

KURSPROGRAMM FÜR INTERNATIONALE GASTSTUDIERENDE

STUDYPROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Summer 2025



Relevante Informationen / Key Information

- **Time/ venue:** Most courses take place every week (90 minutes per week), and take place in Habelschwerdter Allee 45 (“Rostlaube”), unless otherwise stated. Courses start 15 minutes after the full hour and end 15 minutes before the full hour (16-18 = 16.15-17.45).
- **Examinations/ ECTS credits:** On top of studying course materials and actively participating in class discussions, students may have to give presentations or submit written homework. Graded written or oral examinations take place at the end of the semester. In order to pass, students have to be present in 85% of the lessons and pass the exams; only then they will receive 5 ECTS credits for each course.
- **Who can participate?** The entire range of courses is open to students of all subjects. All courses are designed for undergraduate students (in the 2nd/3rd year of study).
- **Graduate/ Postgraduate students** are welcome, but they should check with their home universities whether they will get credits.
- **Language skills:** For the German-language courses, students need German language skills at level B1, for the English-language courses English language skills at level B2.
- **Registration:** You can usually register for the courses via the online system “Campus Management”. Please register only for the courses you want to attend and cancel your registration if you do not want to attend a course; otherwise, you will block the places for other students. If you are unable to book a place via Campus Management: Write an email to the lecturers, or, better still: attend the first class.
- **Attendance is required in the first or, at the latest, in the second week:** You can indeed deselect courses in the first four weeks; however, it is NOT possible to appear in a course for the first time only in the 3rd or 4th week of the semester.
- **Support:** Melissa Yildirim and Pablo Burbano Cifuentes offer support with questions about Campus Management, using the E-Learning platform Blackboard, general questions about studying at FU and living in Berlin, obtaining access to grades, credits, transcripts, and records at the end of the semester. E-Mail: yildirim02@zedat.fu-berlin.de; pablo.burbano@googlemail.com

E-MAIL ADDRESSES of Lecturers

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Übersicht / Overview

The course descriptions here focus on the program, the prerequisites, and on workload/ assessment. You can read more detailed comments on the course contents in our online course catalogue.

Modul 1: Berlin – Stadt, Land, Geschichte A

[16900 Hildegard Piegeler: „Goldene Zwanziger“ in Berlin? Traum und Realität 1920/2020. Mo, 14-16, KL 32/123](#)

[16901 Annika Becker: Stadtbilder: Berlin in Malerei und Fotografie. Di 16-18, JK 28/112](#)

[16902 Muriel Ernestus: Berliner Bau- und Wohnkonzepte. Mo, 16-18, KL 32/123](#)

[16903 Annika Becker: Von der Mauer zum Museum: Erinnerungsorte der DDR in Berlin. Fr, 16-18 JK 28/130](#)

Modul 2: Berlin und Deutschland heute: Politik, Gesellschaft, Kultur und Kunst

[16904 Dagmar Boeck-Siebenhaar: Das kreative Berlin. Do, 16-18, JK 28/112](#)

[16905 Muriel Ernestus: Protestbewegungen. Mo, 10-12 Uhr, Raum 102, Van't-Hoff-Str. 6](#)

Modul 3: Deutsche und europäische Schlüsselthemen und Schlüsselbegriffe

[16906 Annika Becker: Deutschlands politische Landschaft: Institutionen und Prozesse. Fr, 14-16, JK 28/130](#)

[16907 Hildegard Piegeler: Migration und Religion. Mi, 16-18, JK 28/130](#)

Modul 4: Film, Kunst und Literatur im sozialen, historischen und politischen Kontext

[16908 Muriel Ernestus: Film der Weimarer Republik. Mi, 10-12, KL 32/123](#)

[16909 Muriel Ernestus: Kultur und Politik im Nationalsozialismus. Mi, 16-18, KL 32/123](#)

Modul 6: The City: Visions and Representations in Past, Present and Future

[16910 Gregor Hens: Playgrounds. Mo, 10-12, International House, Ehrenbergstr. 26-28 Raum 009, 30.6.: Raum 031, 7.7.: Raum 004](#)

[16911 Gregor Hens: Places and Non-places – 'The Hypermodernism of Berlin. Mo, 12-14, JK 28/112](#)

Modul 7: Film, Literature and Art in Context

[16912 Susanne Schamowski: Saviour of humankind or “mad, bad, and dangerous”? Science and scientists in fiction, culture, and society. Di, 12-14, Van't-Hoff-Str. 6, Raum 211B](#)

[16913 Susanne Schamowski: Native Americans and German national identity. Mi, 16-18, JK 29/118](#)

[16914 Gregor Hens: Contemporary German Literature in Translation: Jenny Erpenbeck's Go, Went, Gone. Di, 10-12, JK 28/112](#)

Modul 8: German and European Politics and Society

[16915 Daniel Nethery: Infinity and the evolution of intelligence. Fr, 12-14, JK 28/112](#)

[16916 Daniel Nethery: Integration in Germany: policy and debate. Di, 10-12, KL 32/123](#)

[16917 Daniel Nethery: Basic Income and Inequality. Di, 12-14, International House, Ehrenbergstr. 26-28, Raum 009; 24.6./1.7.: Van't-Hoff-Str.6, Raum 209A](#)

Modul 9: German/ European History in Context

[16918 Daniel Nethery: Reading Hitler: \(auto\) biography as history. Fr, 12-14, JK 28/112](#)

[16919 Grzegorz Rossolinski-Liebe: Holocaust in Berlin and Warsaw. Persecution, Murder, and Help in the Urban Space. Di, 16-18, KL 32/123](#)

Modul 10: Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Nature and the Environment

[16920 Susanne Schamowski: Green Germany. Do, 14-16, Van't-Hoff-Str. 6, Raum 102](#)

Modul 11: Oral and Written Communication: Reading, Writing, Debating

[16921 Gregor Hens: Creative Writing. Di, 12-14, KL 32/123](#)

[16922 Susanne Schamowski: Climate Discourses. Do, 16-18, KL 29/111](#)

If you have problems signing up to a course on Campus Management (perhaps you have completed a course from the same module last semester?): go to the first class or write an e-mail to the lecturer!!

Course Descriptions

MODUL 1 BERLIN – STADT, LAND, GESCHICHTE

16900 Hildegard Piegeler: „Goldene Zwanziger“ in Berlin? Traum und Realität 1920/2020. Montag, 14-16, KL 32/123

Thema: Vergleich mit Fragen und Problemen der heutigen Situation und der frühen Weimarer Republik.

Programm: Das Seminar wird sich mit Fragen kommunaler Verwaltung, Wirtschaft und Arbeit, Wohnungsbau, Verkehr und Infrastruktur und in zwei Schwerpunkten mit Fragen zu Bevölkerung und Migration sowie den Angeboten der Kultur und Kulturschaffenden beschäftigen. Für die angeführten Bereiche sind Exkursionen im Stadtgebiet und der Besuch von Museen/Ausstellungen vorgesehen.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Sie sollten in der Lage sein, kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Texte auf Deutsch zu lesen und eine wöchentliche Arbeitszeit von ca. 3 Stunden einplanen. Zudem sollten sie zu einigen Zusatzterminen bereit sein, um an Exkursionen teilzunehmen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig an den wöchentlichen Sitzungen des Seminars teilnehmen, gute Kenntnisse der Kursmaterialien besitzen, kurze schriftliche Hausarbeiten verfassen und die Klausur am Ende des Semesters bestehen.

16901 Annika Becker: Stadtbilder: Berlin in Malerei und Fotografie. Dienstag, 16-18, JK 28/112

Thema: Der Kurs wird sich mit ausgewählten Kunstwerken aus Malerei und Fotografie beschäftigen, die unterschiedliche Facetten der Großstadt Berlin abbilden, deren Ästhetiken diskutieren und die zeithistorischen Kontexte dazu beleuchten.

Programm: Wir werden uns in diesem Kurs mit Künstler:innen und Kunstwerken beschäftigen, die die Metropole Berlin behandeln. Dabei beschäftigen wir uns mit verschiedenen Medien (hauptsächlich Malerei und Fotografie) und unterschiedlichen Ästhetiken und Epochen, die wir kunstanalytisch und historisch einordnen werden. Ziel des Kurses ist es, einen kultur- und kunstwissenschaftlichen Überblick über Berliner Stadtbilder vom 19. Jahrhundert bis in die Gegenwart zu erhalten.

Ist dies der richtige Kurs für Sie? Sie sollten interessiert an kunstwissenschaftlichen

und kunsthistorischen Fragestellungen sein. Der Kurs beinhaltet verpflichtende Exkursionen zu Ausstellungen und Kunstgalerien in Berlin.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig aktiv teilnehmen (in mindestens 12 der 14 Sitzungen); die Kursmaterialien gut kennen, während des Semesters eine Präsentation mit einer Arbeitsgruppe halten und eine Klausur bestehen (90 Min.).



16902 Muriel Ernestus: Berliner Bau- und Wohnkonzepte. Montag, 16-18, KL 32/123

Thema: Wohnen und Wohnungsbau sind seit der Industriellen Revolution relevante Themen. Wer wo und wie wohnen kann, ist dabei nicht erst in gegenwärtigen Gentrifizierungsdebatten die zentrale Frage.

Programm: Das Seminar gibt einen Überblick über die Entwicklung Berliner Wohnquartiere seit dem Kaiserreich. Wir beschäftigen uns dabei gleichermaßen mit städtebaulichen Debatten wie architektonischen Merkmalen exemplarischer Wohnquartiere. Neben Mietskasernen werden wir u.a. Wohnquartiere der Berliner Moderne näher betrachten, DDR-Wohnsiedlungen zwischen Neoklassizismus und Plattenbau mit Westberliner Großwohnsiedlungen vergleichen und uns am Ende in einem Ausblick auch mit Lösungsvorschlägen für die Wohnraumkrise der Gegenwart beschäftigen. Im Laufe des Semesters werden wir voraussichtlich vier gemeinsame Exkursionen unternehmen. Zwei davon finden während der Seminarzeit in Uninähe statt. Zwei andere führen uns nach Mitte und Neukölln und sind mit etwas längeren Anfahrten verbunden. Damit hier auch Studierende teilnehmen können, die vorher ein Seminar in Dahlem haben, treffen wir uns an zwei Terminen (voraussichtlich

02. und 30.06.) erst um 17:00 und werden dann bis ~ 18:30 gemeinsam unterwegs sein. Halten Sie sich dieses Zeitfenster bitte frei, da die Teilnahme an den Exkursionen verpflichtend ist.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Sie sollten Sie Interesse an Architektur und Stadtgeschichte haben. Sie sollten außerdem Lust haben bei gutem wie bei schlechterem Wetter auf gemeinsamen Exkursionen die Stadt zu erkunden.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig an Sitzungen und Exkursionen teilnehmen (in mindestens 10 der 12 Sitzungen); die behandelten Texte gut kennen; in einer Arbeitsgruppe eine kleine Präsentation erarbeiten und die Klausur bestehen (90min.). Die Anwesenheit in mindestens einer der ersten beiden Sitzungen ist zwingende Voraussetzung für die Teilnahme am Seminar.

16903 Annika Becker: Von der Mauer zum Museum: Erinnerungsorte der DDR in Berlin. Freitag, 16-18 JK 28/130

Thema: In diesem Seminar werden wir gemeinsam die Erinnerungsorte der DDR in Berlin erkunden und ihre Bedeutung im historischen Kontext der Stadtgeschichte erschließen.

Programm: Im Seminar werden wir diese Erinnerungsorte durch eine Auseinandersetzung mit historischen Quellen, Fotografien und Zeitzeugenberichten erkunden. Wir werfen einen Blick auf die verschiedenen Formen des Gedenkens und diskutieren, wie die Erinnerung an die DDR in der heutigen Gesellschaft verarbeitet wird. Welche Rolle spielen diese Orte in der Identität von Berlin als einer Stadt im ständigen Wandel? Dabei wird der Kurs nicht nur historische Aspekte beleuchten, sondern auch die kulturpolitischen Diskussionen, die heute rund um diese Erinnerungsorte geführt werden. Wir werden uns damit auseinandersetzen, welche Herausforderungen der Umgang mit der Vergangenheit mit sich bringt und wie die DDR-Geschichte im urbanen Raum Berlins eine ganz eigene Ästhetik entwickelt hat – eine, die oft widersprüchlich und vielfältig ist. **Ist dies der richtige Kurs für Sie?** Neben Interesse an deutscher Geschichte und Politik sollten Sie die Bereitschaft mitbringen, an den verpflichtenden Exkursionen zu Museen und Erinnerungsorten in Berlin teilzunehmen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig aktiv teilnehmen (in mindestens 12 der 14 Sitzungen); die Kursmaterialien gut kennen, während des Semesters eine Präsentation mit einer Arbeitsgruppe halten und eine Klausur bestehen (90 Min.).

MODUL 2: BERLIN UND DEUTSCHLAND HEUTE: POLITIK, GESELLSCHAFT, KULTUR UND KUNST

16904 Dagmar Boeck-Siebenhaar: Das kreative Berlin. Donnerstag, 16-18, JK 28/112

Thema: Berlin ist eine inspirierende Metropole, ein Anziehungsort für Kreative und Kunst- und Kulturschaffende aus Deutschland und aus der ganzen Welt. Künstler aller Art, Designer, Modeschöpfer, IT-Experten gehören ebenso dazu wie Verlage, Galerien, die Musikbranche oder die Filmwirtschaft. Berlin ist Brennspeigel, Projektionsfläche wie Plattform einer „Creative Class“ (Richard Florida) und zugleich ein stadtkultureller Inkubator eines neuen Lebensstils, kreativer Arbeitspraxen des ästhetischen Kapitalismus.

Programm: Ziel des Seminars ist es, einen Überblick über die Kreativwirtschaft in Berlin zu vermitteln – ihre vielfältigen Branchen und Akteure, ihr Selbstverständnis und Image. Das erfolgt auf der Basis von Textlektüre und Dozentenvortrag. Darüber hinaus sind auch Exkursionen innerhalb Berlins sowie Gespräche mit Vertretern der Kreativszene geplant.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Erwartet wird die Bereitschaft, sich in Vor- und Nachbereitung der Sitzungen mit ausgewählten Themen vertiefend auseinanderzusetzen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig teilnehmen, die Kursmaterialien gut kennen, in einer Arbeitsgruppe mitarbeiten einschließlich Kurzpräsentation im Seminar und die schriftliche Abschlussprüfung bestehen (Klausur).

16905 Muriel Ernestus: Protestbewegungen. Montag, 10-12 Uhr, Raum 102, Van't-Hoff-Str. 6

Thema: Das Seminar beleuchtet unterschiedliche Protestbewegungen in der Bundesrepublik seit den 1950er Jahren.

Programm: Anhand von historischen Quellen und Überblicksdarstellungen stellt das Seminar die wichtigsten Protestbewegungen der BRD vor. Während im ersten Teil vor allem die großen Protestbewegungen der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts im

Vordergrund stehen, widmet sich der zweite Teil Protestbewegungen der Gegenwart. Unser besonderes Interesse gilt dabei der Frage, wie sich Protestbewegungen im Laufe der Zeit verändern und auf neue politische Verhältnisse reagieren.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Neben Interesse an deutscher Geschichte und Politik sollten Sie die Bereitschaft mitbringen, Texte im Umfang von etwa 15-20 Seiten pro Sitzung zu lesen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig aktiv teilnehmen (in mindestens 10 der 12 Sitzungen); die behandelten Texte gut kennen; in einer Arbeitsgruppe eine kleine Präsentation erarbeiten und die Abschlussklausur (90 Minuten) bestehen.



MODUL 3: DEUTSCHE UND EUROPÄISCHE SCHLÜSSELTHEMEN UND SCHLÜSSELBEGRIFFE

16906 Annika Becker: Deutschlands politische Landschaft: Institutionen und Prozesse. Freitag, 14-16, JK 28/130

Thema: In diesem Seminar werden wir die wesentlichen politischen Institutionen und die internen Prozesse des deutschen Staatswesens genauer betrachten. Dabei werfen wir einen vertiefenden Blick auf die Funktionsweise der deutschen Demokratie, die Institutionen des Staates sowie die politischen und rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen.

Programm: Das Seminar verfolgt das Ziel, den Teilnehmenden ein fundiertes Verständnis des Politiksystems in Deutschlands zu vermitteln. Sie sollen in der Lage sein, die politischen Institutionen und Prozesse kritisch zu reflektieren, ihre Funktionsweise zu verstehen und die Herausforderungen und Potenziale zu erkennen, denen politische Akteure und Institutionen in der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik gegenüberstanden.

Ist dies der richtige Kurs für Sie? Neben Interesse an deutscher Geschichte und Politik sollten Sie die Bereitschaft mitbringen, Texte vorzubereiten und an Diskussionen teilzunehmen. Der Kurs beinhaltet zudem verpflichtende Exkursionen, etwa ins Berliner Regierungsviertel.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig aktiv teilnehmen (in mindestens 12 der 14 Sitzungen); die Kursmaterialien gut kennen, während des Semesters eine Präsentation mit einer Arbeitsgruppe halten und eine Klausur bestehen (90 Min.).

16907 Hildegard Piegeler: Migration und Religion. Mittwoch, 16-18, JK 28/130

Thema: Kaum etwas bewegt und polarisiert nach wie vor die deutsche Gesellschaft stärker als das Thema „Migrations- und Flüchtlingspolitik“. Das Seminar wird sich dieser oftmals polemisch geführten Auseinandersetzung mit einem spezifischen Schwerpunkt widmen: Es wird der Frage nachgehen, welche Rolle und welche Bedeutung in dieser Auseinandersetzung den Religionen und ihren Anhängern zukommt.

Programm: Das Seminar wird sich fortlaufend mit religionswissenschaftlichen Fragen auseinandersetzen, um auf dieser Grundlage aktuell diskutierte Probleme und Konflikte zum Themenfeld Migration und Religion zu analysieren und zu reflektieren (z.B. „Gehört der Islam zu Deutschland?“). In einem weiteren Schwerpunkt werden wir über das Verhältnis von Staat und Religion, das Recht auf Religionsfreiheit sowie ihre politischen Implikationen im europäischen Kontext diskutieren.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Sie sollten unbedingt Interesse an religionswissenschaftlichen Fragen haben. Für die Vor- und Nachbereitung sollten sie ca. 3 Stunden pro Woche einplanen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig an den wöchentlichen Seminar-Sitzungen teilnehmen, gute Kenntnisse der Kursmaterialien besitzen, kurze schriftliche Hausarbeiten verfassen und die Klausur am Ende des Semesters bestehen.

MODUL 4: FILM, KUNST UND LITERATUR IM SOZIALEN, HISTORISCHEN UND POLITISCHEN KONTEXT

16908 Muriel Ernestus: Film der Weimarer Republik. Mittwoch, 10-12, KL 32/123

Thema: Die Weimarer Republik war eine kulturell ausgesprochen reiche und vielfältige Phase. Dies gilt in besonderem Maße für das Kino der Zeit, das berühmt für experimentierfreudige Regie, innovative Kameraführung und beeindruckendes Licht- und Set-Design ist. Abgesehen von ihrer beeindruckenden stilistischen und thematischen Vielfalt sind Filme der Weimarer Republik auch wertvolle mentalitätsgeschichtliche Dokumente, die viel über die damalige Zeit und die historische Entwicklung Deutschlands verraten.

Programm: Ausgehend von kurzen Einführungen in die Filmanalyse und die Geschichte der Weimarer Republik werden wir eine repräsentative Auswahl von Filmen besprechen. Ergänzend werden wir uns auch mit akademischen Texten zu den Filmen beschäftigen. Die im Seminar behandelten Filme sind überwiegend kostengünstig über Streaming-Portale zugänglich und müssen zuhause eigenständig gesichtet werden. Im Seminar analysieren wir dann gemeinsam exemplarisch Schlüsselszenen.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Kenntnisse der Filmanalyse werden nicht vorausgesetzt, sie sollten aber die Bereitschaft mitbringen, pro Woche einen Film zu sichten und ergänzende kürzere Texte zu lesen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig aktiv teilnehmen (in mindestens 12 der 14 Sitzungen); die Kursmaterialien gut kennen (1 Film und etwa 10 Seiten pro Woche), während des Semesters in einer Arbeitsgruppe ein Protokoll erarbeiten und vorstellen; die Klausur bestehen (90min.).

16909 Muriel Ernestus: Kultur und Politik im Nationalsozialismus. Mittwoch, 16-18, KL 32/123

Thema: Das Seminar wird einen Überblick über unterschiedliche Facetten des Themenkomplexes Nationalsozialismus vermitteln. Der Schwerpunkt liegt dabei auf der Untersuchung der Verschränkung von Kultur und Politik unter dem Hakenkreuz. Unser besonderes Interesse gilt Propaganda als Mittel der Herrschaftsstabilisierung.



Programm: Ausgehend von einer gemeinsamen Betrachtung der historischen Rahmenbedingungen, die zum Aufstieg Hitlers und der NSDAP führten, beschäftigen wir uns zunächst anhand von historischen Quellen und Überblicksdarstellungen mit Strukturen und Institutionen des Nationalsozialismus. Anhand konkreter Beispiele aus Film, Literatur oder Architektur untersuchen wir alsdann Funktionsweisen von Propaganda im Nazi-Staat. Mindestens eine Seminarsitzung findet außerhalb des FU-Campus statt. Geplant ist u.a. ein gemeinsamer Besuch der Topographie des Terrors.

Für wen ist der Kurs geeignet? Vorkenntnisse sind nicht erforderlich, sie sollten aber neben Interesse am Gegenstand auch die Bereitschaft und Geduld zur Lektüre akademischer Texte mitbringen.

Studien- und Prüfungsleistungen: Sie müssen regelmäßig aktiv teilnehmen (in mindestens 12 der 14 Sitzungen); die Kursmaterialien gut kennen (im Schnitt 15-20 Seiten pro Woche), während des Semesters in einer Arbeitsgruppe eine kleine Präsentation erarbeiten und die schriftliche Abschlussprüfung (Klausur) bestehen.

MODUL 6: THE CITY: VISIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS IN PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

16910 Gregor Hens: Playgrounds. Monday, 10-12, International House, Ehrenbergstr. 26-28, room 009, 30.6.: room 031, 7.7.: room 004

Topic: Whereas play, according to Dutch cultural historian Johan Huizinga, is foundational to human culture, children's playgrounds are primarily a modern and urban phenomenon, and Berlin is a perfect place to study them. The city boasts some 1850 public playgrounds in all, as well as a plethora of other spaces dedicated to children's play and physical education. The history of playgrounds is varied and interesting, closely following developments in areas such as social and political life, child development, art/design and, of course, pedagogy. Specifically, it intersects in productive ways with progressive social and pedagogical movements of the late 19th century ('Lebensreform') and various models of anti-authoritarian education of the mid-twentieth century. Some of the more unusual adventure and construction playgrounds of the 1960s are still in operation in Berlin today.

Program: We will consider the issues surrounding playgrounds from a multi-disciplinary perspective, consulting research in fields as varied as landscape architecture, sociology and philosophy. We will discuss the goals and functions of playground design and analyze a wide range of spaces in and around the city. Some of the questions we might ask: What kinds of activities are suggested by playground design and siting? What are the implicit pedagogical assumptions? What is the urban context? What other social functions do playgrounds suggest?

Can I take this course? There are no further prerequisites, and the course is open to Erasmus students from all fields. Students should be prepared to visit and document, on their own time, a number of different sites in and around the city.

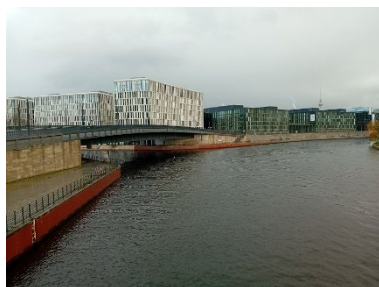
Requirements: You will need to attend a minimum of ten meetings, including the first and final sessions of the semester (April 14, 2025 and July 14, 2025); carefully read the assigned texts; participate in seminar discussion; submit and present one midterm project (5 pages); and take a written exam on the final day of class.

16911 Gregor Hens: Places and Non-places – The Hypermodernism of Berlin. Monday, 12-2 p.m., JK 28/112

Topic: Towards the end of postmodernism – and at the dawn of the "internet age" – thinkers such as Michel de Certeau and Marc Augé developed a conceptual model to describe the rather vague feeling of arbitrariness and interchangeability of space they experienced in modern cities, the idea that the few remaining identifiable "places" in our contemporary urban environments were mere remnants of earlier, culturally inscribed sites, re-manufactured for commercial (touristic) purposes. The vast remaining areas of the city were "non-places" and urban "filaments" that did not provide a sense of belonging. This freed city dwellers to (artistically or otherwise) misappropriate or re-inscribe objects of the urban fabric. In the early 1990s, the term hypermodernism (or supermodernism) was introduced to provide a framework for these observations in fields ranging from philosophy to anthropology and architecture.

Program: We will consider this concept and its more recent iterations with respect to new and planned buildings in Berlin (by international firms such as OMA and Herzog & de Meuron), to places of infrastructure (train stations, airports), shopping centers, so-called POPS (privately owned public spaces) and urban wilderness areas. Course participants will be encouraged to explore the city on their own and respond to particular sites through visuals, audio recordings, (creative) texts and other forms of expression.

Can I take this course? Yes, if you are interested in urbanism, architecture, and related fields; willing to read some theoretical texts; eager to explore the city on your own; open to (artistic) experimentation. The course has no further prerequisites.



Requirements and Grading: To earn five ECTS credits, you will need to attend a minimum of ten meetings, including the first and final sessions of the semester (April 14, 2025 and July 14, 2025); carefully read the assigned texts; participate in seminar discussion; present a topic to the class; and pass a written exam on the final day of class.

MODUL 7: FILM, LITERATURE AND ART IN CONTEXT

16912 Susanne Scharnowski: Saviour of humankind or "mad, bad, and dangerous"? Science and scientists in fiction, culture, and society. Tuesday, 12-2 p.m., Van't-Hoff-Str. 6, Raum 211B

Topic: In this course, we will examine the development of literary / cultural imaginations of science and scientists, looking at key texts as well as scientific discoveries.

Program: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, galvanism and the creation of life; Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde*: experimental drugs and the split personality; H.G. Wells' *The Island of Dr Moreau*: Vivisection and genetics; Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*: eugenics, genetic engineering and chemistry; the figure of the physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, the 'father of the atomic bomb', in post-war reality and fiction, and, finally, the benevolent scientific research on climate change in Kim Stanley Robinson's *Green Earth* trilogy. Based on extracts from the texts and on academic texts which contextualise and analyse the topics, discussions in class will take literature as a point of departure for a more fundamental examination of the connection between science and society. Some of the materials (presentations and film clips) will be available on Blackboard; additionally, students have to purchase the reader (a collection of photocopied texts in printed form) from the copy shop at Königin-Luise-Str. 39, near U-Bahnhof Dahlem Dorf.

Is this the right course for you? You should be prepared to study literary as well as complex academic texts in English, and you should be interested in a critical analysis, interpretation and discussion of cultural and social phenomena.

Workload and Assessment: To obtain 5 ECTS credits, you will engage with the course materials (an average of 25-35 pages of English texts per week), attend the course regularly and participate in class discussions

(at least 12 out of 14 classes). You will also have to pass a short mid-term test and the final written exam.



16913 Susanne Scharnowski: Native Americans and German national identity. Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., JK 29/118

Topic: For more than 150 years, America and, in particular, North American Indians have played an important role in narratives about German national identity. Examining these narratives, we will discover a complex web of fascination and identification with Native Americans on the one hand, fascination and ambivalence regarding the culture, politics, and economics of the US and white Americans on the other hand.

Program: We will study extracts from literary texts depicting Native Americans from the 19th and 20th centuries and analyse films based on Karl May and other others, produced in West and East Germany. We will study the political implications of images of Native Americans in the context of imperial Germany, in National Socialism, and in the GDR, and we will discuss and evaluate concepts such as the "Noble Savage", "cultural appropriation" and racial/ ethnic stereotyping and exoticism. As an introduction, students may want to read the Wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_German_popular_culture

Is this the right course for you? You should be able to read English texts at a fairly high level, be prepared to study a wide variety of theoretical as well as literary texts and be interested in the topic as well as in textual and discourse analysis.

Workload and Assessment: You will have to study and engage with the course materials (an average of 20 pages of academic

and/ or literary texts per week), give a short oral presentation, and pass the written exam at the end of the semester. Students must attend at least 85% of the classes (12 out of 14). Some of the materials will be available in digital form on Blackboard; additionally, students have to purchase the reader (a collection of photocopied texts in printed form) from the copy shop at Königin-Luise-Str. 39, near U-Bahnhof Dahlem Dorf

16914 Gregor Hens: Contemporary German Literature in Translation: Jenny Erpenbeck's Go, Went, Gone. Tuesday, 10-12, JK 28/112

Topic: Jenny Erpenbeck's *Go, Went, Gone*, published in German in 2015, is a politically charged novel about the situation of African refugees in Berlin. Richard, an older German with a GDR background, gets involved with, and befriends, a number of African refugees at a protest camp on Oranienplatz in Kreuzberg. A former Classics professor who was recently forced into retirement, he empathizes with the refugees, who are not allowed to work under German asylum laws. Richard researches their plight and helps them with administrative and everyday tasks, even giving piano lessons to one of them. After a break-in at Richard's house, he and his friends question their own prejudices and attempt to learn from the experience.

Program: The novel will serve as a starting point for our exploration of the political and human rights issues surrounding the situation of African refugees in Berlin. We will read the book at a good pace of about thirty pages a week and consider the surrounding issues in a critical and participatory fashion. Some additional materials will be provided to round out the discussion. You may read Erpenbeck's novel in any of the available editions: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian. The language of instruction/discussion will be English.

Can I take this course? Yes – if you are interested in social and political issues of contemporary Germany, and willing to engage in a seminar-style discussion about a literary text. The course has no further prerequisites.

Requirements and Grading: You will need to purchase a copy of Erpenbeck's novel. In order to earn five ECTS points, you will have to attend at least eighty percent of the scheduled meetings, including a) one of the first two sessions of the semester, and b) the final session on July 15. You will carefully read approximately thirty pages a week; serve as a

(co-)moderator of one session; and pass a written exam on the final day of class.

MODUL 8: GERMAN AND EUROPEAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

16915 Daniel Nethery: Infinity and the evolution of intelligence. Friday, 12-2 p.m., JK 28/112

Subject: In a paper published in 1950, Alan Turing proposed a way to think about whether computers can think. He asked whether they might, one day, successfully imitate humans in writing. His question is now understood as seminal to the concept of artificial intelligence (AI).

Program: We will analyse this concept of AI as the culmination of two parallel developments: the elaboration of the mathematical concept of infinity on one hand and of the theory of biological evolution on the other. Among other topics we will cover, in a heuristic way: natural selection and eugenics; the "diagonal argument" demonstrating the existence of "uncountably infinite" sets; Mendelian genetics and scientific racism; child (language) development and IQ; the "incompleteness" of mathematical arithmetic and the implications of this for so-called Turing machines.

Is this course for me? This course is open to all students. There are no prerequisites.

Workload and assessment: During the semester you will be required to read on average 20 pages each week. You will qualify for 5 ECTS points if your attendance is satisfactory, you engage with the course materials, and you pass the examination at the end of the semester.



16916 Daniel Nethery: Integration in Germany: policy and debate. Tuesday, 10-12 a.m., KL 32/123

Subject: In June 2024 a major reform of German citizenship law took effect, which makes it simpler for immigrants and their descendants to become German citizens. According to the government the reform should be

understood as a measure designed to promote integration. Arguably it is the most prominent component of an integration policy developed by German governments over the past two decades.

Program: We will take the changes to the citizenship law as the starting point for an analysis of integration in Germany in its economic, political and other social aspects. We will consider its definition with regard to work, language and education, including preschool education, drawing in particular on results of the PISA study. We will debate the meaning of cultural integration, especially with regard to religion, comparing it to concepts like assimilation and multiculturalism. And we will set the concept of integration in historical perspective, tracing its connection to post-war immigration on one hand and to German reunification on the other.

Is this course for me? This course is open to all students. There are no prerequisites.

Workload and assessment: During the semester you will be required to read on average 20 pages each week. You will qualify for 5 ECTS points if your attendance is satisfactory, you engage with the course materials, and you pass the examination at the end of the semester.

16917 Daniel Nethery: Basic Income and Inequality. Tuesday, 12-2 p.m., International House, Ehrenbergstr. 26-28, room 009; 24.6./1.7.: Van't-Hoff-Str.6, room

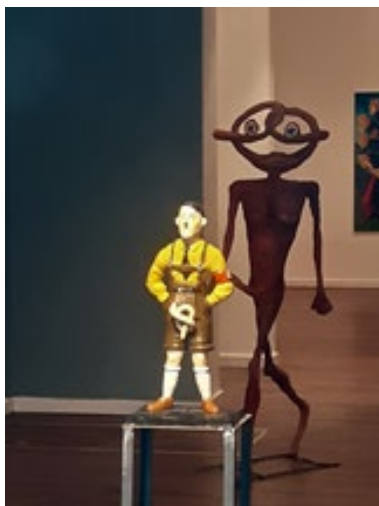
Subject: In 2021 the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) began paying 122 people €1,200 a month, tax free, no strings attached, for three years. The study, known as the Basic Income Pilot Project, aimed to contribute empirical evidence to the debate over the merits of a basic income. The first results of the experiment will be released in April 2025.

Program: We will approach the study of a basic income through the literature on income inequality and its social implications when present at levels observed in Germany today. We will compare the working of a basic income to other types of government transfers in cash and in kind, and analyse their potential to reduce income inequality. We will contrast the experimental design and most important results of the Basic Income Pilot Project to an earlier trial carried out in Finland in 2017–18. And we will survey the structure of the German taxation system and

assess the feasibility of funding a basic income.

Is this course for me? This course is open to all students. There are no prerequisites.

Workload and assessment: During the semester you will be required to read on average 20 pages each week. You will qualify for 5 ECTS points if your attendance is satisfactory, you engage with the course materials, and you pass the examination at the end of the semester.



MODUL 9: GERMAN/ EUROPEAN HISTORY IN CONTEXT

16918 Daniel Nethery: Reading Hitler: (auto) biography as history. Friday, 12-2 p.m., JK 28/112

Subject: Ian Kershaw argued that the legacy of Adolf Hitler “belongs to us all,” and that “part of that legacy is the continuing duty to seek understanding of how Hitler was possible.” For that purpose, Kershaw saw biography as indispensable. But he warned that biography “runs the natural risk of over-personalizing complex historical developments, [and] over-emphasizing the role of the individual in shaping and determining events.” Biography, then, poses dilemmas which arise whenever we seek to understand human affairs, past or present.

Program: We will draw on several biographies of Hitler and of those close to him to study important episodes in his personal and political career. We will read about his childhood, his experience of war and peace, and his accumulation of power, first in the Nazi party, then in the German parliament and government. We will consider his role in the drafting of the Nuremberg laws and in the

diplomacy leading to the Munich agreement, and discuss the ways in which biographers have responded to the question of his personal responsibility for the war and for the holocaust. And we will see that even his death gave rise to a debate over the role of government in the dissemination of information, which reappeared in a different aspect when historians came to edit his autobiography, *Mein Kampf*, seventy years later.

Is this course for me? This course is open to all students. There are no prerequisites.

Workload and assessment: During the semester you will be required to read on average 20 pages each week and pass a mid-term test. You will qualify for 5 ECTS points if your attendance is satisfactory, you engage with the course materials, and you pass the examination at the end of the semester.

16919 Grzegorz Rossolinski-Liebe: Holocaust in Berlin and Warsaw. Persecution, Murder, and Help in the Urban Space. Tuesday, 4-6 p.m., KL 32/123

Subject: In this seminar, we will study and compare how Jews were persecuted and murdered in Berlin and Warsaw; who helped them, how and why; and how the local population reacted to their persecution. In studying the Holocaust in both cities, we will concentrate on the general frameworks for understanding the Holocaust, the plans of the perpetrators, the behaviour of the collaborators, and the fate of particular actors, especially survivors, while analysing their diaries, memoirs, and interviews.

Program: In this seminar, we will read theoretical texts about the Holocaust and discuss the urban aspect of the genocide, while concentrating on persecution, murder and help. We will also visit museums and memorial sites in Berlin.

Is this course suitable for you? In this course, you will be expected to be open to new perspectives, interested in reading texts relevant to the subject and discussing them with other students.

Workload and Assessment: In order to obtain 5 ECTS credits, you will have to attend the course regularly (at least 12 out of 14 sessions); study the weekly course materials (an average of 15-35 pages of English-language text per week); give a presentation alone or in a group (10-15 min) or submit a short essay (approx. 750 to 1,000 words); pass the written examination (90 minutes).



MODUL 10: SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

16920 Susanne Scharnowski: Green Germany. Thursday, 2-4 p.m., Van't-Hoff-Str. 6, Raum 102

Topic: Germany likes to present itself as a country that leads the way in climate protection, in the development of renewable energies, and in waste separation and recycling, in short: as a ‘green’ country, even as the “Greenest Nation”. The course will examine the evolution of this idea of “Green Germany” through history.

Program: We will study key moments in the history of the German relationship to nature and the environment, looking at the role of grassroots movements on the one hand and government policy on the other hand. Topics we will discuss include the movement for nature conservation at the end of the 19th century; the period of National Socialism; the post-war environmental movement in West Germany; environmental protection and protest in East Germany, and, finally, the theory and practice of the German “Energiewende” as well as current debates and conflicts around the conservation of nature on the one hand and climate protection as well as energy policy on the other hand. We will also examine the specifically German attachment to the forest. Some of the materials (presentations and film clips) will be available on Blackboard; additionally, students have to purchase the reader (a collection of photocopied texts in printed form) from the copy shop at Königin-Luise-Str. 39, near U-Bahnhof Dahlem Dorf and bring the texts on paper to class.

Is this the right course for you? You should be interested in environmental

questions in an historical, cultural, and political perspective, and you should be prepared to study and discuss academic and complex journalistic texts written in English.

Workload and Assessment: To obtain 5 ECTS credits, you will have to attend the course regularly (all 11 classes, as there are three public holidays on Thursdays – 1, 8, and 29 May) have studied the course materials (studying an average of 20 pages of texts in English per week as well as listening to recorded lectures) and pass the written final examination.

MODUL 11: ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: READING, WRITING, DEBATING

16921 Gregor Hens: Creative Writing. Tuesday, 12-2 p.m., KL 32/123

Topic: Living and studying in a foreign country can be an exciting time in your personal and intellectual development. One productive way of dealing with the onslaught of impressions is to write about it. This course is designed to help you transform your ideas into a well-considered piece of literary writing. The resulting text may be fictional or non-fictional. It could take the form of a short story set in Berlin, a literary reportage, a creative essay, a series of poems or even the beginning chapter of a novel.

Program: This course will be conducted workshop-style. You will work on your own text throughout the semester, and share and discuss it with your fellow students and the instructor. In addition, we will conduct short writing exercises and discuss assigned texts about the process of writing.

Can I take this course? Yes – if you are interested in literature and wish to try your hand at creative writing. You should be open-minded toward your fellow students, and willing to share and discuss your work with them. You should be prepared to accept and dispense constructive criticism, and to establish a regular daily writing practice: a few minutes of note-taking after breakfast or a half hour of writing before you go to sleep. Your English may not be perfect, but you are willing to own your mistakes and work on your grammar, vocabulary, and style.

Requirements and Grading: In order to earn 5 ECTS credits you will have to attend at least eighty percent of the scheduled

meetings; engage with the reading materials and respond to a selection of them; post all writing assignments by the indicated due dates; respond to your fellow students' work online and in discussion. The final project, due on the last day of class, will be about ten pages in length.



16922 Susanne Scharnowski: Climate Discourses. Thursday, 4-6 p.m., KL 29/111

Topic: In the 21st century, climate change, formerly discussed mostly by scientists and environmentalists, has become one of the many divisive topics of political debate in an increasingly polarised public sphere. Views are divided regarding the causes as well as the appropriate responses to climate change: Are humans the (only) cause? What role do CO₂ and methane play? Should we focus on mitigation or on adaptation? Should we rely on nuclear energy, or is solar and wind energy the way to go? Should we develop new technologies (such as solar geoengineering) or does the solution lie in "degrowth" and shrinking economies? Do we rely on democracy, or would a less democratic political system of technocracy be the most efficient approach? Positions in this debate often align with other political and ideological leanings and are connected to ideas, biases and beliefs which may be completely unrelated to the topic of climate change as such.

Program: We will read various texts (political journalism, opinion pieces and articles from general websites or magazines as well as

academic texts) about various aspects of public/ political debates about climate change listed above. Students will practice their ability to identify and analyse arguments, patterns of thought, biases, and ideologies, and thus develop skills which are necessary for critical thinking and evaluating complex arguments as well as formulating a well-founded point of view. Students will also engage in debates, establishing what it is about arguments and/ or rhetoric that makes them convincing or persuasive. Some of the materials will be available on Blackboard; additionally, students have to purchase the reader (a collection of photocopied texts in printed form) from the copy shop at Königin-Luise-Str. 39, near U-Bahnhof Dahlem Dorf. **Is this the right course for you?** You should be interested in the topic of the course as well in working on and improving your reading and debating skills, and you should be prepared to share reading experiences, challenges and strategies in class discussions. You should also be prepared to participate in debates with contrary positions.

Workload and assessment: Students will read between 15 and 20 pages of texts in English per week, and will have to prepare various homework assignments during the semester (oral and written). You will have to attend all 11 classes (as there are three public holidays on a Thursday, 1 May, 8 May, 29 May), pass a mid-term test as well as the oral exam at the end of the semester.¹

¹ Fotos: Privat.