

Fall 2013

MWF 11:15-12:10 in BO 380

Professor Mary-Beth O'Brien

TX 201C *Glitter and Doom: Cultural History of Berlin, Past and Present*



Glitter and Doom is a two-course learning experience combining meetings and readings on campus during the Fall 2013 semester and a field trip with lectures in Berlin in January 2014. TX201C is the classroom segment of the experience. Students do not have to register for TX 202 in order to take this course. TX 201C and TX 202 are a 4-credit experience and can count toward the German major and minor and the Cultural World requirement of the IA major and minor.

Course Topic: From its humble beginnings in 1237 as a sandy patch of land and trading post on the Spree River to a postmodern metropolis filled with shimmering glass and steel facades, Berlin has continually reinvented itself. In its 775-year history, Berlin has been at the center of many of Europe's major political, social, artistic, and scientific developments. This seminar examines Berlin's turbulent history over the last four hundred years with special attention to those moments that exemplify the glitter and doom of the German cultural heritage.

We begin with eighteenth-century Enlightenment and philosopher-king Frederick the Great, who was an accomplished flautist, commissioned Europe's first opera house outside a royal court, promoted the grand architectural vision of Karl Friedrich Schinkel, welcomed migration from Huguenots, Scots, and Jews, developed the notion of *benevolent despotism*, and institutionalized Prussian militarism. The nineteenth-century was engrossed in the long path to national unity in 1871. We explore the political doctrine of Blood and Iron Chancellor Otto Bismarck, the paintings of artist Adolph Menzel, and the architectural milestones of the Reichstag building and the Victory Column. Twentieth-century Berlin was the site of many of Germany's greatest artistic accomplishments and its fall into the barbarism of two world wars, two dictatorships, and genocide. Primary emphasis in this course is on the twentieth century. We review the roaring twenties by juxtaposing innovations in the arts (cabaret, film, and works by expressionist and new objectivity painters, writers, and musicians) to the social upheavals resulting from the lost war, suffrage for women, and violent street battles between rival political camps. 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 Sachsenhausen concentration camp on the outskirts of town. In the aftermath of the Second World War, 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 the film *The Life of Others*. Finally, we learn about twenty-first-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*.

Course Expectations:

The course aims to familiarize students with some of the key themes in European cultural history through an intensive and interactive case study of the city of Berlin.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

To provide students with a basic understanding and general knowledge about the history and culture of Berlin. Themes include the history of Prussia; Enlightened despotism; neo-classical art and architecture; the Second Empire, German unification, and the construction of nationhood through war, art, and architecture; Germany's participation in two world wars and National Socialism; the artistic achievements and the social upheavals in the Weimar Republic; Hitler's grandiose plans for Germania, the persecution of the Jews and other minorities in the Third Reich; Berlin as a divided city in the Cold War era and aspects of the GDR as surveillance police state; the cultural and political identity of Berlin today.

Critical Skills:

- To develop critical and comparative reading skills by examining both primary and secondary sources.
- To enhance students' ability to read and think critically about scholarly writing by examining a variety of texts from different theoretical and interpretative perspectives
- To develop better oral and written communication skills as they pertain to the study of the history and culture in Germany
- To foster an awareness of the importance of debate in scholarly writing and knowledge.

Course Grades will be based on:

- Blank maps of Berlin, Germany, and Europe (10%)
- Participation and attendance at class meetings (10%)
- Homework Assignments (10%)
- Mid-Term Examination (25%)
- One research paper of 4-5 pages (20%)
- Final Exam (25%)

Required Art and Musical Works:

Art and Architecture by Knobeldorff, Schinkel, Schadow, Menzel, Dix, Höch, Grosz, Kollwitz, Speer, Foster, Pei, Libeskind

Frederick the Great, Trio sonata for flute and/or violin & continuo in B flat major, H. 578, Wq. 161/2: No. 3, Allegretto

Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, *Three Penny Opera* (1928)

Richard Strauss, "Also sprach Zarathustra" (1911) and "Olympische Hymne (1934)

Required Viewing:

Berlin: Symphony of a Great City (Walter Ruttmann, 1927)
The Life of Others (Florian Henkel von Donnersmark, 2006)

Required Texts:

Ronald Taylor, *Berlin and its Culture* (Yale University Press, 1997) ISBN 0300072007
Karen E. Till, *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005)
ISBN 0816640114

Selected Readings from:

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City: A Diary* (Picador, 2006)
ISBN 0312426119
Stephanie Baron, *Degenerate Art: The Fate of the Avantgarde in Nazi Germany* (Harry N. Abrams, 1991) ISBN 0810936534
Françoise Forster-Hahn, "Adolph Menzel's *Daguerreotypical* Image of Frederick the Great: A Liberal Bourgeois Interpretation of German History," *The Art Bulletin* 59.2 (1977): 242-61.
James R. Gaines, *Evening in the Palace of Reason: Bach Meets Frederick the Great* (Harper Perennial, 2006). ISBN 0007156618
Uwe Geese, "Neo-Classical Sculpture," in Rolf Toman, *Neoclassicism and Romanticism: Architecture - Sculpture - Painting - Drawings 1750-1848*, pp. 250-313. (h. f. ullmann; 2008) ISBN 0841600899
Peter Jelavich, *Berlin Cabaret* (Harvard University Press, 1996) ISBN 0674067622
Gertrud Kolmar, *Dark Soliloquy: The Selected Poems of Gertrud Kolmar* (Seabury Press, 1975)
ISBN 0816491992
Isaac Kramnick, ed., *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*, (Penguin, 1995). ISBN 014245669
Jay Luvaas, *Frederick The Great on the Art of War* (Da Capo Press, 1999). ISBN 0306809087
Suzanne L. Marchand, *Down from Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970*, (Princeton University Press, 2003) ISBN 0691114781
Beate Meyer, Hermann Simon, and Chana Schutz, *Jews in Nazi Berlin: From Kristallnacht to Liberation* (University of Chicago Press, 2009) ISBN 0226521575
Wallis Miller, "Schinkel and the Politics of German Memory: The Life of the *Neue Wache* in Berlin," *A User's Guide to German Cultural Studies*, ed. Scott Denham, Irene Kacandes, and Jonathan Petropoulos (University of Michigan Press, 1997), pp. 227-256.
Nathan Stolfus, *Resistance of the Heart: Intermarriage and the Rosenstrasse Protest in Nazi Germany* (Rutgers University Press, 2001) ISBN 0813529093
Stuart Taberner and Paul Cooke, eds. *Beyond Normalization: German Culture, Politics, and Literature into the Twenty-First Century* (Camden House, 2006) ISBN 1571133380

Course Schedule

Week 1	
Introduction to the Course Group work with Maps Geography, Climate, Language, Religion, Demographics of Berlin	Homework: Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 4 The Age of Enlightenment, pp. 55-87. Prepare study questions.
A Brief Outline on the Rise of Prussia The making of the philosopher-king Frederick the Great Frederick's development from a young artist to a military leader	Homework: Read James R. Gaines, <i>Evening in the Palace of Reason: Bach Meets Frederick the Great</i> , pp. 3-12 and 213-255. Prepare study questions. Listen to Frederick the Great's "Trio sonata for flute and/or violin & continuo in B flat major, H. 578, Wq. 161/2: No. 3, Allegretto."
Week 2	
Fredrick the Great as composer and flutist Fredrick's encounter with Bach Trio sonata for flute	Homework: Read Immanuel Kant's, "What is Enlightenment?" and Frederick II's essay "Benevolent Despotism" in <i>The Portable Enlightenment Reader</i> , ed. Isaac Kramnick, pp. 1-6 and 452-459. Prepare study questions.
The Enlightenment Frederick the Great's concept of <i>benevolent despotism</i>	Homework: Read Jay Luvaas, <i>Frederick The Great on the Art of War</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 1-34. Prepare study questions.
Prussian militarism (The Silesian Wars, The Seven Years' War) Frederick the Great and the Art of War	Homework: Read Suzanne L. Marchand, <i>Down from Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970</i> , Chapters 1 The Making of a Cultural Obsession and Chapter 2 From Ideals to Institutions, pp. 3-35 and 36-74. Prepare study questions. Go to http://www.360cities.net/area/berlin-germany and examine the following buildings, squares, and structures on Unter den Linden Street: The Brandenburg Gate, Bebelplatz, German Cathedral. Proceed Southwest to Gendarmenmarkt for the Schauspielhaus. Examine the palace at Sans Souci at http://www.360cities.net/image/picturegallery-park-sanssouci-potsdam-germany-europe#0.00,0.00,70.0
Week 3	
National Identity and Architecture. Building the Prussian Capital in Berlin	Homework: Read Wallis Miller, "Schinkel and the Politics of German Memory: The Life of the <i>Neue Wache</i> in Berlin," in <i>A User's Guide</i>

Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff, Architect and City Planner under Frederick the Great The Opera (1740-43), Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam (1745-47), St. Hedwig Kirche (1747-1773)	<i>to German Cultural Studies,</i> ” pp. 227-56. Prepare study questions. Visit the website for the state opera house http://www.staatsoper-berlin.org/en_EN/content/opera_history
National Identity and Architecture. Building the Prussian Capital in Berlin Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Architect and Painter (1781-1841) Altes Museum, Neue Wache, Schauspielhaus, Friedrichswerder Kirche, Bauakademie	Homework: Read Uwe Giess, “Neo-Classical Sculpture,” in Rolf Toman, <i>Neoclassicism and Romanticism: Architecture - Sculpture - Painting - Drawings 1750-1848</i> , pp. 250-313. Prepare study questions.
Week 4	
Johann Gottfried Schadow, Neo-Classical Sculptor (1764-1850) The Princesses Louise and Frederike, Young Woman Reclining, Quadriga on the Brandenburg Gate (designed by Carl Gotthard Langhans, 1732 –1808)	Homework: Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 7 The Self Assurance of Empire, pp. 153-209. Prepare study questions.
The Second Empire and German Unification Otto von Bismarck, Blood and Iron Chancellor	Homework: Continue reading Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 7 The Self Assurance of Empire, pp. 153-209. Prepare study questions. Visit the website http://www.360cities.net/image/victory-column-2009 and examine the Victory Column. Prepare for map Quiz.
Creating the Nation through War: Danish-Prussian War, Austro-Prussian War, Franco-Prussian War Victory Column (1873) Map quiz (Germany and Europe) in class	Homework: Read Françoise Forster-Hahn, “Adolph Menzel’s <i>Daguerreotypal</i> Image of Frederick the Great: A Liberal Bourgeois Interpretation of German History,” <i>The Art Bulletin</i> 59.2 (1977): 242-61. Visit the Reichstag building at http://www.360cities.net/image/reichstag-15-04-berlin-deutschland#358.40,-2.70,65.6 .
Week 5	
Building the Nation through Art and Architecture The Reichstag building (1894) Adolph Menzel, (1815 – 1905)	Homework: Read Suzanne L. Marchand <i>Down from Olympus: Archaeology and Philhellenism in Germany, 1750-1970</i> , Chapter 3 The Vicissitudes of Grand-Scale Archeology and Chapter 5 Excavating the Barbarian, pp. 75-116 and 152-188.

Imperial Splendor	Homework: Listen to Richard Strauss, “Also sprach Zarathustra.” Prepare study questions.
Colonial Conquest through Archeology • The Pergamon Alter • The Gates of Babylon • The bust of Nefertiti	*Note: Depending on the musical offerings in May 2012, we may substitute Richard Wagner for Strauss (a wash since neither actually lived in Berlin but are important for the period).
Week 6	
Richard Strauss (1864-1949) “Also sprach Zarathustra” Stanley Kubrick’s <i>2001 Space Odyssey</i> (1968)	Homework: Study for the mid-term examination.
MID-TERM EXAMINATION	Homework: Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 8 The Years of the Weimar Republic, pp. 210-261. Prepare study questions.
World War I The November Revolution The Weimar Republic	Homework: Review art works by Dix, Grosz, Höch, and Kollwitz on reserve. Prepare study questions.
Week 7	
Expressionism and New Objectivity in Art Otto Dix (1891-1969) Georg Grosz (1893-1959) Hanna Höch (1889-1979) Käthe Kollwitz (1867-1945)	Homework: Read Peter Jelavich, <i>Berlin Cabaret</i> , Chapter 6 Weimar Revue, pp. 154-186. Prepare study questions.
The Roaring Twenties Josephine Baker and Anita Berber Cabaret, Nightclubs, Cafes, Cinema Bob Fosse’s <i>Cabaret</i>	Homework: Watch the film <i>Berlin Symphony of a Great City</i> at one of the showing times.
<i>Berlin, Symphony of a Great City</i> (Walter Ruttmann, 1927)	Homework: Listen to <i>The Three Penny Opera</i> . Prepare study questions.
Week 8	
Music Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht, <i>The Three Penny Opera</i> (1928)	Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 9 Nazi Berlin, pp. 262-287. Prepare study questions.
Hitler’s Rise to Power	Homework: Read Christoph Zuschlag, “An Educational Exhibition,” in Stephanie Baron, <i>Degenerate Art: The Fate of the Avantgarde in Nazi Germany</i> , 43-82. Prepare study questions.
The Degenerate Art Exhibition	Homework: Enjoy the holiday.

Week 9	
Spring Break	
Week 10	
Albert Speer and Adolf Hitler's grandiose plans for Germania	Homework: Listen to Strauss's "Olympian Hymn." Prepare study questions.
Richard Strauss Part II The Reich Chamber of Music "Olympian Hymn" (1934) The Olympic Games in Berlin	Homework: Read Hermann Simon, "The Year of Fate 1938" in <i>Jews in Nazi Germany from Kristallnacht to Liberation</i> , eds. Beate Meyer, Hermann Simon, Chana Schütz, pp. 2-22 and Gertrud Kolmar's poem cycle <i>The Word of the Silent Ones (Das Wort der Stummen)</i> . Prepare study questions.
Jewish Life in Nazi Germany Kristallnacht 1938 Gertrud Kolmar (1894-1943), <i>The Word of the Silent Ones</i>	Homework: Read Nathan Stolfus, <i>Resistance of the Heart</i> , Chapter 14 Courageous Women of Rosenstrasse, pp. 209-257. Prepare study questions.
Week 11	
Persecution and Resistance The Rose Street Protest Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp	Homework: Read Anonymous, <i>A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City, A Diary</i> , pp. 1-68.
The fall of Berlin <i>A Woman in Berlin, A Diary</i> Rape as a Weapon of War	Homework: Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 10 Two Berlins, pp. 287-294. Prepare study questions. Research paper is due on March 30 th in class.
Research paper is due in class The divided city: Berlin as occupational zones	Homework: Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 10 Two Berlins, pp. 294-308. Prepare study questions.
Week 12	
Digging out of the Ruins Rebuilding the divided city	Homework: Read Ronald Taylor, <i>Berlin and its Culture</i> , Chapter 10 Two Berlins, pp. 351-361. Prepare study questions.
Socialist Realism Art and Architecture in the GDR	Homework: Visit the Memorial Site at Hohenschönhausen Prison http://en.stiftung-hsh.de/ . Prepare study questions.
The Stasi State Hohenschönhausen Prison	Homework: Watch <i>The Life of Others</i> at one of the scheduled showings. Prepare study questions.

Week 13	
<i>The Life of Others</i>	Homework: Visit the Berlin Wall Memorial at http://www.berliner-mauer-dokumentationszentrum.de/en/ . Prepare study questions.
The Fall of the Wall	Homework: Read Karen Till, <i>The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 5-28. Prepare study questions. Study for the map quiz.
The Berlin Republic Map quiz of Berlin in-class	Homework: Read Karen Till, <i>The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place</i> , Chapter 2, pp. 31-61. Take the 360* tour of Norman Foster's Glass Dome on the Reichstag building, the Sony Center at Potsdamer Platz, and the I.M. Pei Exhibition Hall, at http://www.360cities.net/area/berlin-germany . View David Liebeskind's Jewish Museum at http://www.daniel-libeskind.com/projects/show-all/jewish-museum-berlin/ .
Week 14	
The City of Glass and Steel Façades • Norman Foster's Glass Dome • Sony Center at Potsdamer Platz • I.M. Pei Exhibition Hall at the German Historical Museum • David Lebeskind's Jewish Museum	Homework: Read Karen Till, <i>The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place</i> , Chapters 3 and 4, pp. 63-154. Visit the topography of terror memorial site at http://www.topographie.de/en/topography-of-terror/nc/1/ . Prepare study questions.
Topography of Terror Digging up the Nazi Past	Homework: Read Karen Till, <i>The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place</i> , Chapter 5, pp. 161-188. Visit the Holocaust Memorial at http://www.360cities.net/area/berlin-germany . Prepare study questions.
The Holocaust Memorial	Homework: TBA.
Week 15	
Multi-cultural Berlin Guest Lecture by Prof. Karin Hamm-Ehsani	Homework: Read Stephen Brockmann, "Normalization," in <i>Beyond Normalization</i> , eds. Stuart Taberner and Paul Cooke, pp. 17-30. Prepare study questions.
Normalization	Homework: Preparation for final examination and travel.
Conclusions	Homework: Preparation for final examination and travel.
Week 16	
Conclusions	Final exam will take place during finals week

