

**SYLLABUS for HIS 2721 Cities at War: Berlin**

Summer, 2018

**Instructor:** Brian M. Cohen; **Program Director:** Christie Herbert; **Support Specialist:** Andy Donahue**Course Description**

This 3-credit course explores the experiences and memories of the people and culture of urban centers during times of war. Students will directly engage with the physical, social, cultural, and historical artifacts of the city under exploration, and thus, social and cultural, as well as military, histories will be studied. Students begin their examination of a city at war with an overview of the key historical and cultural features of the city under review, including the rise to power of the wartime government and the methods the political leadership utilizes to expand and consolidate power. Students continue their urban exploration by identifying the different groups of city inhabitants and exploring their experiences during wartime. Students conclude their study of cities at war with a critical examination of the process of reconstruction, historical memory/memorializing, and the inherent controversy of historical memory as the city rebuilds in a post-war era. Students are assessed throughout the course on their ability to actively engage and participate in the daily class activities as well as at the end of each of the three modules through a primary source analysis, critical analysis paper, and visual presentation. Upper division students will also lead a class discussion, critically respond to a reading, and complete additional historical thinking components for each assessment that demonstrate appropriate depth and analysis.

Specifically, the *Berlin at War* study abroad course centers on that capital city's history during WWII, from both German and Allied perspectives, though emphasis is placed on the "everyday" experiences of the diverse groups of Berlin citizens under Nazi rule and during wartime. Through class sessions (lectures, discussions, and activities), field trips to historical sites, and both guided tours and self-directed explorations, students will engage with Berlin's complicated and layered past by addressing 3 overarching questions: What are the key features of Berlin's history leading up to the Nazi regime? How did different groups of Berliners experience wartime under Nazi rule? What is the significance of the different ways Berlin memorialized the war?

**Required Texts and Materials:**

Roger Moorhouse, *Berlin at War: Life and Death in Hitler's Capital 1939-1945* (Vintage Books, 2011)

Course Pack of additional readings

Laptop/tablet/smartphone, flash drive, binder or other materials organizational tool, notepaper, pens/pencils, notepad for field trips

**Course Expectations:**

Students, as representatives of Landmark College, are expected to follow the College's general Study Abroad policies and adhere to the guidelines that will ensure the safety, respect, and positive learning environment for all students and staff. Accordingly, students are expected to attend all class sessions, complete all course assignments in a timely manner, and engage actively in as many of the course's experiential field trips as deemed developmentally appropriate. Accommodations will be offered on a case-by-case basis, in conjunction with students and staff members, and with the overall goal of gaining an understanding of Berlin's experiences through wartime at the forefront of any alternative plan of action.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

1. Articulate the meaning of key historical vocabulary and concepts as they relate to our examination of urban centers during wartime.
2. Describe the impact of war on the urban, cultural, and historical landscape of the city under examination.
3. Analyze arguments for thesis and supporting evidence.
4. Identify common understandings of history and memory from varied perspectives.
5. Analyze, interpret and evaluate a variety of primary and secondary source materials.
6. Understand and utilize the formal styles of writing, narrative construction, and argument specific to the humanities discipline.
7. Demonstrate understanding of the above outcomes in discussions/activities, written assignments, and projects.

## Methods of Assessment

Active Engagement and Participation (30%): Students will participate in all aspects of the course including class discussions, break-out group meetings, journals and trip blogs, individual/group activities, and field trips.

Reading Guides (20%): Weekly reading guides will assess comprehension of key vocabulary, concepts, and theories presented in course readings.

Projects and Written Assignments (50%):

Module 1. "History, Power, and Symbolism" Primary Source Analysis – Students will select a primary source (this may or may not be text-based) related to a key feature of the city's history and/or the rise of the power structure during wartime. They will complete a primary source analysis (2 pgs.), emphasizing critical reading, recognizing diverse perspectives, and demonstrating historical thinking.

Module 2. "Museums" Critical Analysis Paper – Students select one museum we visit together as a class, or they visit individually, and write about their experience in a 3-5 pg. critical essay. The assignment asks students to pay particular attention to the organization of the museum's spaces and its presentations of objects, images, and texts to represent the past. Specifically, students will address at least 3 of the following questions:

- How does the museum's site and spatial organization relate to the history represented there?
- What specific evidence did you find in the museum that contests or debates how to represent the history on which it focuses? Are there controversies about the museum's creation of meaning?
- What evidence did you find of the museum's efforts to reconcile the tension between the need to appeal to a large public audience and to tourists versus its mission to represent a past that is tragic or horrifying in many of its details?
- How does this site reflect the everyday experiences of different groups during war (all students must answer this question)?

Module 3. "Memorials" Final Visual Presentation – Now that students have had the opportunity to explore the selected city and examine its history, they will now analyze how that history has been memorialized. Students will choose either one of the larger, more well-known or one of the smaller, "quieter in character," memorials. They will reflect on their chosen memorial, address questions in at least 3 of the following areas, and present to the class a photographic essay consisting of 5 images, each with a paragraph description:

- Site: Where is the memorial? Can you tell why it is there? How does it interact with the space and other things around it? Under what circumstances do people encounter it? (Exiting another space? in a space of commerce? travel?) Would it be possible to miss this memorial?
- Form: Why do you think it takes the form it does? What is the relationship between the form and what it is commemorating in the memorial? Was there controversy in selecting the form of this memorial? What is the relationship between the form of the memorial and your response to it?
- Comparison: How does the work compare to another memorial of this type? Theme? Style?
- Significance (all students must answer this question): What is the significance of the different ways this city has memorialized war?

#### Daily Schedule for Summer, 2018

#### **Week #1 (Module 1): A History of Berlin and the Rise of Nazism**

Weekly Question: What were some of the key historical features of Germany under Nazi rule?

#### Required Readings for the Week:

- Moorhouse, chs.1-5
- Course Pack (CP), pp. TBD

#### Assignments for the Week:

- Journal #1 due by 10am Monday 6/18/18
- Reading Guide #1 due by 10am Tuesday 6/19/18
- Journal #2 due by 10am Thursday 6/21/18
- Project #1: Primary Source Analysis due by 10am Friday 6/22/18

#### Monday (6/18/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "Introduction to the Course"

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD and Moorhouse, ch. 1 -- Respond to Weekly Question with 3 bullet points from these readings
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Journal #1**

Afternoon Field Trip: *Story of Berlin* Museum

#### Tuesday (6/19/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "The Rise of the Nazis and Welthauptstadt Germania"

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD and Moorhouse, ch. 5
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Reading Guide #1**

Afternoon Field Trip: *The Schwerbelastungskorper* and *Templehof Airport*

#### Wednesday (6/20/18):

All-Day Field Trip: *The Olympic Stadium and the East-West Axis*

1. Readings Due by 9am: CP, TBD and Moorhouse, chs. 2-3

#### Thursday (6/21/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "The Nazi Consolidation of Power" (through Primary Sources)

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD and Moorhouse, ch.4 -- Respond to Weekly Question with 3 bullet points from these readings
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Journal #2**
3. Student Discussion Lead

Afternoon: Project Work (Office Hours)

Friday (6/22/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): **Project #1 Due by 10am** (Discuss Weekend Options and Preview Week #2)

Afternoon: Free

### **Week #2 (Module 2): Life in Berlin during the War**

Weekly Question: What were the experiences of different Berlin citizens/groups under Nazi rule?

Required Readings for the Week:

- Moorhouse, chs. 7, 8, 13, 14
- Course Pack (CP), pp. TBD

Assignments for the Week:

- Journal #3 due Monday 6/25/18
- Reading Guide #2 due by 10am Tuesday 6/26/18
- Journal #4 due Thursday 6/28/18
- Project #2: "Museum/Historical Site" Paper due by 10am Friday 6/29/18

Monday (6/25/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "Reactions to Nazi Rule"

1. Readings Due by 10am: Moorhouse, ch. 13 and CP, TBD. Respond to Weekly Question with 3 bullet points from these readings.
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Journal #3**

Afternoon Field Trip: *Topography of Terror*

Tuesday (6/26/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "Resistance to Nazi Rule"

1. Readings Due by 10am: Moorhouse, ch. 14 and CP, TBD
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Reading Guide #2**

Afternoon Field Trip: *The German Resistance Museum*

Wednesday (6/27/18):

All-Day Field Trip: *Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp*

1. Readings Due by 9am: Moorhouse, ch. 8 and CP, TBD

Thursday (6/28/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "Personal Stories of Life in Berlin during the War"

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD --Respond to Weekly Question with 3 bullet points from these readings
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Journal #4**
3. Student Discussion Lead

Afternoon: Project Work (Office Hours)

Friday (6/29/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): **Project #2 Due by 10am** (Discuss Weekend Options and Preview Week #3)

Afternoon: Free

### **Week #3 (Module 3): Berlin's Memorialization of World War Two**

Weekly Question: What is the significance of Berlin's memorials to the people/events of WWII?

Required Readings for the Week:

- Course Pack (CP), pp. TBD

Assignments for the Week:

- Journal #5 due Monday 7/2/18
- Reading Guide #3 due Tuesday 7/3/18
- Journal #6 due Thursday 7/5/18
- Project #3: "Memorials" Photo Essay due by 10am Friday 7/6/18

Monday (7/2/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "How and Why We Memorialize Historical Events"

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD -- Respond to Weekly Question with 3 bullet points from these readings
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Journal #5**

Afternoon Field Trip: *The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe*

Tuesday (7/3/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "The Significance of Memorialization"

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Reading Guide #3**

Afternoon Field Trip: *Various memorials: LGBTQ, euthanasia, Sinti/Roma, Stolpersteine (???)*

Wednesday (7/4/18):

All-Day Field Trip: *the Reichstag Building and Memorial*

1. Readings Due by 9am: CP, TBD

Thursday (7/5/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): "The Controversy and Legacy of Memorialization"

1. Readings Due by 10am: CP, TBD -- Respond to Weekly Question with 3 bullet points from these readings
2. Assignment Due by 10am: **Journal #6**
3. Student Discussion Lead

Afternoon: Project Work (Office Hours)

Friday (7/6/18):

Classroom (10:00-11:30am): **Project #3 Due by 10am with Brief Presentation**

Afternoon: Prep for Departure

Saturday (7/7/18): Leave for Tegel Airport (TBD)

### Berlin Historical Web Sites

Week 1:

German History Documents [http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/section.cfm?section\\_id=13](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/section.cfm?section_id=13)  
 The Story of Berlin Museum <http://www.story-of-berlin.de/>  
 The German History Museum <http://www.dhm.de/en.html>  
 Schwerbelastungskorper <http://www.schwerbelastungskoeper.de/>  
 Olympic Stadium <http://olympiastadion.berlin/en/home/>  
 Albert Speer and Germania <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOXmrVR00RI>  
<http://www.secretcitytravel.com/berlin-march-2014/albert-speer-nazi-architect-berlin.shtml>  
[https://archive.org/details/Inside\\_the\\_Third\\_Reich\\_Albert\\_Speer](https://archive.org/details/Inside_the_Third_Reich_Albert_Speer)

Week 2:

Wannsee <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005477>  
 Topography of Terror <http://www.topographie.de/en/>  
 The German Resistance Memorial Center <http://www.gdw-berlin.de/en/home/>  
 Rosenstrasse Resistance (Factory Action) <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10008064>  
 Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp <http://www.stiftung-bg.de/gums/en/>

Week 3:

Holocaust Memorial/Sinti/Roma/Euthanasia/LBGTQ <https://www.stiftung-denkmal.de/en/home.html>  
 The Marzahn Gypsy-Roma Camp <https://www.memorialmuseums.org/eng/staettens/view/1427/Memorial-to-the-Victims-of-the-Marzahn-%c2%bbGypsy-Camp%c2%ab>  
 The Jewish Museum <http://www.jmberlin.de/en>  
 The New Synagogue [http://www.centrumjudaicum.de/ciudaicum\\_wp/en/](http://www.centrumjudaicum.de/ciudaicum_wp/en/)  
 Stolpersteine Project <http://www.stolpersteine.eu/en/>  
 Reichstag/Bundestag <http://www.bundestag.de/en/>

Additional:

Berlin Underworld Museum	<a href="http://berliner-unterwelten.de/home.1.1.html">http://berliner-unterwelten.de/home.1.1.html</a>
Oh-Berlin Guide to Historical Sites	<a href="http://www.oh-berlin.com/en/oh-berlin/5689/culture/museums/wwii-in-berlin/">http://www.oh-berlin.com/en/oh-berlin/5689/culture/museums/wwii-in-berlin/</a>
Interview with Roger Moorhouse <a href="http://www.historyinanehour.com/2010/09/07/interview-with-roger-moorhouse-author-of-berlin-at-war/">berlin-at-war/</a>	<a href="http://www.historyinanehour.com/2010/09/07/interview-with-roger-moorhouse-author-of-berlin-at-war/">http://www.historyinanehour.com/2010/09/07/interview-with-roger-moorhouse-author-of-berlin-at-war/</a>
Rick Steves' Guide to Berlin	<a href="https://www.ricksteves.com/europe/germany/berlin">https://www.ricksteves.com/europe/germany/berlin</a>
Trip Advisor Museum Guide	<a href="https://www.tripadvisor.com/Guide-g187323-k121-Berlin.html">https://www.tripadvisor.com/Guide-g187323-k121-Berlin.html</a>
Insider's Guide to Berlin	<a href="https://www.thetimes.co.uk/travel/locations/europe/germany/berlin/">https://www.thetimes.co.uk/travel/locations/europe/germany/berlin/</a>
National Geographic's Guide	<a href="http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/city-guides/berlin-germany/">http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/city-guides/berlin-germany/</a>
Clark University Blog	<a href="http://www.clarku.edu/blogs/7-continents-research-trip-professor-explores-rich-history-lgbtq-life-berlin">http://www.clarku.edu/blogs/7-continents-research-trip-professor-explores-rich-history-lgbtq-life-berlin</a>
Battle of Berlin and WWII Tours	<a href="http://www.humboldtoursberlin.com/tours/battle-of-berlin-ii-world-war/">http://www.humboldtoursberlin.com/tours/battle-of-berlin-ii-world-war/</a>