

GLS 100/GER 395 /THT 470: *BERLIN: History, Theater, and the Arts*

Course Proposal for Q4: May 22 – May 30, 2016

Faculty:

Ana Djukic-Cocks, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Jonel Langenfeld-Rial, Theater Department

Course Objectives

Culturally, historically, and politically, Berlin ranks among the most important and dynamic urban centers in Europe. The goal 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. During the fourth Quarter of the spring semester 2016 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. Students will also explore modern and contemporary German theatre artists, practices and performances and read English translations of the play(s) they will attend in Berlin (if available). The one-week study tour in Berlin is an integral part of the course. Students will have 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 and gain an understanding of the two different systems and German states,
- Attend performances in Berlin's established theatres as well as the more avant-garde performance venues.

Highlights

Theater performances and theater tours to include some of the following: Berliner Ensemble, Volksbühne, Schaubühne; Deutsches Theater and/or Kammerspiele as well as from among the following: English Language Theatre, Grips Theater (Berlin's state theatre for children and young people), Maxim Gorki Theatre, etc. Museum visits will include some of the following: Reichstag, Brecht-Weigel Museum. Pergamon, Memorial for Murdered Jews of Europe, Berlin Wall, Potsdam, New National Gallery, and the Bauhaus Archive.

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 Mary Kerr (mary.kerr@oswego.edu) with questions. You are responsible for getting yourself to the airport in New York on May 16, and arranging return travel from there on May 26?

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%)
- 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 TBA.

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 (for you or a member of your immediate family), 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 (February 6 for Q-3 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.

A play TBA

Recommended Readings (on reserve in Penfield library)

Large, David Clay. *Berlin*. New York: Basic Books, 2000

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

Tentative Course Content:

Thursday, March 31

Introduction

How do I prepare myself for the trip to Berlin?

Berlin: A portrait of a city

Thursday, April 7

A Brief History of Berlin

Berlin as a Capital City

Checkpoint Charlie

Thursday, April 14

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

Theaters of Berlin

Thursday, April 21

Inventing the Modern City: Berlin in the Twenties

Berlin Theater during the Roaring Twenties

Thursday, April 28

Jewish Berlin: The Metropolis in the Imagination of a Minority

The Olympic Games of 1936

Theater in Exile

Thursday May 5

Divided Berlin

Theater Education in East and West Berlin

Thursday, May 12

Berlin after the German Unification

Berlin as a Multicultural City

Contemporary Theater