US/AH375 - EVOLUTION OF THE MODERN CITY: URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ARCHITECTURE:
IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION: Berlin is justifiably recognized as a city whose development has been profoundly affected by the principal political, economic, technological, and aesthetic trends of the last two hundred years, and as a laboratory of radical modern European architecture in the 20th century. In this course, we shall examine Berlin's complicated and often turbulent material evolution, taking advantage of our presence in the city to explore its urban landscape firsthand, and ask whether the forces that have forged Berlin's built identity are the same that have been at work in other cities, both European and non-European. Students in the course will visit many of the city's iconic architectural sites, and in class compare them to other key built environments in cities across the world. How have absolutist ideas, whether monarchic or totalitarian, found reflection in the city's architecture? How have periods of powerful economic growth, whether spurred by the Industrial Revolution or the "economic miracle" of the post-war Wirtschaftswunder, determined urban growth? How have the 20th century's primary competing ideological systems—democratic market capitalism and communism—altered the course of design and city development in Europe? How have specific aesthetic and/or social movements in Berlin (such as Garden City, modernism, postmodernism, Critical Reconstruction, or New Urbanism) arisen, and why have some lost favor? What role does the monument play in a topography so charged by history, much of it grim? Berlin offers a unique opportunity to examine these questions in a rare location where they have all played a vital role. The course seeks to address one key question in particular: What is the relationship between architecture and the evolution of the modern city? We will seek to find out how the former constitutes and provides signification for the latter, and how, as culture inevitably transforms the city, its structures either shed their previous meaning, or add new layers that in turn require new methods of decipherment.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

INSTRUCTOR: Jan Otakar Fischer, M.Arch.

PREREQUISITES: none

ADDITIONAL COST: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
• In-class lectures with visual content
• discussions
• site visits
• Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Final grades will be based on:
• Participation - 10%
• Midterm Exam - 20%
• Case Study - 15%
• Research Paper - 30%
• Final Exam - 25%

Participation
Students must complete the assigned readings, participate in class discussions, and attend all field trips. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.
Case Study
A short case study (ca. 1,500 words) on a topic (e.g. building, monument, urban development, aesthetic movement) will be submitted before the midterms week (at the end of week 5).

Midterm Exam
A written exam (90 minutes in class) consisting of a series of image comparisons and short essays will be given to test the students’ understanding of the themes discussed during the first half of the semester. The exam will be given in the midterms week (week 6).

Research Paper
Students will identify and pursue a research topic for a paper (ca. 3,000 words) related to the course themes during the semester. The research topic will be agreed with the course instructor by the end of week 11 and will be submitted at the end of the finals week (week 13).

Final Exam
An exam (90 minutes in class) consisting of a series of image comparisons and short essays will be given to test the students’ understanding of the themes discussed during the second half of the semester. The final exam is given in the finals week (week 13).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be:
- Familiar with the historical framework of Berlin’s modern architectural and urban evolution and with the theoretical concepts that have influenced that evolution
- Able to understand the varieties of architectural transformation in other cities, having used Berlin as a comparative model.
- Aware of the principal forces that drive contemporary urban design at various scales.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies are mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences and consistent lateness 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 cases 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, including images. Poorly written and grammatically sloppy papers will be judged more severely. Suspicious papers may be checked with plagiarism-detecting software.

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| **Postwar Polemics: Berlin and Los Angeles (1945-1989) II** | **Sessions 13-14 (Field Trip):** Socialist Utopias—Stalinallee  
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| Week 12 | **Session 22:** Final discussion and wrap-up, exam preparation, paper consultation |

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**A Note on Required Readings:** Readings marked with an asterisk (*) above and below are either classic or benchmark texts on the subject. Those without an asterisk are supplementary texts for deeper (or even occasionally revisionist) examinations of the subject.
REQUIRED READING


HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING

RECOMMENDED READING
In addition to the required reading above (in the reader and Moodle), the following texts, among others, can be found in the IES library:


**FIELD TRIPS**

- Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s Mitte and Museum Island: 19th-century city architecture in Berlin (Sessions 2+3)
- Waldsiedlung Zehlendorf (Onkel-Toms-Hütte, Bruno Taut et al.): example of 1920s housing projects in Germany, social ideas and formal experiment (Sessions 8+9)
- Karl-Marx-Allee (former Stalinallee): „Socialist Utopias“ in postwar (East) Berlin (Sessions 13+14)
- Kulturforum: public space and modern architecture in postwar (West) Berlin (Sessions 16+17)