

Geography 390AT**(De)Constructing Berlin: An Exploration of Urban Place and Time****Course Description**

This course offers a multidisciplinary approach to the culture and urban geography of Berlin, Germany. Emphasis is placed on selected themes in the physical, historical, cultural, political, and economic development of the city. Discontinuity, disruption and destruction characterize the history of Berlin in the twentieth century. The somewhat stodgy capital of Prussia developed into Europe's capital of industry, frantically trying to cope with a changing economy, a rising population and its demands on the urban infrastructure. Politics and war changed the face of Berlin. These changes are still evident in today's city. Indeed, since the collapse of the Wall, Berlin has once again undergone a dramatic transformation. During our two weeks in the city we will attempt to understand the forces that have shaped Berlin and to evaluate the results.

A focus of this field trip component of the course will be the interaction of urban geography and cultural landscapes of Berlin. Students will be able to contrast the experience in their culture and geography-of-origin with processes taking place in a European metropolis. Due to its history, Berlin and its surrounding region offer a broad range of topics in human geography and urban culture such as demographic change, migration issues, urban infrastructure and architecture, and historical memory. The cultural richness and demographic diversity in a relatively small area offers students the potential of a rewarding field trip experience irrespective of their particular interest in their major program. Through the exposure to the culture and geography of a region quite different from Canadian urban areas, we expect students to develop a better understanding of the relationship between geographical and cultural developments. Prior to arriving in Berlin, students will be given information about the nature and history of the German language. The field trip component challenges students to step outside the comfort of monolingualism and experience a degree of "languaging", "the process of making meaning and shaping knowledge and experience through language" (Swain, 2006). They will experience language lack and have to negotiate communication in a non-native language situations.

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Office Hours Monday, Wednesday 11:00 am–12:00 noon or by appointment

URCourses Selected [course materials](#) will be made available on [URCourses](#). Check also on [URCourses](#) for up-dated class information. If you choose to use a third party e-mail account for communication, please [forward your U of R e-mails](#) to this account. Please specify meaningful subjects for all e-mails.

Lecture Time March 21, April 11, 25: 7pm – 9 pm
May 1 – 4: 9 am – 12:00 noon

Prerequisites	Permission of department head										
Attendance policy	Attendance at all times is required.										
Evaluation	<p>The grade distribution (see below) is based on class participation, a presentation of a research proposal to the class, and a research essay, to be between 2,500 and 3,000 words. It is expected that at least one meeting between the student and the course supervisors will take place before the essay is begun.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Responses to field questions</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mini tasks</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participation in blog/wiki</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research proposal</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research essay</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> </table>	Responses to field questions	15%	Mini tasks	10%	Participation in blog/wiki	20%	Research proposal	10%	Research essay	45%
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Late assignments	<p>In order to be fair to all students in the course no extensions will be granted except in the case of a documented medical or other emergency. Students must complete each requirement to receive standing in the course. You are encouraged to review the faculty's regulations on the subjects of student (and faculty) conduct and plagiarism.</p> <p>Students who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations, should inform us, as well as contact the Coordinator of Special Needs Services at 585-4631.</p>										
Research Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Examine the scale and extent of gentrification and its implications in Berlin. 										
(TO BE EXTENDED)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Berlin, despite being a multicultural city, has had its difficulties accommodating the diversity of its population. At the beginning of the 21st century concerns about the creation of ghettos in some districts of Berlin were raised by some politicians and local governments. Examine Berlin's ethnic composition and level of segregation and how it has evolved after WWII. 3) Examine the scale and extent of Berlin's green spaces and their distribution, accessibility and use. 										

Tentative Schedule

In-class component

Date and Time		Activity/Themes
21 March 7 to 9 p.m.	Wed	Seminar – topics for student projects
11 April 7 to 9 p.m.	Wed	Seminar – literature review
25 April 7 to 9 p.m.	Wed	Seminar – discussion of student projects
1–4 May 9 a.m. to noon	Tue–Fri	Lecture (GEOG and GER)

Field-trip component

Date and Time		Activity/Themes	
5 May	Sat	<i>Departure from Regina, SK, Canada</i>	
6 May	Sun	<i>Arrival in Berlin, Germany</i> Evening: optional walk in Charlottenburg	
7 May (1)	Mon	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Alexanderplatz: symbol of modernity in 1920s; changes and plans since 'Wende'; Exploration of Hardenbergplatz, Breitscheidplatz, Wittenbergplatz U-Bahn station	Transportation - Alexanderplatz (East) and Breitscheidplatz (West)
8 May (2)	Tue	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Warschauer Str. via East Side Gallery, Karl-Marx-Allee, Simon-Dach-Str., Boxhagener Platz; Hufelandkiez; Karl-Marx-Allee	Gentrification in unified Berlin - East (after 1990)
9 May (3)	Wed	<i>Leave hotel at 8:30 a.m.</i> Marzahn: Pre-fabricated housing, Gentrification in Kreuzberg (Mehringdamm, Fidicinistr., Chamissoplatz, Bergmannstr.)	Urban planning Berlin – East (before 1990); Gentrification in Berlin – West (before and after 1990)
10 May (4)	Thu	<i>Leave 8:30 a.m.</i> Potsdam: Babelsberg Film Studios; Sans Souci, Dutch Quarter, Frederick II	Potsdam, Film industry; Immigration (Prussia)

Date and Time		Activity/Themes	
11 May (5)	Fri	<i>Leave 8:30 a.m.</i> Visit University of Potsdam, attend lecture, meet German students	Intercultural experience, discussion with German students/attend lecture
12 May	Sat	Time on your own	Individual research projects
13 May	Sun		
14 May (6)	Mon	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Levetzowstr. (Jewish Berlin), Markthalle Arminiusstr., Moabit, Kirchstr.; Ministry of the Interior, Bellevue Palace, Tiergarten, Hansaviertel	Migration; changes of ethnic composition over time; Urban planning: new 'Mitte'
15 May (7)	Tue	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Reichstag, government district, Pariser Platz Holocaust Memorial, Sinti-Roma Memorial; Potsdamer Platz, Leipziger Platz	Government District; Holocaust/Genocide memorials
16 May (8)	Wed	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Klausnerkiez, Charlottenburg; Kiezbündnis Klausenerplatz	Cautious urban renewal; Integration of migrants
17 May (9)	Thu	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Palace of Tears, Bernauer Str.; Stasi Museum	GDR, Wall, 'Stasi'
18 May (10)	Fri	<i>Leave at 8:30 a.m.</i> Gedenkstätte Hohenschönhausen	GDR, 'Stasi', Prison
19 May	Sat	<i>Departure from Berlin</i>	