

# MAYMESTER IN BERLIN



EUS 260 BERLIN – HISTORIC METROPOLIS AND GATEWAY TO A NEW EUROPE

BERLIN is a bustling, multi-ethnic, ever-changing modern metropolis. Since 1989, when the Iron Curtain came crashing down, it has reinvented itself as capital of unified Germany, as lynchpin in the political landscape of the EU and as a center of gravity in European arts, media and letters. It is the natural gateway to Eastern Europe and a cultural magnet teeming with cosmopolitan talent from all over the world.

But Berlin is also a living history book, deeply imprinted with the traces and scars of the turbulent events of 20<sup>th</sup> century German history. Prussian grandeur and Wilhelmine hubris, Weimar's endeavoring spirit of innovation, Nazi monumentalism and finally the ideological contest of East and West Berlin are richly documented in museums and architecture and to this day inform the city's daily life.

Together, we will explore both historic and contemporary Berlin. There will be many on-site teaching elements, taking advantage of the city's unique array of museums and historical sites, as well as study trips and opportunities to sample Berlin's vibrant theater and arts scene. Students have the opportunity for independent travel on weekends (Friday afternoons being kept free), with Prague a five-hour train ride away and several other European capitals within 1-2 hours flying time.

## EUS 260 Maymester Berlin Syllabus 2010 (preliminary)

<b>At Vanderbilt</b>							
Tbd, ca 15 April 4pm-6pm Predeparture class I	2 hour bloc Seminar on format of class, examination, code of conduct. Introduction to the content of the class and class textbook (Clay Large, D., <u>Berlin</u> , New York 2009)						
Tbd ca. 22 Apr 4pm-7pm	Introduction to German history in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century						
followed by	BBQ at Professor Grunwald's place.						
<p>THE TEXTBOOK READING HAS TO BE DONE BEFORE ARRIVAL IN BERLIN! The time in Berlin is set aside for conceptual and on-site learning, immersion and the development of the individual research project (see my email of 21 April re: page numbers)</p>							
<b>In Berlin</b>							
		Session 1 9:30 -11:00	Session 2 11:30 -13:00	On site/ afternoon teaching	extracurricular activities		
Sunday 9 May arrival in Berlin. Settle into accommodation, induction public transport, emergency procedures							

Week 1	10	Introduction to the course. (45 mins)	City tour (Bus 100) Rosenthaler Platz, Alexanderplatz, Hackesche Hoefe, S-Bahn to Hauptbahnhof, the to Zoo Station, Gedächtniskirche, Bus 100 to Potsdamer Platz, Holocaust Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag.		<i>activities listed here are merely examples – scope for individually tailored program</i>			
	11	From the first German unification to World War One	German Historical Museum (Deutsches Historisches Museum, DHM)					
	12	presentations on DHM assignments	World War One, Revolution and the 'Golden Twenties'					
	13	National Socialism & the Holocaust	Visit to Oranienburg, Sachsenhausen concentration camp memorial NS camp system assignments					
	14	Test (pre-departure reading, 30 mins)	Wartime Berlin	Crucible of the Cold War: the Berlin blockade & airlift leave 11:55 from Marienburgerstr. 12:30 tour of Tempelhof Airport				
	15	City districts assignment			Soccer: 3:30 FC Union vs Rot/Weiss Erfurt. Meet 2:30pm at student accommodation			
	16	City districts assignment						

Week 2	17	Presentations city districts assignment.	Berlin Blockade to Berlin Wall  Everyday Life in Divided Germany	GDR Museum or Normanne nstrasse Stasi memorial			
	18		Re-Unification and since	2 p.m. consultation on research project (w/ Grunwald, then w/TA)			
	19	Timeslot for visiting Humboldt University class in American Studies	2pm Seminar on transatlantic issues (with PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee, Humboldt-Universitaet Berlin, and his students), HU Hauptgebäude 1070				
	20	Guest lecture Mara Kurotschka (Juilliard-trained dancer, choreographer and director): Modern Dance in Berlin	Berlin underground: tour of the bunker system	afternoon free – <b>do NOT book travel before 4 pm!!</b>			
	20-23	Travel weekend [leaving Berlin on this weekend is the students' own decision and not part of the Vanderbilt Maymester program, the consent of parents/ guardians is required] Possibilities for travel in/ around Berlin: Chateau Rheinsberg, Sanssouci (Potsdam), Chorin monastery, Niederfinow, Joachimsthal, Wannsee, Wandlitz and nearby lakes Stay overnight -Schwerin, Hamburg, Munich, Prague, London, Paris etc etc					
	23	<i>Karneval der Kulturen</i> parade (multi-cultural, multi-ethnic street fair and parade, 1 Mio spectators, 80+ floats)					

Week 3						
	24	<p>9:00 Guest Lecture Ambassador John Kornblum (tbc): the significance of Berlin in 20<sup>th</sup> century history, followed by discussion. (at Noerr Stiefenhofer Lutz, Charlottenstr. 57., Gdarm'markt)</p> <p><b>meet 8:45 am at Hausvogteiplatz station (U2) take the exit in the direction the train is going (Gendarmenmarkt side)!</b></p> <p><b>smart dress.</b></p>	Class led by TA on subject of her/his expertise (tbc)	2-4 pm office hours TA		7:30 pm Weber, Der Freischuetz, Komische oper (S-Bahn Unter den Linden)
	25	<p>Reunification: visit to Leipzig <b>meet 8:15 am at student accommodation.</b> return 9 pm. 10:30 am Nikolai Church, 1 pm Haus der Geschichte, 3:30 pm BMW Leipzig plant 6:00 pm -7:30 free time return train 7:51 pm</p>				

	26	TBD – guest lecture on immigration (possibly in conjunction with site visit to Polish/German border city Frankfurt an der Oder)			7:30 pm, Puccini, Madame Butterfly, Komische Oper
	27	10am Guest lecture by Dr. Philipp Steinberg (Federal Finance Ministry, chief aide to SPD presidium, tbc): German politics in a European framework – the example of tax harmonization	Guest Lecture Dr. Tim Stuchtey (Humboldt-Universitaet Berlin, tbc). Berlin Politics: The Art of the Possible (Berlin state parliament)	Office hours TA 4-6pm	
	28	Guest lecture: Global Design, made in Europe (Prof. Yang Liu, Christian Frey, tbc)	Guest lecture Julia Bonstein ( <i>Der Spiegel</i> ): Media and Politics in Old Europe and the New World (tbc)	deadline for feedback on reviews/ research paper outlines	7:30 pm, Puccini, Madame Butterfly, Komische oper (S-Bahn Unter den Linden)
	29	Felix Brusberg (Galerie Brusberg) Berlin and the global art market <b>smart dress</b>			6 pm watch Goodbye Lenin at Henning Grunwald's place
End of program	30				
	7 June DEADLINE for RESEARCH PAPER and reviews				

**Textbook**

Large, David Clay, Berlin, New York 2000

**Assessment**

-exam on pre-departure reading and first four days of classes

-in class participation, presentations etc: 20%

-3 reviews\*: 30%

-research paper (8-10 pages, double spaced): 30%

\*one page, single spaced. At least one review must be on a scholarly article. Subjects for reviews:

**Articles:**

-one of the scholarly articles on Berlin from the literature list

**Museums:**

-Pergamon museum – spoils of imperialism?

-The collection Berggruen (and the person Heinz Berggruen)

**Sites:**

-Zionskirche – the *Umweltbibliothek* and the fall of the wall

-Haus der Wannseekonferenz

-Stasi prison Hohenschoenhausen

**Movies:**

-Cabaret (and the writer Christopher Isherwood)

-Goodbye Lenin

-1-2-3

-Der Himmel ueber Berlin

-Downfall

The subjects are EXAMPLES, in consultation with me, other subjects for review can be identified.