives of the 'right-to-the-city-movement'. For highlighting the features of Berlin in a global context, its changing urban landscape will be compared to other metropolises in Europe and the U.S. such as Paris, Warsaw, Istanbul, New York City, or Detroit. Together with the comparative insights from these cities, the course will contribute to students' understanding of the complexity of urban development at the beginning of the 21st century.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, discussions, student presentations, field trips, and film screenings. Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 30%
- Final Exam - 30%
- Research Paper - 15%
- Case Study - 15%

Course Participation (10%)

Students must complete the assigned readings, participate in class discussions, and attend all field trips. Students are encouraged to present one of readings in class. To prepare in advance for the seminars, the students should keep in mind the following:

- What is the principal theme of the text?
- What theories/methods does the author use in making their argument?
- What are their arguments? How convincing are they? What insights do they provide? What are the limitations (contradictions, prejudices, lacking points)?
- What do their arguments convey about the intellectual position of the author? Why is the author writing in this way or about this topic?

The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.



Midterm Exam (30%)

A midterm exam will be based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions for the first half of the course. The students will answer three questions in short essay format (an introduction, a body text, and a conclusion). This will be a closed book examination. Duration: 90 minutes (session 12).

Final Exam (30%)

Based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions for the second half of the course, the students will write a final exam. The students will answer three questions in short essay format (an introduction, a body text, and a conclusion). This will be a closed book examination. Duration: 90 minutes (session 24).

Reaction Paper (15%)

The reaction paper is a critical analysis of an urban space, deriving from the film screening and readings related to it. The aim of this paper is to reflect on the power relationships between urban center and periphery. The paper should be in the format of an essay (max.1500 words, 1,5 space, Times New Roman, font size 12) that consists of an introduction, a body text, and a conclusion. Chicago style should be used for references. Due: end of week 6.

Case Study (15%)

The goal of this assignment is to explore an urban neighborhood considering its socio-economic and cultural context. Readings, lectures, and class discussions will be taken as points of departure in making the “thick description” of these neighborhoods. The students will be able to do this assignment either in Berlin or on the destination of the academic field trip. The paper should be in the format of an essay (max.1500 words, 1,5 space, Times New Roman, font size 12) that consists of an introduction, a body text, and a conclusion. Chicago style should be used for references. The students are expected to provide visual material. Images and photography should be identified and credited. The case study can be used as travel assignment.

Berlin Case Study due: end of week 11.

Travel related Case Study due: end of week 13.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Articulate the context of urban conflicts keeping in mind the historical ruptures and continuities of Berlin
- Analyze the theoretical discussions related to the economic, social, cultural, and political framework of the urban space
- Compare the convergences and divergences between Berlin, Istanbul, Warsaw, Paris, St. Petersburg, Chicago, Detroit, and New York within a global setting.
- Interpret urban transformations through an interdisciplinary perspective.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

For our up-to-date attendance and exam policy, see: <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/mod/page/view.php?id=1004317>.

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, including images. Suspicious papers may be checked with plagiarism-detecting software.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1: Introduction	Session 1: Introducing the Urban Space for the Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daum, <u>Capitals in Modern History</u>, pp. 3-28.

	Session 2: Contextualizing Berlin in the German Urban System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dangschat, “Berlin and the German Systems of Cities,” pp. 1025-1051.
Week 2: Transforming and Reinventing Berlin	Session 3: Transforming Berlin from Socialism to Capitalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Häußermann, <u>From the Socialist to the Capitalist City</u>, pp. 214-231.
	Session 4: Constructing the Meaning of the “New Berlin”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marcuse, <u>Reflections on Berlin</u>, pp. 331-338.
Week 3: Uses of Urban Space	Session 5: Socio-Economic Space of Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Krätke, <u>City of Talents?</u> pp. 511-529.
	Session 6: Marketing Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colomb, <u>Pushing the Urban Frontier</u>, pp. 131-152.
Week 4: Urban Presentation	Session 7: Representing the Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>La Haine</u>, directed by Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995. (Film screening)
	Session 8: Urban Periphery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wacquant, <u>Red Belt, Black Belt</u>, pp. 234-274.
Week 5: Renewal and Exclusion	Session 9: Gentrification in Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holm, <u>Berlin’s Gentrification Mainstream</u>, pp. 171-187.
	Session 10: Gentrification in Istanbul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ergun, <u>Gentrification in Istanbul</u>, pp. 391-405.
Week 6:	Midterm Exam	<p>The exam will be based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions for the first half of the course.</p> <p>Reaction Paper due at the end of this week.</p>
Week 7	Session 11: Berlin’s Waterfront Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scharenberg and Bader, <u>Berlin’s waterfront site struggle</u>, pp. 325-335.
	Session 12: Field Trip to Media Spree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Week 8: Reconstruction and Housing as	Session 13: Post-Socialist Gentrification Processes in Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jakobczyk-Gryszkiewicz, Szybel-Boberek and Wolaniuk, <u>Post-Socialist Gentrification Processes in Polish Cities</u>, pp.145-166.

Investment		
	Session 14: Housing, Investment and Tenants in Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uffer, "The Uneven Development of Berlin's Housing Provision," pp. 155-170.
Week 9: Housing and Working Conditions	Session 15: The Fordist City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Detroit: Ruin of a City</u>, directed by Michael Chanan and George Steinmetz, 2005. (Film screening)
	Session 16: Transforming St. Petersburg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utekhin, <u>Local Identity and Historical Memory of Community</u>, pp. 207-223.
Week 10: Urban Local Identity	Session 17: Urban Renewal through Neighborhood Management in Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semm, <u>Neighborhood Milieu in the Cultural Economy of City Development</u>, pp. 95-106.
	Session 18: New Housing Developments in Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marquardt, Füller, Glasze and Pütz, <u>Shaping the Urban Renaissance</u>, pp. 1540-1556.
Week 11: Urban Diversity	Session 19: Immigrant Settlements and Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schönwalder and Söhn, <u>Immigrant Settlement Structures in Germany</u>, pp. 439-1460.
	Session 20: 'Little Istanbul': Immigrants from Turkey in Kreuzberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Çağlar, <u>Constraining metaphors and the transnationalisation of spaces in Berlin</u>, pp. 601-613. • Berlin Case Study due at the end of this week.
Week 12 Financial Crisis and Urban Social Movements	Session 21: Crisis & Right to the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Inside Job</u>, directed by Charles Ferguson, 2010. (Film screening) • Mayer, <u>The 'Right to the City' in Urban Social Movements</u>, pp. 63-85.
	Session 22: Field Trip: Reclaiming the City: Kotti & Co.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reading requirement. • Concluding Remarks. • Travel Related Case Study due at the end of this week.
Week 13	Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exam will be based on the readings, lectures, and class discussions for the second half of the course.

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Media-Spree (Berlin's Waterfront Development).
- Reclaiming the City: Kotti & Co (Tenant Protest Movement).

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Çağlar, Ayşe. 2001. "Constraining metaphors and the transnationalisation of spaces in Berlin." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 27 (4). 601-613.
- Chanan, Michael and George Steinmetz. 2005. *Detroit: Ruin of a City* (film).
- Colomb, Claire. 2012. "Pushing the Urban Frontier: Temporary Uses of Space, City Marketing, and the Creative City Discourse in 2000s Berlin." *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 34 (2): 131-152.
- Dangschat, Jens S. 1993. "Berlin and the German Systems of Cities." *Urban Studies*, 30 (6): 1025-1051.
- Daum, Andreas W. 2005. "Capitals in Modern History: Inventing Urban Spaces for the Nation." In *Berlin – Washington, 1800 – 2000: Capital Cities, Cultural Representation and National Identities*, eds. A. W. Daum and C. Mauch. New York: Cambridge University Press. 3-28.
- Ergun, Nilgun. 2004. "Gentrification in Istanbul." *Cities* (21): 391-405.
- Ferguson, Charles. 2010. *Inside Job* (film).
- Häußermann, Hartmut. 1996. "From the Socialist to the Capitalist City: Experiences from Germany." In *Cities after Socialism*, eds. G. Andrusz, M. Harloe, and I. Szelenyi. Oxford: Blackwell. 214-231.
- Holm, Andrej. 2013. "Berlin's Gentrification Mainstream." In *The Berlin Reader*, eds. M. Berndt, B. Grell and A. Holm. Bielefeld: Transcript. 171-187.
- Jakobczyk-Gryszkiewicz, Jolanta, Martyna Szybel-Boberek, and Anita Wolaniuk. 2017. "Post-Socialist Gentrification Processes in Polish Cities," *European Spatial Research and Policy* 24(2): 145-166.
- Kassovitz, Mathieu. 1995. *La Haine* (film).
- Krätke, Stefan. 2004. "City of Talents? Berlin's Regional Economy, Socio-Spatial Fabric and Worst Practice Urban Governance." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 28 (3): 511-529.
- Marcuse, Peter. 1999. "Reflections on Berlin: The Meaning of Construction and the Construction of Meaning." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 22: 331-338.
- Marquardt, Nadine, Henning Füller, Georg Glasze and Robert Pütz. 2013. "Shaping the Urban Renaissance: New-build Luxury Developments in Berlin." *Urban Studies*, 50 (8). 1540-1556.
- Mayer, Margit. 2012. "The 'Right to the City' in Urban Social Movements." In *Cities for People, not for Profit*, eds. N. Brenner et al. London: Routledge. 63-85.
- Scharenberg, Albert and Ingo Bader. 2009. "Berlin's waterfront site struggle." *City* 13(2): 325-335.
- Schönwalder, Karen and Janina Söhn. 2009. "Immigrant Settlement Structures in Germany: General Patterns and Urban Levels of Concentration of Major Groups." *Urban Studies*, 46 (7). 1439-1460.
- Semm, Kadri. 2011. "Neighborhood Milieu in the Cultural Economy of City Development: Berlin's Helmholtzplatz and Soldiner in the German Social City Program." *Cities*, 28. 95-106.
- Uffer, Sabina. 2013. "The Uneven Development of Berlin's Housing Provision." In *The Berlin Reader*, eds. M. Berndt, B. Grell and A. Holm. Bielefeld: Transcript. 155-170.
- Utekhin, Ilya. 2004. "Local Identity and Historical Memory of Community: The Case of Communal Appartements in St. Petersburg." *Cultural Identity in Transition: Contemporary Conditions, Practices and Politics of a Global Phenomenon*, eds. J. Kupiainen, E. Sevanen and J.A. Stotesbury. 207-233.
- Wacquant, Loic. 1996. "Red Belt, Black Belt: Racial Division, Class Inequality and the State in the French Urban Periphery and the American Ghetto." In *Urban Poverty and the Underclass*, ed. E. Mingione. Oxford: Cambridge. 234-274.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Bernt, Matthias and Andrej Holm. 2005. "Exploring the Substance and Style of Gentrification: Berlin's Prenzlberg". In *Gentrification in a Global Context: The New Urban Colonialism*, eds. R. Atkinson and G. Bridge. New York: Routledge. 107-122.
- Beveridge, Ross and Matthias Naumann. 2013. "The Berlin Water Company. From Inevitable Privatization to Impossible Remunicipalization." In *The Berlin Reader*, eds. M. Berndt, B. Grell and A. Holm. Bielefeld: Transcript. 189-203.
- Bodnar, Judit and Virag Molnar. 2010. "Reconfiguring Private and Public: State, Capital and New Housing Developments in Berlin and Budapest." *Urban Studies*, 47 (2). 789-812.
- Campbell, Scott. 1999. "Capital Reconstruction and Capital Accumulation in Berlin: A Reply to Peter Marcuse." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 23: 173-179.

- Chanan, Michael and George Steinmetz. 2005. *Detroit: Ruin of a City* (film).
- Cochrane, Allan and Adrian Passmore. 2001. "Building a National Capital in an Age of Globalization: The Case of Berlin." *Area*, 33 (4): 341-352.
- Dohnke, Jan. 2013. "Spree Riverbanks for Everyone!". In *The Berlin Reader*, eds. M. Berndt, B. Grell and A. Holm. Bielefeld: Transcript. 259-274.
- Dudek-Mankowska, Sylwia and Bartłomiej Iwancak. 2018. "Does Gentrification of the Praga Polnoc district in Warsaw really exist?" *Bulletin of Geography, Socio-Economic Series*, 29. 21-30.
- Ferguson, Charles. 2010. *Inside Job* (film).
- Häußermann, Hartmut and Andreas Kapphan. 2013 [2000]. "Berlin: From Divided to Fragmented City? Socio-Spatial Changes since 1990." In *The Berlin Reader*, eds. M. Berndt, B. Grell and A. Holm. Bielefeld: Transcript. 77-94.
- Häußermann, Hartmut. 1999. "Economic and Political Power in the New Berlin: A Response to Peter Marcuse." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 23: 180-184.
- Islam, Tolga. 2005. "Outside the Core: Gentrification in Istanbul." In *Gentrification in a Global Context: The New Urban Colonialism*, eds. R. Atkinson and G. Bridge. New York: Routledge. 123-138.
- Kassovitz, Mathieu. 1995. *La Haine* (film).
- Kaya, Ayhan. 2002. "Aesthetics of Diaspora: Contemporary Minstrels in Turkish Berlin." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 28 (1). 43-62.
- Krätke, Stefan. 2000. "Berlin: The Metropolis as a Production Space." *European Planning Studies*, 8 (1): 7-27.
- Murie, Alan (2006): *The Dynamics of Social Exclusion and Neighborhood Decline: Welfare Regimes, Decommodification, Housing and Urban Inequality*. In: Kazepov, Y., Ed.: *Cities of Europe. Changing Contexts, Local Arrangements, and the Challenge to Urban Cohesion*. Oxford: Blackwell. P. 151-170.
- Novy, Johannes and Claire Colomb. 2013. "Struggling for the Right to the (Creative) City in Berlin and Hamburg: New Urban Social Movements, New Spaces of Hope?" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 37 (5). 1816-1838.
- Novy, Johannes. 2013. "Berlin Does Not Love You: Notes on Berlin's Tourism Controversy and its Discontents." In *The Berlin Reader*, eds. M. Berndt, B. Grell and A. Holm. Bielefeld: Transcript. 223-237.
- Schmoll, Fritz. 1990. "Metropolis Berlin? Prospects and Problems of Post-November 1989 Urban Developments." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 14 (4). 676-686.
- Simon, Patrick. 2006. "Gentrification of Old Neighborhoods and Social Integration in Europe." In *Cities of Europe. Changing Contexts, Local Arrangements and the Challenge to Urban Cohesion*, ed. Y. Kazepov. Oxford: Blackwell. 210-233.
- Soysal, Levent. 2001. "Diversity of Experience, Experience of Diversity: Turkish Migrant Youth Culture in Berlin." *Cultural Dynamics*, 13 (1). 5-28.
- Zhelnina, Anna. 2012. "Public Space in Europe and Russia: Europeanness and Re-Interpretation of Urban Public Space." *Center for German and European Studies, Working Papers 2012-07*. 2-23.

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