

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section	Hist 4339
Course Title	Topics in Thought and Society: Berlin: History of a City
Term	Fall 2016
Days & Times	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am-9:45am
Room	JO 4.502

Professor Contact Information

Professor	Nils Roemer
Office Phone	972-8832769
Email Address	nroemer@utdallas.edu
Office Location	JO 4.800
Office Hours	By appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

No prior background is assumed or required.

Course Description

Berlin is a quintessentially modern city. It was at once an important center of population, economic, and culture, as well as a place of exchange of goods, ideas, and peoples from across the world. The course will explore issues of industrialization, urban renewal and planning, space, class, and migration. Key factors we will look at are class, gender, ethnicity, consumer culture, crime, and the representation of the city in literature, art, and film. This course will moreover focus on the major events and conflicts that have left their mark on the city: the rise of the modern metropolis, economic depression and social unrest, the two World Wars, Nazism and the Holocaust, the Cold War and its aftermath.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The course aims to introduce you to exploring aspects of modern urban cultures and to study modern German history from the perspective of Berlin. You will investigate the experience of modernity through textual and visual sources.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 1250074908
David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 046502632X

Suggested Course Materials

Thomas Friedrich, *Berlin Between the Wars* (1991)
Peter Fritzsche, *Reading Berlin 1900* (1996)
David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001)
Ronald Taylor, *Berlin and Its Culture: A Historical Portrait* (1997)
Anthony Read and David Fisher, *Berlin. The Biography of a City* (1994)

Alexandra Richie, *Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin* (1998)

Source Collection

Iain Boyd Whyte and David Frisby, ed. *Metropolis Berlin, 1880–1940* (2012)

Anton Kaes, Martin Jay and Edward Dimendberg, eds. *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1994)

McElligott, Anthony, ed. *German Urban Experience, 1900-1945: Modernity and Crisis* (2001)

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Course Requirements/Evaluations Criteria

Attendance and class participation, two papers ranging from five to six pages, a mid-term, and a final examination.

Examination

There will be a final exam.

Essays

You will be required to write five source annotations, create a time line, and write one research paper. The topic of the research essay will be chosen in consultation with me.

Electronic Course Reserves:

Password:

Course Schedule

1. Introduction (January 14)

2. From the Center of the Enlightenment to the German Capital (August 23)

Taylor, *Berlin and Its Culture: A Historical Portrait*, 55-88

3. The New Capital (August 25)

David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 1-45

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 55-67

4. Urbanization (September 1)

Iain Boyd Whyte, "Berlin 1870-1945—An Introduction Framed by Architecture," in *The Divided Heritage: Themes and Problems in German Modernism*, ed. Irit Rogoff (1991), 223-252

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 85-97

Film: *People on Sunday* (Billy Wilder et al, 1929)

5. The City and its Critics (September 6)

Anthony McElligott, ed., *German Urban Experience 1900-1945: Modernity and Crisis* (2001), 10-11, 28-30

Max Nordau, "Degeneration," in *The Fin de Siècle: A Cultural History c. 1880-1900*, ed. Sally Ledger and Roger Luckhurst (2000), 13-17

Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life," in *The City Cultures Reader*, ed. Malcolm Miles, Tim Hall, and Iain Borden (2000), 12-19

Dietmar Jazbinsek, "The Metropolis and the Mental Life of Georg Simmel: On the History of an Antipathy," *Journal of Urban History* 30, no. 1 (November 1, 2003): 102-25

6. Urban Architecture (September 8): Group Project: JS Timeline

Alexanderplatz

Unter den Linden

Reichstag

Rotes Rathaus und Rathaus Schoeneberg

Bode Museum

Alte Nationalgalerie

7. Berlin and the War (September 13)

Rosa Luxemburg, *Order Prevails in Berlin* (1919)

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1919/01/14.htm>

"World War I and Its Aftermath: Käthe Schmidt Kollwitz (1867-1945) and Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970)," in *Sharing the Stage: Biography and Gender in Western Civilization*, ed. Jane Slaughter and Melissa K. Bokovoy (2003), 255-89

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 135-149 and 153-168

8. Berlin Metropolis II (September 15)

The Weimar Republic Sourcebook, ed. Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg (1994), 414-28

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 169-185

Film: *Berlin: Symphony of a City* (Watch on YouTube)

9. Expressionism and the City (September 20)

Kurt Pinthus, ed. *Menschheitsdämmerung: Dawn of Humanity. A Document of Expressionism with Biographies and Bibliographies*, trans. Joanna M. Ratych, Ralph Ley, and Robert C. Conard (1994), 61-68, 73-74

John Willet, *Art and Politics in the Weimar Period: The New Sobriety, 1917-1933* (1996), 17-24

11. The City and Literature (September 22)

Bertolt Brecht, "Ten Poems from a Reader for Those who Live in Cities,"

Brecht, Bertolt. Poems 1913-1956, ed. John Willett and Ralph Manheim with Erich Fried (1979), 131-140

The Weimar Republic Sourcebook, ed. Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg (1994), 551-567

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 189-195

Berthold Brecht, *The Three-Penny Opera* (in class)

12. The New Woman (September 27)

The Weimar Republic Sourcebook (1994), 195-219

Anthony McElligott ed., *German Urban Experience 1900-1945: Modernity and Crisis* (2001), 197-206

Mary Nolan, "'Housework Made Easy': The Taylorized Housewife in Weimar Germany's Rationalized Economy," *Feminist Studies* (1990), 549-577

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 199-213

David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 203-254

13. Dangers, Depression, and Suspicion in the City (October 4)

Beth Irwin Lewis, "Lustmord: Inside the Window of the Metropolis," in *Berlin: Culture and Metropolis*, ed. Charles W. Haxthausen and Heidrun Suhr (1990), 111-140

Film *M: Eine Stadt sucht einen Moerder* (Fritz Lang, 1931). Watch online.

14. Race and Urban Identities (October 6)

Joseph Roth, *What I Saw: Reports From Berlin, 1920-1933* (2003), 31-50

David Clay Large, "'Out with the Ostjuden': The Scheunenviertel Riots in Berlin, November 1923," in *Exclusionary Violence: Antisemitic Riots in Modern German History* (2002), 123-40

Nancy Nenno, "Femininity, the Primitive, and Modern Urban Space: Josephine Baker in Berlin," in *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture*, ed. Katharina von Ankum (1997), 145-161

15. Consumer Culture and the City (October 11)

Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg ed., *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1994), 655-672

Anthony McElligott ed., *German Urban Experience 1900-1945: Modernity and Crisis* (2001), 121-123, 129-148, and 156-159

Alexandra Richie, *Faust's Metropolis* (1998), 325-361

16. The City of the Future (October 13)

Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg ed., *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (1994), 623-625

Andreas Huyssen, "The Vamp and the Machine: Fritz Lang's Metropolis," *After the Great Divide* (1986), 65-81

Film: *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1926), in class

17. Berlin: The Capital of the Third Reich (October 18)

George L. Mosse, *Nazi Culture: Intellectual, Cultural and Social Life in the Third Reich* (1966), introduction and 133-196

David Clay Large, *Berlin* (2000), 255-317

Taylor, *Berlin and Its Culture: A Historical Portrait*, 262-286

Alexandra Richie, *Faust's Metropolis* (1998), 362-406

18. Albert Speer's Berlin (October 20)

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 219-235 and 239-248

Albert Speer, "Responsibility and Response," *Journal of Architectural Education* 32:2 (1978)

Paul B. Jaskot, "Anti-Semitic Policy in Albert Speer's Plans for the Rebuilding of Berlin," *Art Bulletin* 78: 4 (December 1996), 622-32

Stephen Helmer, *Hitler's Berlin: The Speer Plans for Reshaping the Central City* (1985), 27-48

Richard Evans, *The Third Reich in Power* (2006), 570-573

Michael Mackenzie, "From Athens to Berlin: The 1936 Olympics and Leni Riefenstahl's," *Critical Inquiry* 29: 2 (2003): 302-336

Film: *Olympia, Festival of the Nations* (Leni Riefenstahl, 1936)

19. Berlin and the World War (October 25)

Brian Ladd, *The Ghosts of Berlin* (1997), 127-173
David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 319-367
Christian Gerlach, "The Wannsee Conference, the Fate of German Jews and Hitler's Decision in Principle to Exterminate all European Jews," Omer Bartov, ed., *The Holocaust. Origins, Implementation, Aftermath* (2000), 106-161

20. Berlin and the Air Raids (October 27)

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 253-274
W.G. Sebald, "On the Natural History of Destruction," *The New Yorker*, November 4, 2002
Friedrich, Jörg, *The Fire: The Bombing of Germany 1940-1945* (2008), 36-45 and 315-322
Film: *The Downfall* (2004)

RESEARCH ESSAY IS DUE (November 1)

21. Zero Hour and Rebuilding (November 1)

David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 370-444
Jennifer V. Evans, "Life among the Ruins: Sex, Space and Subculture in Zero Hour Berlin," *Berlin: Divided City, 1945-1989* (2010), 11-22

22. Dividing Berlin: The Wall (November 3)

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 277-293 and 319-327
John F. Kennedy, "Ich bin ein Berliner,"
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/jfkberliner.html>
David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 445-515
Juergen Engert, "Berlin between East and West: Lessons for a Confused World," Richard L. Merritt and Anna J. Merritt, ed. *Living with the Wall: West Berlin, 1961-1985* (1985), 149-165
Pertti Ahonen, "The Berlin Wall and the Battle for Legitimacy in Divided Germany," *German Politics & Society* 29.2 (2011), 40-56
Greg Castillo, "Building Culture in Divided Berlin: Globalization and the Cold War" in *Hybrid Urbanism: On the Identity Discourse and the Built Environment* (2001), 181-205

23. Barricades in Berlin (November 8)

Claus Leggewie, "A Laboratory of Postindustrial Society: Reassessing the 1960s in Germany," in *1968: The World Transformed*, ed. Carole Fink, Philipp Gassert, and Detlef Junker (1998), 277-94
Alex Danchev, "The Artist and the Terrorist, or The Paintable and the Unpaintable: Gerhard Richter and the Baader-Meinhof Group," *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*, 35: 2 (April 2010), 93-112
Film: *Bader-Meinhof Complex*

24. The City Between Hope and Despair (November 10)

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 331-347
John Grech, "Empty Space and the City: The Reoccupation of Berlin," *Radical History Review* 83 (Spring 2002) 115-142
Michael Geyer, "Cold War Angst: The Case of West German Opposition to Rearmament and Nuclear Weapons," in *The Miracle Years*, ed. Hanna Schissler, (2001), 376-408
Film: *Wings of Desire* (Wim Wenders 1987)

25. Berlin the New Capital I (November 15)

Der Spiegel, 11/09/2009, From the Archives: "'Let the People Out' -- The Night the Wall Fell as Witnessed by SPIEGEL," By SPIEGEL Staff at <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,660190,00.html> and 11/10/2009, "The World From Berlin: 'The Official Ceremonies Simplify History' <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,660467,00.html>
David Clay Large, *Berlin: A Modern History* (2001), 517-583

26. Berlin: The New Capital II (November 17)

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 381-387
Cornelia Wilhelm, "Diversity in Germany: A Historical Perspective," in *German Politics & Society* 31.2 (2013), 13-29
Rita Chin, "Turkish Women, West German Feminists, and the Gendered Discourse on Muslim Cultural Difference," in *Public Culture* 22:3 (2010), 557-581
Peter Schneider, "The New Racism," "Anetta Kahane and the Amadeu Antonio Foundation," "Turks in Berlin," in *Berlin Now: The Rise of the City and the Fall of the Wall* (2014), 205-211; 215-225; 234-246

Thanksgiving Holidays, November 21-25

27. Das Haus (November 29)

Arthur Heise Melanie Kuhr, *Das Haus* (2013) (free kindle book)

28. Coffee in Berlin (December 1)

Rory MacLean, *Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries* (2015), 391-402
Film: *A Coffee in Berlin* (2014)

29. Conclusion (December 6)

Grading Policy

Five annotations (20%), a timeline (20%), one paper (20%), and a final exam (20%). Grades are based on clarity, analysis, understanding of the subject, and creativity. In addition, you must comply with university policies regarding dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance and class participation. *Make-up exams are possible only in special cases.* Late papers will lose 10% of their value for every day they are late – after ten days the grade is 0.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:

<http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.