



UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS  
COLLEGE *of* VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN

*DEPARTMENT of DESIGN*

ART 4120 – SU 2026

## COURSE INFORMATION

Special Topics Germany: Culture Art Design

ART 4120 3 credit hours

### Prerequisites:

### Professor / Instructor Contact Information:

Instructor: Hepi Wachter  
Office Location: Art Building ART 230P  
Phone Information: office: 940 565 3621

Office Hours: by appointment  
Email: [hepi.wachter@unt.edu](mailto:hepi.wachter@unt.edu) You must use the course number in the subject line

### Text and other Required Materials

posted course packet and reading assignments on Canvas.

This course is enriched with a Canvas component. Therefore, students must know their EUID and password and log in daily to check for email and course updates.

Each student will need to attend a mandatory orientation meeting with Professor Wachter prior to leaving for Germany. The scheduled meeting is Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm – 5:30pm at the College of Visual Arts and Design, ART 464

### Course Description:

3 credit hours. Cultural and historical overview of relevant sites in Berlin and Munich, Germany. This course attempts to connect the inter relations of Culture, Art and Design. The material presented and the sites visited are suitable for non-design majors.

Students will be accompanied by Professor Hans Peter Wachter, who is a German native.

This is an *Education Abroad* course with lecture/presentations, travel and field study through foreign cities. The success of this course is determined by cooperation, participation and interactivity. An enthusiastic attitude is expected, and lecture and tour participation are mandatory. Professor Wachter will lead you through the cultural monuments and discussions how culture and design in Germany intertwine and relate, and the discussions how art and culture in Germany inform each other and form a unique synthesis. Students will need to be prepared with facts and background information of the sites we visit prior to departure.

### Learning Objectives/Course Objectives:

- Introduce and examine the social histories, and cultures of Germany relative to significant cultural monuments, art, and design through presentations, discussions and field study
- Understand the interconnections between culture, art and environmental design
- Understand the interconnection of the build environment with cultural developments

## Teaching Philosophy

Your success as a student depends primarily on your willingness to accept responsibility for your own learning. I can provide you with the opportunity to learn (in the classroom), motivation to learn (your grade), and support for your learning experience (through feedback and individual assistance); I will be happy to assist you as you tackle the challenges you will face in this class. BUT, your responsibility is to attend all class sessions, to complete each and every assignment (both in and out of class), and to make the personal effort to master the concepts presented.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS and CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

No make-up work, extra credit, or anything else of a similar nature will be assigned. Do the work that is assigned, turn it in on time and you will earn your respective grade. The study abroad itinerary is tightly scheduled and will cover a lot, take notes, written, visual and digital, to follow the site visits, lectures and discussions.

Most of the communication for this course prior to departure to Germany will be done by email and/or through Canvas. Make sure your email account for UNT is either forwarded to your primary account or make the UNT email account your primary account.

Announcements, grades, project schedules and course documents as well as a list of required text are available in Canvas course shell. Please bring your own device to Germany to connect to the internet.

Each student must comply with the policies and guidelines contained in the *Student Pre- Departure Packet for International Travel Course Participation* issued to and signed by the student at registration.

Each student in this course has to acquaint him/her/themself with the University's code, policies and procedures regarding academic misconduct, grievances, sexual and ethnic harassment and discrimination based on physical handicap, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

## INCOMPLETE

Students may request an Incomplete per the guidelines stated on the current registrar website. The student must complete the unfinished work on or before the date specified by the instructor when the Incomplete is granted. Failure to complete the entire work assignment on or before the specified completion date will result in a final grade of an "F" with no consideration given to partially completed work. Please note that an Incomplete is reserved solely for extenuating circumstances and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. An incomplete is not assigned if the already completed coursework is or exceeds 70% of the course requirement.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory and applies to the orientation meeting onsite lecture sessions and field studies. The instructor and class members can offer constructive criticism only if you are present and receptive. Participation in orientation sessions for the study abroad program, pre-departure meetings, hotel breakfasts while traveling and field study tours and site visits during the program are mandatory to successfully pass this course. In a professional environment, attendance and punctuality are expected and are particularly important in a learning and living community, such as a study abroad program.

It is critical that you are prompt and prepared for departures after completing hotel breakfasts so that we can arrive as scheduled for our appointments. Please understand that we cannot wait for late students. Students are expected to arrive **prior to the departure time** in the designated area, dressed appropriately. Students are expected to participate in the breakfasts provided at our hotel accommodation.

Missing an activity and/or being late will seriously impact your grades in this program. It is the responsibility of each student to safeguard his or her own health and well-being in order to be *engaged* during all academic activities. Being engaged means that you are actively listening, asking relevant questions, and giving the speaker your complete

attention. Students are expected to actively participate in all course activities, appointments, social and cultural activities, and other events planned for the group

## COMMUNICATION PARAMETERS

Students should contact me via the message tool in Canvas. Please use the course number in the subject line of any email you send me with the addition "Germany Study Abroad". I will attempt to respond to messages as soon as practical during the semester.

You are encouraged to develop communication networks with other students in class. Half of your learning happens through your peers. We have successfully used WhatsApp in past study abroad courses.

Please be aware that I will not be able to respond to "last minute" requests for assignment clarification, and you may encounter unforeseen problems with your Internet provider, software, or hardware. Backup your files! You must allow sufficient time to deal with these problems in order to make your submissions by the deadline.

## ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Assignments are due on the specified date. Due dates are very well established and communicated in advance. It is your responsibility to make sure everything is turned in prior to class or prior to the cut-off date on Canvas. Items turned in after the established deadline are considered late and will be downgraded 10% for each calendar day late.

- **CANVAS SUBMISSIONS:** You may ONLY submit word files (docx, doc), pdf files via Canvas. ALL other types of files will not be accepted because we cannot open them!!! If we cannot read your assignment because you sent something other than what is listed above, you will take a zero points on the assignment. **I will not allow for resubmissions, emailed assignments, nor hardcopies. Be sure to check your file type before final submission onto Canvas!**
- **Remember, there may be a time discrepancy between your home computer and the Canvas system. Therefore, it is imperative to submit ALL assignments well before the cut-off time.**
- I do not accept assignments via email, unless otherwise specified. Do not assume that if you emailed me your work, that I am accepting it. I will not.
- **All assignments must be typed, double-spaced and with a 12-point font.** Points will be deducted from assignments that do not follow these instructions. Your reports will need a cover page, an index, page numbers and citations of your sources.

## COURSE EVALUATION

### **Orientation meeting (10% of semester grade)**

Each student will be required to attend meetings prior to departure for Germany in person. The meeting is intended to prepare students for the cultural experiences they will have in Germany, provide pertinent information on traveling abroad (to and within Germany), course/project expectations; discuss course readings, and any other information deemed necessary by the instructor.

### **Pre-departure assignments (30% of semester grade)**

Each student will be required to complete the assignments on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The summer term will start May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Illustrated Journal (60% of semester grade) \* See assignment guidelines on Canvas for further instructions**

Each student will create an illustrated journal of his/her/them German Study Abroad experience you (e.g. what you

learned at appointments, cultural experiences and the like). To facilitate this project, you will bring a journal with you. Record your thoughts “as you go” or you may find that you cannot keep all the information as clearly delineated as you would like. You will find it useful to be further prepared with a small notebook(s) and pens as we attend meetings, events, and excursions. The purposes of the assignment are to:

Illustrate your perspective of the cultures, expression of art, design and people of Germany

Develop your thoughts and how culture, art and design connect. Reflect on your study abroad experience.

**Grade Scale:** Grades are not curved. The final semester grade will be determined as follows:

90 - 100% = A

60-69% = D

80 - 89% = B

Below 60% = F

70 - 79% = C

## RESOURCES

UNT Portal: <http://my.unt.edu>

UNT Library Information for Off-Campus Users:

<http://www.library.unt.edu/services/for-special-audiences/offcampus/information-for-off-campus-users>

UNT Computing and Information Technology Center: <http://citic.unt.edu/services-solutions/students>

Computer Labs: General access computer lab information (including locations and hours of operation) can be located at:

<http://www.gacl.unt.edu/>

## DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION

The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline.

Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at <http://unt.edu/oda> and by visiting the ODA in Sage Hall, room 167. See <https://disability.unt.edu/faq#b>. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

## STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. It is the student's responsibility to manage registered credit hours, GPA levels and course completion for their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It is wise to schedule a meeting with a CVAD advisor or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See <https://policy.unt.edu/category/policy-chapters/7-student-affairs> for links to policy documentation.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The instructor retains the right to change the course syllabus and schedule without prior notice.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT**

Programmatic information, base building drawing and documentation, electronic files, and hard copies are typically provided for this class by a professional design office or practitioner. These materials are for instructional use only and may not be mass-produced or distributed for any purpose other than to fulfill course requirements for this class.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or exams; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor, the acquisition of tests or other material belonging to a faculty member, dual submission of a paper or project, resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructors, or any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. Plagiarism includes the paraphrase or direct quotation of published or unpublished works *without* full and clear acknowledgment of the author/source. Academic dishonesty will bring about disciplinary action which may include expulsion from the university. This is explained in the UNT Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty will result in F grade for the course.

### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student\\_conduct/index.html](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html).

### **STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS**

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide students a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course.

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

As you know, your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs within the my.unt.edu site [www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu). If you do not regularly check Eagle Connect or link it to your favorite e-mail account, please so do, as this is where you learn about job and internship opportunities, CMHT events, scholarships, and other important information. The website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward your email: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in an event of emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please

make certain to update your phone numbers at [www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu). Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, ***I will communicate with you via Canvas mail as to work you are expected to complete and/or submit during the closure period.***

#### **RETENTION/REPRODUCTION OF STUDENT WORK**

Some of the work produced for this class may be retained or copied for future use by the college, department or program.

The Design Department has the right to retain any and all student work for NASAD (*National Association of Schools and Design*) and CIDA (*Council for Interior Design Accreditation*) accreditation reviews for a period of up to 3 years. It is the student's responsibility to document their work for personal purposes (such as portfolios). Students will be allowed to photograph their work prior to retention. When accreditation reviews are completed, students may retrieve their original work. It is the student's responsibility to retrieve their work in a timely manner; after two months of a NASAD or CIDA accreditation review, any work not collected by a student will be destroyed.

#### **ART 4120– Art on Location *Germany Study Abroad*** COURSE SYLLABUS STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT (date)

Hepi Wachter, Professor

I, the signing student, have read and understand the provisions of the ART 4120 syllabus (attached and dated).

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Print Name	Signature	Date
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Email address: \_\_\_\_\_