

GLITTER AND DOOM TRAVEL SEMINAR TO BERLIN

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY & EXCHANGES



“Glitter and Doom: Culture and History in Berlin”

is a two-course learning experience combining a 3-credit preparatory course taught on campus in Spring 2012 (TX 201C) and a 1-credit travel seminar in Berlin in May 2012 (TX 202). This seminar explores German history and culture with special attention to the complex interplay between art and politics. After studying on campus, the city of Berlin and the surrounding region will be our classroom for the ten-day travel seminar.

WHY BERLIN?

Berlin is a city continually reinventing itself. In its 775-year history, Berlin has been at the center of many of Europe’s major political, social, and artistic developments. This seminar examines Berlin’s turbulent history over the last 400 years and focuses on those moments that exemplify the glitter and doom of the German cultural heritage. Students study the Enlightenment, neo-classical art and architecture, and the rise of Prussian militarism through the life of Frederick the Great. We then explore the construction of a German nation-state through war, art, and Bismarck’s political doctrines. Primary emphasis is on 20th-century Berlin as the site of many of Germany’s greatest artistic accomplishments and its fall into the barbarism of two world wars, two dictatorships, and genocide. We review the roaring 20s by juxtaposing innovations in the arts to the social, economic, and political upheavals. In our study of the Third Reich, we examine Hitler’s monumental architectural visions and the “degenerate art exhibition,” read memoirs of those persecuted, and learn about the topography of terror. In the aftermath of WWII, Berlin became a divided city and the battle line in the Cold War between two opposing political systems. We study the history behind the construction and fall of the Berlin wall and the secret Stasi prison in Hohenschönhausen. Finally, we learn about 21st-century Berlin, Germany’s vibrant capital city of 3.4 million inhabitants, that is renowned for its innovative artistic scene, world-class museums and concerts, diverse ethnic population, peaceful democratic government, and forward looking Zeitgeist.





FACULTY DIRECTORS

Mary-Beth O'Brien is Professor of German, Chair of FLL, and The Courtney and Steven Ross Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies. She studied at the Karl-Winter-Universität Heidelberg, Freie Universität Berlin, and Wilhelm-Pieck-Universität Rostock, and received her Ph.D. in Germanic Languages from UCLA. She teaches courses in German language, literature, and cinema, and Introduction to International Affairs. She is the author of *Nazi Cinema as Enchantment: The Politics of Entertainment in the Third Reich*, which explores how cinema participated in the larger framework of everyday fascism. Her newest book, *Post-Wall German Cinema and National History*, examines the utopianism and political dissent in depictions of German history.

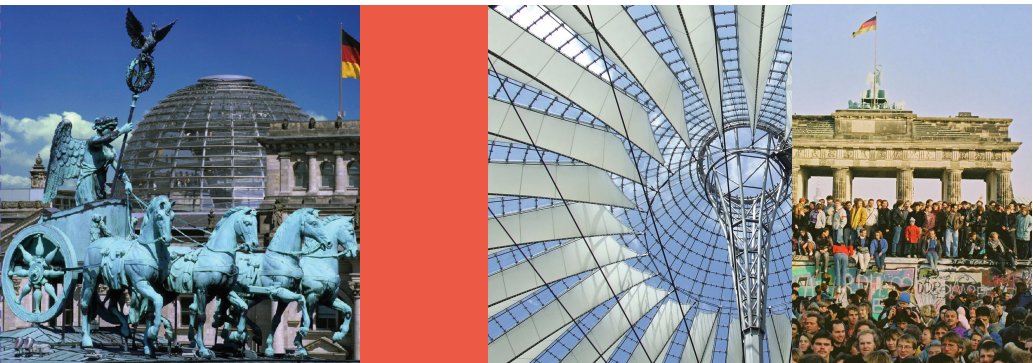
Karin Hamm-Ehsani is Visiting Assistant Professor of German at Skidmore. She is a German native who studied at the University of Trier-Kaiserslautern and the University of Köln, and received her Ph.D. in Germanic Languages from UCLA. Her teaching includes courses in German language, German literature from 18th to 20th century, and German Film. Her research and published scholarship focuses on the German History of Ideas of Enlightenment and Romanticism, on contemporary European Multicultural and Migration Politics, and migrant film and literature in German-speaking Europe. Her current work in progress is on Kurdish-German filmmaker Yüksel Yavuz and the notion of Heimat.

COSTS

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Berlin is \$3,000 (subject to fluctuation). This includes roundtrip airfare from the New York City area to Berlin, all ground transportation

PRELIMINARY TRAVEL SCHEDULE *(subject to change)*

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| May 20: | Evening: | Flight from NYC area airport to Berlin, Germany |
| May 21: | Morning: | Arrive in Berlin. Transfer to hotel. |
| | Afternoon: | Welcome lunch in TV Tower on Alexanderplatz.
Bus tour of the city. |
| May 22: | Morning: | Walking tour of historic Berlin with art historian to explore Brandenburg Gate, State Opera, St. Hedwig's Church, Humboldt University, and German Cathedral. |
| | Afternoon: | Pergamon Museum (Pergamon Altar and Gates of Babylon). |
| | Evening: | Dinner in Prenzlauer Berg at a traditional beer garden. |
| May 23: | Morning: | Neo-classicism of Schinkel and Schadow: New Guard House, Theater on Gendarmenmarkt, Old Museum, and sculpture exhibition in Friedrichswerder Church. |
| | Afternoon: | Lecture by a historian on Hitler's Germania. |
| | Evening : | Visit to the opera at the State Opera House. |
| May 24: | Morning: | Following in the steps of the Berlin Wall. |
| | Afternoon: | Lunch at Zur letzten Instanz, Berlin's oldest inn. Tour of the Stasi secret prison Hohenschönhausen by a former political prisoner. |



in Germany, onsite accommodations (generally double occupancy), 2 meals per day, international medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore IA faculty onsite, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include transportation to and from the New York City area, passport and visa costs, or personal expenses. Financial Aid is available for eligible students.

REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to enroll in TX 202 (1 credit faculty-led travel seminar to Berlin) must also register for TX 201B (3 credit on-campus course) offered in the spring 2012 semester. The faculty directors, in conjunction with OCSE, will schedule meetings in Spring 2012 to discuss the academic expectations, logistics and code of conduct for the travel seminar.

TO APPLY

Please apply by the following deadline:  **MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2011**

Applications are available in Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE) in Starbuck 202, on the OCSE Web site at <http://www.skidmore.edu/ocse>, from Professor O'Brien in PMH 406 and Professor Hamm-Ehsani in PMH 411.

Applicants are required to submit a \$250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program. (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to program fee.

- May 25:** **Morning:** The New National Gallery designed by Mies van der Rohe for the Modern art collection (Kirchner, Beckmann, Dix, Kandinsky, Klee).
Afternoon: Tour of the Reichstag building and glass dome.
Evening: Dancing at a traditional Berlin ballroom with telephones on each table.
- May 26:** **Morning:** Excursion to Frederick the Great's castle at Sanssouci in Potsdam.
Afternoon: Boat trip on the Havel River.
Evening: Musical performance at the Philharmonic.
- May 27:** **Morning:** Tour of the Jewish Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind.
Afternoon: Excursion to Sachsenhausen concentration camp memorial site.
- May 28:** **Morning and Afternoon:** Free day in the city to explore.
Evening: Postmodern Potsdamer Platz and Sony Entertainment Center.
- May 29:** **Morning:** Turkish market in Kreuzberg. Visit to a mosque.
Afternoon: Lunch at a traditional Turkish restaurant. Meet a local artist or musician.
- May 30:** **Morning and Afternoon:** Free day in the city to explore.
Evening: Farewell dinner at Restauration Tucholsky with Berlin cuisine and a musical-cabaret performance
- May 31:** **Morning:** Flight from Berlin to New York City area airport.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,

For details about cost and travel logistics, please contact:

LISA HOBBS

FINANCE/PROGRAM MANAGER

Off-Campus Study & Exchanges

Starbuck 202

518-580-5355

lhobbs@skidmore.edu

For details about course content and academic requirements, please contact:

DR. MARY-BETH O'BRIEN

PROFESSOR OF GERMAN

Palamountain Hall 406

518-580-5216

mobrien@skidmore.edu

DR. KARIN HAMM-ESHANI

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GERMAN

Palamountain Hall 411

518-580-5233

khammehs@skidmore.edu

For details on available financial aid, please contact:

CARYN MARLIN

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Financial Aid

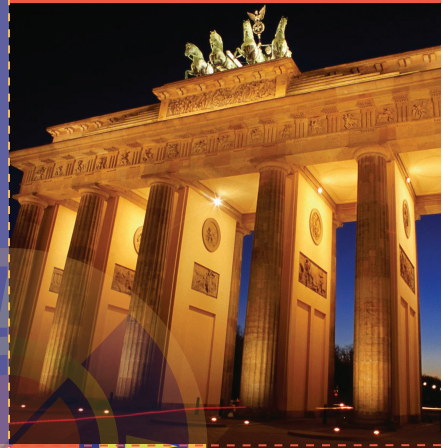
Starbuck Center 101

518-580-5750

cmarlin@skidmore.edu

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

—Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) Chapter LXII.



Creative Thought Matters

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