

Cultural History of Berlin – GERM 3020
Spring Semester 2016

General Information:

Instructor: Dorian Roehrs
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Tel# (main off.): (940) 565-2404

Office hours: TR 11:30 – 12:20 or by appointment (LANG 401-J)
Class meets: TR 9:30 – 10:50 (LANG 211)

Important Dates:

Final exam: Thursday, May 12, 8:00 – 10:00

Course Prerequisite:

The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of German 2050 or the equivalent.

Course Description and Objectives:

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 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) and one short position paper (commenting on a specific point). Both essays will be composed in class. Besides improving your linguistic skills, both the summary and position paper 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

Assignments/Course Requirements:

1. Attendance: 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.

2. 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. The use of laptop computers in class is not allowed.**

3. 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.**

4. Summaries and Position Papers: Essays are written in class and should have a length of about 200-250 words.

5. 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 a summary and a position paper. Note that taking notes during class will help you immensely!

Evaluation:

Attendance and <i>Active</i> participation	10%
Homework	20%
Presentations (2x10)	20%
Summary	15%
Position paper	15%
Final Exam	20%

Grade Distribution:

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

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 or films 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:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT):

The student evaluation of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. A 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 SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

www.DieGeschichteBerlins.de

Nützliche Internet-Adressen

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 Jan. 18 Dr. M. L. K. Day Jan. 19 – 22	Einführung / Lehrplan Vorwissen und Allgemeines	
WEEK 2 Jan. 25 – 29	<i>Frühe Geschichte & Geographie</i> (Slawische Stämme, Albrecht der Bär, 1237/1244)	
WEEK 3 Feb. 1 – 5	(erste Union zwischen Berlin und Cölln, Raubritter (von Quitzow), Friedrich I, Reformation, 1618-48)	
WEEK 4 Feb. 8 – 12	<i>Einwanderer & Sprache</i> (Friedrich Wilhelm, der Große Kurfürst)	
WEEK 5 Feb. 15 – 19	(Friedrich I, Sophie Charlotte, Schlüter, Soldatenkönig)	
WEEK 6 Feb. 22 – 26	summary <i>Berlin & Friedrich II</i>	in-class essay
WEEK 7 Feb. 29 – March 4	(Friedrich II, Knobelsdorff, Lessing, 1756-63, Brandenburger Tor)	
WEEK 8 March 7 – 11	<i>Das 19. Jahrhundert</i> (1806-8, Humboldt-Universität, Schinkel unter Friedrich Wilhelm III., Heinrich Heine)	
<i>Spring Break</i>		
WEEK 9 March 21 – 25	(Märzrevolution, 1871, Reichstagsgebäude, Fontane, 1914-18, Novemberrevolution)	
WEEK 10 March 28 – April 1	<i>Die goldenen 20er Jahre</i> (Weimarer Republik, Expressionismus)	
WEEK 11 April 4 – 8	(Zille, Kollwitz, Döblin, Brecht, 1929, 1933, Zweiter Weltkrieg) position paper	in-class essay
WEEK 12 April 11 – 15	<i>Das heutige Berlin</i> (1948, Gründung zweier deutscher Staaten, 17. Juni 1953)	
WEEK 13 April 18 – 22	(Bau der Berliner Mauer, Kennedy, Brandts Ostpolitik, 1989, Wiedervereinigung)	
WEEK 14 April 25 – 29	Statistiken Festivals	oral presentations
WEEK 15 May 2 – 3 May 4 – 5 (pre-finals days) May 6 Reading Day	Stadttour durch Berlin (Museen) Wiederholung (Geschichte und Architektur)	oral presentations