

Course Proposal for Q4, 2019

TENTATIVE DATES: May 27 – June 4 (7 days -ish)

Faculty:

Ana Djukic-Cocks, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Jonel Langenfeld-Rial, Theater Department

Course Objectives

Berlin is one of the most vibrant and interesting cities of Europe. This program will provide students with an opportunity to experience contemporary Berlin, discover politically, culturally and historically important places, visit multicultural Kreuzberg, take trips to museums displaying the history of divided Berlin, gain an understanding of the two different systems and German states, show them everyday life and oppression in GDR, persecution and resistance in Berlin during Nazi era. The trip will also focus on the question how history is preserved (or erased), how for example the memory of the Holocaust is publicly displayed today. Most importantly, students will gain an understanding of the ongoing process of change in Berlin, to a unified and at the same time increasingly diverse city in the heart of Europe and the European Union.

One of the goals of this course is to explore the vibrant theatre scene in Berlin as an outstanding example of cutting-edge contemporary European theatre practices and performance. Some of the topics will be: **Bertolt Brecht** and his influence on contemporary American theater (and the rest of the world), **Cabaret Theatre** and its influence on emerging gay/lesbian theatre and artistic expression.

During the third Quarter of the spring semester 2013 and prior to the trip to Berlin, students will meet once a week. The course will include a brief introduction to history and culture of Berlin as well as readings and discussions on current theater in Berlin/Germany. Students will study and discuss the role of Berlin in 20th century German history, including the Weimar Republic, World War II, the division of the city into East and West Berlin during the Cold War, and the emergence of Berlin as one of, if not **the** most important cultural centers in Europe today.

The one-week study tour in Berlin is an integral part of the course. Students will have an opportunity to:

- Attend special events commemorating the **30th anniversary** of the fall of the **Berlin Wall**
- Visit the *East Side Gallery* (remains of the Wall)
- Visit various museums (*The Story of Berlin*, Art Museums, The Spy Museum, The Curry Wurst Museum, Checkpoint Charlie, The Museum of *Everyday Life in East Germany*, The German-Russian Museum)
- Visit the Site of the 1936 Olympic Games
- Attend Cabaret and Musical Theater performances
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Estimated Costs: \$ 2500 – 3500

Travel Arrangements

The Office of International Education & Programs will handle all travel arrangements from the airport in New York to our return to that airport. Contact Joshua McKeown at 312-2500 (mckeown@oswego.edu) with any questions. Students are responsible for getting to the airport in New York on May 27 (tentative date) , and arranging return travel from there on June 4 (tentative).

Tentative Course Syllabus:

Time: Thursday 4-5:30pm

Classroom: TBA

Evaluation

Grades will be based upon:

- Class attendance and participation (10%).
- Paper/Class presentation (20%) 4-5 page paper selected from a list provided by instructors.
- Response papers to movies (20%). Each student will be required to see three movies from a list selected by instructors and write a one-page response paper.
- Journal (50%) – Each student is required to keep a journal during the stay in Berlin, edit it upon return to US, and submit it to instructors. Deadline: one week upon return to US.

Writing

Written work will employ correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar and will be graded accordingly. The MLA handbook for writers of research papers is the preferred guide for papers and references for this class. Students are strongly encouraged to check spelling and grammar on all work prior to submission.

Attendance Policy

Attendance in class at Oswego is required. Only documented medical emergencies, absences documented through the Student Advisement Center, or prior documented participation in college-sanctioned events will be excused. A student who misses 3 or more classes will be dropped from the course. If this occurs after the official deadline for dropping courses, the student may receive an E.

Required Readings

Ladd, Brian. *The Ghosts of Berlin. Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*. Chicago: The U of Chicago Press, 1997.

Brecht, Bertolt. *The Good Woman of Szechwan* (Penguin Classics)

Recommended Readings (on reserve in Penfield library)

Large, David Clay. *Berlin*. New York: Basic Books, 200

Richie, Alexandra. *Faust's Metropolis; A History of Berlin*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1998.

Tentative Course Content:

Thursday, March 28

Introduction

How do I prepare myself for the trip to Berlin?

Berlin: A portrait of a city

Thursday, April 4

A Brief History of Berlin

Berlin as a Capital City

Checkpoint Charlie

Thursday, April 11

Architecture and the City, 1871-1990: Berlin as a Nucleus of Modernity

Theaters of Berlin

Thursday, April 18

Inventing the Modern City: Berlin in the Twenties

Berlin Theater during the Roaring Twenties

Thursday, April 25

Jewish Berlin: The Metropolis in the Imagination of a Minority

The Olympic Games of 1936

Theater in Exile

Thursday May 2

Divided Berlin

Theater Education in East and West Berlin

Thursday, May 9

Berlin after the German Unification

Berlin as a Multicultural City

Contemporary Theater