

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Berlin – The Athens on the River Spree – 3020

(THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF BERLIN)

FALL SEMESTER 2011

General Information:

Instructor: Dorian Roehrs
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Tel#: (940) 565-4928
Main office: (940) 565-2404

Office hours: **TR 10:30 – 11:30 or by appointment (LANG 401-J)**
Class meets: **TR 12:30 – 1:50 (LANG 212)**

Important Dates:

Final exam: **Tuesday, December 13, 10:30 – 12:30**

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the history, culture, and literature of Berlin and closely related events, places, and people. As such, this class is meant to exemplify and illustrate some of the general perspectives, practices, and products of the German-speaking countries. Besides gaining some knowledge of German history, culture, and literature, this course is aimed at further developing critical thinking skills as well as at questioning our cultural assumptions.

We will build upon a wide range of language skills in Germ 3020:

Reading: Throughout the course, we will be reading a variety of shorter German texts.

Speaking and listening: Spoken German also constitutes an integral component of the course. You will be expected to participate **actively** in class discussions and group work. During the semester, you will give two group presentations (a famous person/work; a tourist sight of your choice). Note that it will NOT be sufficient to read out a written text (but key words on flash cards are allowed).

Grammar: You are expected to have a good grasp of intermediate German grammar concepts (although you are responsible for reviewing grammar that still presents you with difficulties, your instructor will be very happy to assist you in these efforts!!). Occasionally, we will revisit some fundamental grammatical concepts.

Writing: Another focus will be on writing in German - to express ideas, convey information, and improve style and accuracy. We will write one summary (giving a brief overview of the material covered in the last class periods), one short position paper (commenting on a specific point), and one essay choosing between a summary and a position paper. All three essays will be composed in class. Besides improving your linguistic skills, both the summaries and position papers are also meant to help you prepare for the final exam. In all writing assignments, the grade will be based on organization and content as well as accuracy of structures and forms.

Required Texts:

Wladimir Kaminer, *Russendisko*

Instructor-generated class handouts

Gordon A. Craig, *Berlin: Athens on the Spree and City of Crisis*. (chapter 12 in *The Germans*.)

General Course Policies:

- No academic dishonesty (plagiarism, machine translation, inappropriate help by tutors, etc.)
- No late homework accepted
- *Active* participation
- Attendance will be taken

REGULAR ATTENDANCE is required. Repeated unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade significantly. Three tardies is the equivalent of one absence. Leaving class before the end of the period will be considered an absence. You are allowed a maximum of two (2) absences, whether excused or unexcused, without penalty. After two absences, your attendance grade will suffer in percent. After the eighth (8th) absence, you will receive a failing grade for the entire class. Under certain circumstances, special accommodations can be made at the instructor's discretion.

Evaluation:

Attendance and <i>Active</i> participation	10%
Homework	20%
Presentations (2x10)	20%
Summary	10%
Position paper	10%
Summary/Position paper	10%
Final Exam	20%

Grade Distribution:

A = 100 – 90%
B = 89.9 – 80%
C = 79.9 – 70%
D = 69.9 – 60%
F = 59.9 – 0%

1. Participation: Besides becoming more fluent in important topics in German culture, you will be expected to work steadily on developing your proficiency in reading, writing, and oral expression. Careful preparation for class and regular, active participation are the foundation of this course! **Cellular phones must be switched off and kept out of sight. If it is visible to the instructor, you will receive a zero grade for participation on that day.**

2. Homework: Homework will typically consist of taking notes, formulating comments, and asking questions on the reading assigned for the class. Besides facilitating discussion during class, this activity is meant to further activate your linguistic skills in German and help you in the writing of the essays as well as in the preparation for the final exam. In general, all homework is to be turned in *before* class starts. **If it is specified by the instructor that the homework is to be turned in *after* class, take notes during class in a different color.**

3. Final Exam: At the end of the semester, we will be taking a comprehensive final exam in German. It will consist of questions on the readings and discussions of the class. In preparation of this exam, you will be

turning in homework regularly, and write summaries and position papers. Note that taking notes during class will help you immensely!

If you have questions or concerns at any point during the semester, please contact your instructor. Plan on attending office hours at least once during the semester, even if it is just for an informal visit. Furthermore, I encourage you to use *Kaffeeklatsch* and any other activities for additional speaking practice.

I hope that your study of German will be stimulating, productive and enjoyable and wish you a successful semester! I am looking forward to this class ☺

Student Behavior in the Classroom:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Religious Holidays:

In accordance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, UNT will allow a student who is absent from class for observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time. Students are required to file a written request with each professor within the first 15 days of the semester to qualify for an excused absence. A copy of the state rules and procedures regarding holy days and the form for notification of absence from each class under this provision are available from the Registrar's Office.

American with Disabilities Act Compliance:

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

Students must follow the Procedure for Requesting Special Accommodation, as indicated in the UNT Policy Manual, Volume 3, 18.1.14, part II. According to these guidelines, "[w]ithin the first week of class, qualified students must notify the instructor or academic unit liaison for disability accommodation that options to standard methods of educational access will be needed" (part II, section B).

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Nützliche Internet-Adressen

<http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/de/>
www.dw-world.de (German news, radio, and TV online)
www.tagesschau.de (German news with TV clips)

www.spiegel.de (Leading political magazine, with a link to the “Gutenberg-Projekt”, the largest online collection of German literature)

www.faz.de, www.zeit.de, www.sueddeutsche.de (Leading German newspapers)

www.campus-germany.de (If you plan to study in Germany...)

Tentative Schedule

week	content	assignments
WEEK 1 Aug. 25 – Aug. 26	Einführung / Lehrplan	
WEEK 2 Aug. 29 – Sept. 2	Frühe Geschichte & Geographie (Slawische Stämme, Albrecht der Bär, 1237/1244)	
WEEK 3 Sept. 5 Labor Day Sept. 6 - 9	(erste Union zwischen Berlin und Cölln, Raubritter (von Quitzow), Friedrich I., Reformation, 1618-48)	
WEEK 4 Sept. 12 – 16	Einwanderer & Sprache (Friedrich Wilhelm, der Große Kurfürst)	
WEEK 5 Sept. 19 – 23	(Friedrich I, Sophie Charlotte, Schlüter, Soldatenkönig)	
WEEK 6 Sept. 26 – Sept. 30	summary #1 Berlin & Friedrich II	In-class essay
WEEK 7 Oct. 3 – 7	(Friedrich II, Knobelsdorff, Lessing, 1756-63, Brandenburger Tor)	
WEEK 8 Oct. 10 – 14	Das 19. Jahrhundert (1806-8, Humboldt-Universität, Schinkel unter Friedrich Wilhelm III., Heinrich Heine)	
WEEK 9 Oct. 17 – 21	(Märzrevolution, 1871, „Dreikaiserjahr“, Reichstagsgebäude, Fontane, 1914-18, Novemberrevolution)	
WEEK 10 Oct. 24 – 28	position paper #1 Die goldenen 20er Jahre (Weimarer Republik, Expressionismus)	In-class essay
WEEK 11 Oct. 31 – 4	(Zille, Kollwitz, Döblin, Brecht, 1929, 1933, Zweiter Weltkrieg)	
WEEK 12 Nov. 7 – 11	Das heutige Berlin (1948, Gründung zweier deutscher Staaten, 17. Juni 1953)	
WEEK 13 Nov. 14 – 18	(Bau der Berliner Mauer, Kennedy, Brands Ostpolitik, 1989, Wiedervereinigung) summary #2 or position paper #2	In-class essay
WEEK 14 Nov. 21 – Nov. 23 Nov. 24 - 27 Thanksgiving	FILM	
WEEK 15 Nov. 28 – Dec. 2	(Biermann, Heym, Ayim, Kaminer)	
WEEK 16 (Pre-finals week) Dec. 5 – 8 Dec. 9 Reading Day	- Stadttour durch Berlin - Stadttour durch Berlin	oral presentations oral presentations