

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



BERLIN STUDIES



The Berlin Studies programme

Berlin Studies constitutes a new, interdisciplinary programme of study for Incoming International Students at Humboldt-Universität, which combines German language classes with content-based modules taught in German and English. The programme is scheduled on a semester basis, with classes running both in the winter and summer semester.

Geared towards students within the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Berlin Studies programme serves the purpose of supporting international students during their transition into German life and study by helping them improve their oral and written skills in German, and inviting them to engage academically with the wealth and diversity of German language, literature, history and culture, as exemplified through the country's capital Berlin.

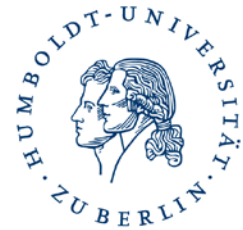
1. Programme learning outcomes

Berlin Studies is aimed at incoming international students studying towards a B.A. at their home universities (years 2+3) and who enroll at Humboldt-Universität as part of an exchange agreement for 1 or 2 semester(s).

Berlin Studies participants benefit from German language classes combined with content modules which propose a diverse range of study and teaching modes, including lectures, seminars, discussion groups, excursion as well as independent study and research assignments. Assessment is carried out via the respective modules (see module descriptions below).

A successful learner of the Berlin Studies programme will be able to:

- demonstrate good proficiency in written and spoken German
- demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Berlin as a unique urban site with a specific history, culture and with its present-day socio-cultural manifestations.
- Analyse and discuss questions pertaining to contemporary German society in its complex urbanity, mobility and cultural hybridity.
- Evaluate and appreciate their academic work as part of an interdisciplinary, interactive learning experience in Berlin.
- Reflect upon their own study experience in a Germanophone context and, if applicable, transition to a fully Germanophone study curriculum



2. Application and enrollment

Pre-requisites and application procedure:

The Berlin Studies programme is open to students who have been accepted on their year abroad and who enroll at Humboldt-Universität as part of an exchange agreement and whose proficiency in German corresponds to A-level and lower B-level (35-60 points in the language test which students take for their year abroad application).

Berlin Studies content modules are taught in English and students need a strong proficiency in English in order to engage with the subject matter and benefit from the programme.

Please **apply via email to:** Dr Julia Effertz at Julia.effertz@hu-berlin.de with the following supporting documents:

- A short statement of purpose (not exceeding 1 A4-page) in English outlining your reasons for applying to the Berlin Studies programme
- Your choice of courses: you need to choose 2 courses per module. There is a limit to the number of course participants and we may have to allocate you an alternative course choice. In order to avoid disappointment, please ensure you give a 2nd choice for each course you choose.
- German test score and proof of academic-standard English proficiency. This proof of English proficiency can be provided informally and free of charge via the language centre online test

Application deadline: September 30th, 2012, 4 pm CET.

Enrollment and further information:

Details of Berlin Studies courses are available via the online course system **AGNES**. Please note that enrollment for a Berlin Studies course is only possible via email to the programme director:

Julia.effertz@hu-berlin.de

Details of their academic student mentors will be communicated to students after enrollment in October 2012.



3. Workload

Students gain 30 ECTS/semester through the Berlin Studies programme and will have a workload of approx. 36 hours/week. Half of the workload consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials and excursions, while the other half will be taken up by independent study and research.

Semester plan (30 ECTS/semester)

Berlin Studies programme components		
Tailored German Language module, 8 hours/week (10 ECTS)		
Berlin Studies Tutorial (2 hours/week)		
Cultural Studies module (4 hours/week 10 ECTS)		Social Studies module (4 hours/week 10 ECTS)
Students choose from list below		Students choose from list below

I) Language module (compulsory)

The language module is compulsory for all Berlin Studies participants, with the individual course requirements determined by the Sprachenzentrum after the placement test at the beginning of term. Students take 8 hours/week of German language courses at the Sprachenzentrum. Their study progress is assessed throughout the semester and at the end of each language module via the Sprachenzentrum.

Students obtain **10 ECTS via the language module.**

II) Berlin Studies Tutorial (compulsory)

Berlin Studies participants will be able to take part in the prep sessions held at the beginning of term, in order to prepare for study at a German university and life in Berlin. In addition, they will be matched up with an academic student mentor from their subject area during their stay at the HU. These mentoring sessions will take



place on a weekly basis of 2 hours but can be tailored to individual needs and availabilities and will be arranged between mentor and mentee.

The mentoring sessions are intended as an ongoing study forum where students can address any questions they have with regards to their studies, e.g. problems with how to write papers, or practical questions relating to life and study in Berlin.

Berlin Studies participants are encouraged to make use of the help facilities provided by Orbis and by the International Office.

III) Content modules (20 ECTS)

Content modules are delivered in the form of lectures, seminars and excursions.

ECTS-requirements per course:

6 ECTS: Regular attendance (2 ECTS) + in-class presentation/essay (2 ECTS) + finale module exam (MAP): written term paper (2 ECTS) → letter grade

4 ECTS: Regular attendance + in-class presentation/essay → no letter grade

Assessment: Coursework and/or portfolio

Module choices (provisional list, subject to change):

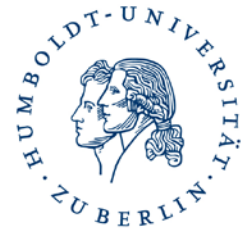
A) Cultural Studies module:

The Cultural Studies module consists of 2 courses, which students can choose from the programme below.

What makes German culture, and more specifically Berlin culture, so unique? What are some of the key questions that need to be addressed when one approaches the topic of “culture”, as part of an urban as well as a national identity?

The module is deliberately broad in its scope, offering students both a thorough introduction to and overview of current concepts in German cultural studies and allowing them to focus their learning experience within the triangle of urbanism, culture and modernity, and thus apply their study of German culture to the specific cultural and imaginary site that is Berlin.

Learning outcomes:



Upon completion of the Cultural Studies module, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and discuss key topics and concepts of cultural studies within a German-speaking context, with a specific focus on the nature of and cross-currents between art, film and architecture in Berlin.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of German academic discourse in the area of cultural and regional studies and evaluate this knowledge in the context of their own studies.
3. Critically engage with selected aspects of culture in Berlin and Germany in theory and practice, through classroom discussions, in-class presentation, essays and term papers as well as select on-site visits.
4. If applicable, progress further to an advanced immersion into the German-speaking curriculum of their subject area in semester 2.

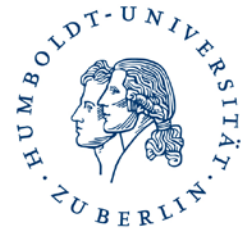
Module components (choose 2 courses from the list below):

1. Berlin's Contemporary Art Scene (excursion seminar, Nele Heinevetter)

More than 6,000 artists, many of them international, have turned Berlin into Europe's most productive art site. Established artists have a chance to exhibit in more than 400 galleries, while those who need to make a name for themselves often present their work in artists' initiatives and other alternative venues. The successful ones will be on view at institutions such as Hamburger Bahnhof and Berlinische Galerie or private collections, which have become more and more numerous recently. The seminar explores different districts and their respective art scene. The participants will discuss current shows at institutions, galleries and art spaces and meet artists and curators to hear what they have to say about the Berlin art scene.

2. 20th-Century German and Central European Art (lecture, Niko Anklam)

This lecture class shall give a sound overview to some of the canonical artistic movements of the 20th century through specific case studies. By (re-)visiting a diverse selection of popular and some maybe less known examples, this course is directed at both students with a previous knowledge in art history and the humanities, and from all other disciplines. While we will consider all genres, there will be a focus on the photographic medium and its manifold manifestations throughout the last century, following such exhibitions as – "Modernity in Central Europe, 1918 – 1945" at the National Gallery in Washington. As an overall framework, we shall move on a time line that begins with the advent of the last century and that ends in the 21st. Furthermore, we will always try to connect our historical examples with artistic



strategies and practices of later periods and/or today. In doing so, we shall see, for instance, what Russian photography of the 1920s has to do with contemporary artists from Central Europe today; how the exhibition maker Harald Szeemann and German artists like Gerhardt Richter, Hans Haacke or Blinky Palermo marked the idea of conceptual art in the 1970s that resonate in the contemporary; and finally, how the last century seems to end with a promise of a (post-)national, global art scene, in which we seemingly cannot really speak of such ideas like German or European art any more.

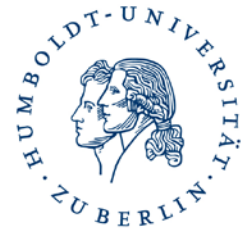
3. The Museumsinsel (seminar, Colin Huerter)

Museum Island and the modern field of Art History share the same genealogy. As such, we may approach the physicality of the museums (from their buildings' layouts through their cataloging and organization) as practical answers to the most pressing conceptual questions that Art History, as a fledgling academic discipline distinct from Philosophy, was forced to confront from its infancy onward.

During the seminar, discussions will trace the dramatic and tumultuous lives of the five museums across the past two centuries, exploring how each institution was responsible for shaping and refining a particular aspect of the nation's understanding of its own identity. As the term concludes, students will be asked to consider the new master plan for Museum Island against the newest incarnation of Museum Island - Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi, which is currently under construction.

4. Berlin in Film – Film in Berlin (seminar, Dorothea Löbbermann)

Ever since in 1895 the Skladanowsky Brothers showed the first moving picture to a paying audience here, Berlin has had a central place in German cinema – both as a site of production, and as an object in film. This course will explore the history of film in and about Berlin from its beginnings and its first peak in the Weimar Republic, through a discussion of fascist film politics to an overview over the developments in East and West Berlin to contemporary representations of the unified and multicultural city. We will explore the highly divergent uses that film directors have made of the city – through the selection of locations, the aesthetics of their visual dramatization by the camera and the editing, as well as through their emplotment – and the different interpretations of the city that the films perform. We will detect what kinds of problems – social, ethnic and political tensions of the city – the films identify (and how they do this), as well as analyze celebrations of the “old” and the “new” Berlin. Finally, we will get an insight into the importance of the film industry for the city of Berlin. Several excursions will bring us in direct contact with the city and its film history (possible options are: the film museums in Berlin and Potsdam, the film studio in Babelsberg, a



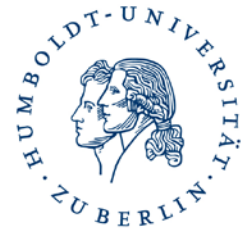
walking tour to film locations). Requirements include, besides active participation, response papers (and their discussion in class), and a term paper.

Films under consideration (of which only a selection will be discussed in detail) are: *Berlin – Die Sinfonie der Großstadt* (*Berlin – Symphony of a Great City*; W. Ruttmann, 1927), *M–Eine Stadt sucht einen Mörder* (F. Lang, 1931), *Berlin, Alexanderplatz* (P. Jutzi, 1931); *Unter den Brücken* (*Under the Bridges*; H. Käutner, 1994/5), *Emil und die Detektive* (R. Stemmler, 1954), *Berlin – Ecke Schönhauser* (*Berlin – Schönhauser Corner*; G. Klein, DDR 1957), *Die Legende von Paul und Paula* (*The Legend of Paul and Paula*; H. Carow, DDR 1973), *Christiane F.- Wir Kinder vom Bahnhof Zoo* (*We Children From Bahnhof Zoo*; U. Edel, BRD 1981), *Der Himmel über Berlin* (*Wings of Desire*; W. Wenders, BRD 1987), *Die Architekten* (*The Architects*; P. Kahane, DDR/BRD 1989), *Lola rennt* (*Run, Lola, Run*; T. Tykwer, 1998), *Nachtgestalten* (*Nightshapes*; A. Dresen, 1998), *Lola und Bilidikid* (K. Ataman, 1999), *Der schöne Tag* (*A Fine Day*; T. Arslan, 2001), *Good-bye, Lenin!* (W. Becker, 2003), *Alles auf Zucker!* (*Go for Zucker*, D. Levy, 2004), *Knallhart* (*Tough Enough*, D. Buck, 2006), *Berlin Calling* (H. Stöhr, 2008).

5. Sexuality & Gender in the German Imaginary: Memorialization, integration and modernization (Baumgärtner, Gökçen Dinç and Sekuler)

How are gender and sexuality relevant to the German nation and to its various national imaginaries? How are boundaries delineating national membership gendered and sexualized? What are the performative aspects of the German nation and of German history that rely on and (re)create specific conceptualizations of gender and sexuality? How have gender and sexuality been implicated in national projects of memorialization, integration and modernization?

In an attempt to approach these questions from various perspectives, this course will utilize three case studies to explore specific yet interconnected issues related to sexuality and gender within German historical and contemporary imaginaries. Relying on an inter- and transdisciplinary pedagogical approach, each of the three segments will dive into a topic relevant to gender and sexuality studies in Germany. The first section will engage with historical and visual analyses to reflect upon certain gendered aspects of remembering and memorializing the Holocaust / the Shoah. The second section will explore the position of the ‘guest-worker’ in German society to gain a deeper understanding of immigration and “autonomy of migration” within the contexts of globalism, diversity and multiculturalism. In the final section students will consider how the discursive production of migrant cultures as pre-modern, homophobic and patriarchal has helped to position the German nation as modern and rights-protecting. Thus, students will acquire theoretical and analytical tools from the fields of history, visual studies, cultural studies, ethnology, critical race studies



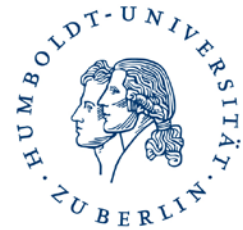
and human rights to explore in detail three case studies of the German imaginary. Students should have basic knowledge in gender and/or sexuality studies prior to registering for this course.

6. Nationalisation of the Female Citizenry: Comparisons between Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy

The pedagogical value of this seminar is to make students think historically and critically. Thinking historically means gaining an understanding of how our world is largely determined by the socio-cultural context of our birth, and thinking critically means denaturalizing our assumption through encounters with 'Other' cultures and assumptions. The selected regimes, the former in more extreme forms than the latter, make us acutely aware of the 'Othering' thus offering an apt case for study.

The theoretical perspectives and analytical tools for the interdisciplinary comparison will be race, gender, class and nation in the 'century of extremes' and the aim will be to understand empowerment and marginalisation. The course will start with gender as a category of analysis and then complicate the picture by bringing in other analytical categories such as race, class, region, religion, culture, sexuality, generation and so on. This would enable us to work through the evidence, pose new questions and look for new sources to enrich our understanding and inspire further research and knowledge production. The historiographical survey, in addition, would take up polemical issues regarding gender construction, representation, roles and responsibilities, make the students aware of the perils of majoritarian politics and also go beyond the typical binaries of victim and perpetrator.

Apart from secondary sources, these issues will be approached through extracts from available archival source material. These will be discussed in class and compared with other sources, e.g. oral testimonies, diaries, films and literature to make the students appreciate and critically evaluate sources from a historical viewpoint. This would expose them to problems that historians encounter while interpreting data, and train them to assess the reliability of documents by examining their internal consistency, checking them against other kind of evidence and setting them in their



historical context. At the same time students will be made aware of falsifications and mythologisation, manipulations and other distortions of the record by giving examples.

B) Social Sciences module

The Social Sciences module consists of 2 courses, which students can choose from the programme below.

What makes German society, and more specifically what makes Berlin “tick” with regards to its historical and social evolution?

The Social Sciences module of the Berlin Study programme offers students a thorough introduction to German society and its complexities, bearing in mind crucial historical events in the country’s history, while approaching key questions both on an urban level, as well as in the wider context of the ongoing changes within German society itself and within the context of ongoing European integration.

Through their taught courses and self-study, students will engage critically with contemporary issues such as “how is German society changing and re-defining itself, with regards to its own history as well as within an age of ongoing globalization, mobility and hybridity?”

Learning outcomes:

Upon completion of the Social Sciences module students will be able to:

1. Understand and discuss key events of German history and politics, both at the local (Berlin) and the transnational (EU) level.
2. Critically engage with current debates and concepts of German identity and society, and form an academic argument via in-class presentations and written papers.
3. Apply their theoretical and academic knowledge of German history and society practically, as part of a site-specific learning experience, via visits and excursions
4. Demonstrate increased academic competence in a Germanophone study environment.
5. If applicable, progress further to an advanced immersion into the German-speaking curriculum of their subject area in semester 2.



Module components (choose 2 courses from the list below):

1. The Berlin Wall (lecture+seminar, Stefan Solleder)

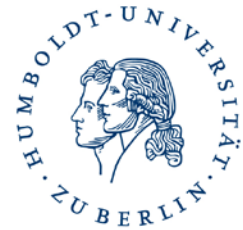
For almost 30 years, the Berlin Wall was a symbol of the division of the city of Berlin, of Germany, of Europe, and of the world during the era of the Cold War. Consequently, the fall of the Wall in 1989 was a hugely symbolic turning point in world history. But how can we explain the building of such a dividing monument? How can we account for its fall in 1989? And how has the Wall been influencing our lives until the present day? The course will provide answers to such questions via readings of texts from political science, sociology, and history, while also taking the opportunity to explore the grounds on which the events between 1961 and 1989 took place. After a brief introduction to the historical and ideological backgrounds of the Cold War, this course will turn to an analysis of the event history of the Berlin Wall: from the end of World War II via the formation of two blocs until the building of the Berlin Wall, from the building of the Wall via its fall in 1989 until today. In addition, we will focus on the social, economic, and (popular) cultural history of the two German states and Germany since re-unification. Finally, to complete the picture of the history of the German/Berlin division and the Cold War, participants will conduct interviews with Berliners in the former East and West of the city on how they experienced the age of the Wall, the coming down of the Wall in 1989, and the aftermath of 1989.

2. Tracking Urban Change in Berlin (excursion seminar, Ulrike Mackrodt)

The course aims at investigating and discussing recent urban changes in Berlin through a series of site visits. The fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 presents the starting and reference point of the course during which we will explore the political, socio-economic, cultural and spatial dimensions of these ongoing changes. The excursions to pivotal places in transition will be complimented by readings on current theoretical debates in urban studies. Topics will comprise gentrification, social inequality and polarization in the city, urbanity and symbolic spaces.

3. Muslim Life in present-day Germany (lecture+seminar, Aydin Süer)

This course provides an introduction into the present conditions of Muslims and Islam in Germany. The course starts out with an introduction to Islam. We will focus on the origins of Islam, the foundational sources (Qur'an and Sunna) and basic beliefs and worship practices in order to acquire a basic understanding of the religion. We will then explore the situation of Muslims and the institutionalisation of Islam in Germany – drawing occasional comparisons with other European countries. This will give us an



insight into how different inherited church-state regimes, different notions of secularism and multiculturalism affect these processes. Based on that, we will turn our attention to questions of Muslim identity, the transformation of religious authority and new forms of religiosity that emerge in the German context.

4. The European Union (lecture + seminar, Christoph Raiser)

The European Integration is one of the most impressive processes of peaceful cooperation in the history of modern nation states. Born from the ashes of WWII, the European Communities and their successor, the European Union, have been the result of a political will for growing integration of markets and policies between member states. But the sovereign debt crisis which is haunting European states at the moment seems to put common achievements at stake. In this course we will discuss the institutional construction of the European Union and will take a closer look at the particular role Germany has played and is still playing in the process of integration also in order to discuss possible outcomes of the present crisis. While the first sessions will be devoted to learning what the European Union is and how it works, the second part will examine the German perspective. Finally, the present crisis will be the main subject of the last part. Being in Berlin, the course will also seize the opportunity to visit interesting sites of political decision-making in order to give participants a first-hand view of European politics and the German point of view in it.

5. Migration and Security (lecture+seminar, Katarzyna Forska)

The aim of this introductory course is to provide students with a general understanding of EU-migration and asylum policy-making and its consequences for the migrant individuals as well as third countries in terms of (in)security. The course offers a historical overview of EU migration policy trends from the Treaty of Maastricht to the post-Arab Spring revision of the Global Approach to Migration. Special attention is paid to the externalization of EU migration and asylum policies, regional cooperation on migration and the related (in)security issues/discourses on the both sides of the Mediterranean. Although the main focus is on policy analysis, the course also introduces students to relevant theoretical concepts drawn from the area of ethics, security studies, international relations and critical discourse studies. The course offers an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of EU migration and asylum policy, especially interesting in the context of the post-Arab Spring human mobility phenomena in the Mediterranean.

6. Society and Economy (seminar, Inna Michaeli)



Course description tbc.

7. Spaces of touristification in Berlin (Thomas Bürk)

Course description tbc.

8. European Regional Development (P. Dannenberg; block seminar+excursions)

The seminar is targeting students in all relevant disciplines which are interested in the different aspects of European regional development including e.g. city and regional planning, geography, politics, social sciences and economics.

The aim of the seminar to understand and learn about the different challenges European regions are facing, e.g. integration and migration, social exclusion, demographic change, creative milieus, economic decline, shrinking cities and ecological renewal.

- How is the aging society affecting our rural and urban areas?
- How are migrants integrated in European cities?
- Does Berlin have a creative class and if so, how is it affecting the city?

These are questions, the seminar is targeting. The City of Berlin is a hot spot for various regional developments. As a result the seminar will be splitted up in student presentations on specific topics (Friday) and two excursions (Saturday and Sunday) on examples in Berlin (e.g. Social Exclusion in Neukölln, the new developing zones in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg "Media Spree" and Tempelhofer Feld, Gentrification in Kreuzberg and Prenzlauerberg). During seminar Students present power point presentations in which selected developments or planning programs are shown and discussed on a regional example all over Europe.

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