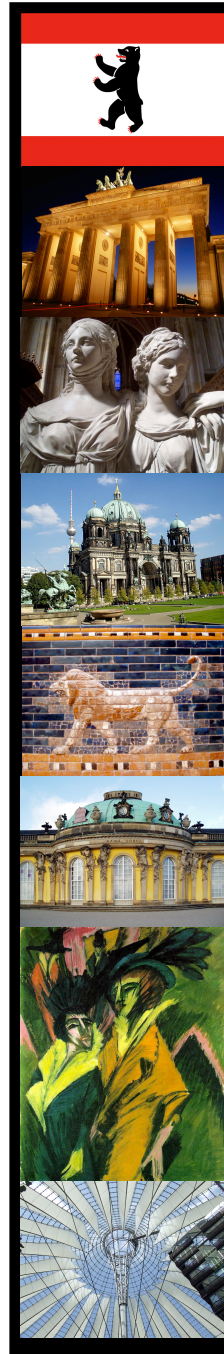


**Travel Seminar to Berlin with
Skidmore Faculty**

For information on cost and travel logistics, contact Lisa Hobbs in OCSE at 580-5355. For course content, academic requirements, and the German program, contact Professor O'Brien at 580-5216 mobrien@skidmore.edu or Professor Hamm-Ehsani at 580-5233 khammehs@skidmore.edu.

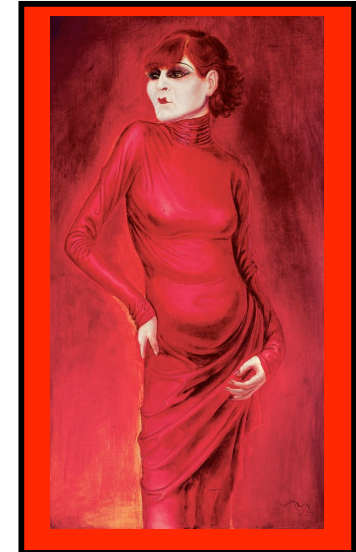


"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime." Mark Twain, *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) Chapter LXII



Skidmore College

**GLITTER AND DOOM:
CULTURE AND HISTORY IN BERLIN**



**TX 201: FACULTY-LED TRAVEL
SEMINAR TO BERLIN, GERMANY**

MAY 20-31, 2012

FACULTY

PROFESSOR MARY-BETH O'BRIEN
(mobrien@skidmore.edu)

PROFESSOR KARIN HAMM-EHSANI
(khammehs@skidmore.edu)

Travel Seminar to Berlin

GLITTER AND DOOM: CULTURE AND HISTORY IN BERLIN is a two-course (4 credits total) learning experience combining class work and readings on campus during the Spring 2012 semester and a field trip with class work and lectures in Berlin, Germany in May 2012.

TX 201B Glitter and Doom (3 credits) is the on-campus segment.

TX 202 Faculty-Led Travel Seminar: Berlin (1 credit) is the travel segment of the experience.

Students must be registered for TX 202B in order to qualify for the travel seminar TX 201.

Why Berlin?

Berlin is a city continually reinvented 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 with special attention to those moments that exemplify the glitter and doom of the German cultural heritage. Students examine 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 in this course 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 the monumental architectural visions of Adolf Hitler and Albert Speer 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 through an examination of films such as *The Life of Others*. 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.

Preliminary Travel Schedule

Subject to change

May 20: Flight from NYC to Berlin. Germany

May 21: Arrive in Berlin. Transfer to hotel. 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). Dinner in Prenzlauer Berg at a traditional beer garden.

May 23: 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: Following in the steps of the Berlin Wall. Lunch at Zur letzten Instanz, Berlin's oldest inn. Afternoon tour of the Stasi secret prison Hohenschönhausen by a former political prisoner.

May 25: Morning at 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. Dancing in the evening 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. Excursion to Sachsenhausen concentration camp memorial site.

May 28: Free day in the city to explore. Evening at postmodern Potsdamer Platz and Sony Entertainment Center.

May 29: Morning at the Turkish market in Kreuzberg. Visit to a mosque. Lunch at a traditional Turkish restaurant. Meet a local artist or musician.

May 30: Farewell dinner at Restauration Tucholsky with Berlin cuisine and a musical-cabaret performance

May 31: Return from Berlin to NYC.

Seminar 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 and Freie Universität Berlin, 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*.

Anticipated Costs

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Berlin is \$3,000 (may fluctuate). This includes roundtrip airfare from NYC to Berlin, all ground transportation in Germany, onsite accommodations with double occupancy, 2 meals a day, 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 NYC nor personal expenses.

Application

Applications are available from Professor O'Brien in PMH 406, Professor Hamm-Ehsani in PMH 405 or OCSE in Starbuck 202. Application Deadline is October 31, 2011. 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.