

Name: Prof. Thomas J. Brislin

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Course title: Mass Media & Popular Culture in Berlin

Track: A-Track

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 72 (6 per day)

ECTS-Credits: 6

Course description

Through a series of film screenings, discussions, and excursions, we will explore Berlin's mass media and its historic and contemporary role in shaping society. We will examine the ethical standards and social responsibility of media, and how they have been met and failed during 20th and 21st century Germany. Our definition of media will be broad, embracing journalism, film, advertising, art, music, graffiti, architecture, and cultural iconography such as the Berlin Wall and World War II memorials. Each Monday will be spent in film screenings, discussions, and some in-class writing. Thursdays will be spent mostly on excursions away from the university.

Student profile

Students interested in media – journalism, film, television – will find this course provides a different and enjoyable perspective on standards of media production and behavior, as will students interested in Political Science, Sociology, and International Studies. This course will also provide a different perspective on Berlin and its historic and contemporary iconography.

Prerequisites

None

Course Requirements

- * Attendance and Participation in class discussions & excursions.
- * Keeping a reflective journal on your intercultural learning & experiences. Can include photos, drawings, clippings, graffiti.
- * 3 written analysis/commentaries on films screened in or out of class.
- * Short in-class essays on class topics and observations on German media

Grading

Reflective Journal - 30%
Film Analysis & Commentaries -30%
Short Essay Tests - 20%
Attendance & Participation - 20%

Literature

A set of readings will be provided that will include excerpts from:

- * German Culture Through Film: An Introduction to German Cinema (Robert Reimer, 2005)
- * New German Cinema (Ulrike Sieglöhr, 1998)
- * Media Ethics: Key Principles for Responsible Practice (Patrick Lee Plaisance, 2009)
- * Ethics Across Cultures (Micheal Brannigan, 2005)
- * Stasiland: True Stories Behind the Berlin Wall (Anna Funder, 2004)

Course schedule

Date	Program
Monday, May 31, 2010	<p>Part I: Introduction: Berlin - Center of Media, History & Culture.</p> <p>Screen & discuss "Run Lola Run."</p> <p>Readings from Reimer: German Culture Through Film.</p>
Thursday, June 3, 2010	<p>Excursion to Mitte: Lola Sites; Scheunenviertel's layers of history; Rosenstrasse.</p>
Monday, June 7, 2010	<p>Overview of ethical theories.</p> <p>Screen & discuss "The Edukators."</p> <p>Readings from Plaisance: Media Ethics and Sieglohr: New German Cinema.</p> <p>Journal from Week 1 due.</p>
Thursday, June 10, 2010	<p>Excursion to Berlin Film Museum & Jewish Museum.</p> <p>1st Film Commentary due.</p>
Monday, June 14, 2010	<p>Part II: A Nation's Descent & Division. Screen & discuss "Triumph of the Will" and "Conspiracy." What are individual & media responsibilities?</p> <p>Readings from Plaisance: Media Ethics and Reimer: German Culture Through Film.</p> <p>Journal from Week 2 due.</p>
Thursday, June 17, 2010	<p>Excursion to Wannsee Conference Haus & Gleis 17.</p>
Monday, June 21, 2010	<p>The Wall and Continuing Divisions.</p> <p>Screen & Discuss "The Lives of Others."</p> <p>Readings from Funder: Stasiland and Reimer: German Culture Through Film.</p> <p>Journal from Week 3 due.</p>
Thursday, June 24, 2010	<p>Excursion to Mauer (Wall) Museum, Bornholmerstrasse, Stasi Headquarters.</p> <p>2nd Film Commentary due.</p>
Monday, June 28, 2010	<p>Part III: A Nation Reawakens - Media and</p>

	<p>Reunification. Social Justice & Ethics of Care.</p> <p>Screen & discuss "Goodbye Lenin!"</p> <p>Readings from Brannigan: Ethics Across Cultures.</p> <p>Journal from Week 4 due.</p>
Thursday, July 1, 2010	<p>Excursion to DeutschlandRadio, Rathaus Schöneberg.</p> <p>3rd Film Commentary due.</p>
Monday, July 5, 2010	<p>Reunification in Theory & Practice.</p> <p>Film screening tba.</p> <p>Readings from Brannigan: Ethics Across Cultures.</p> <p>Journal for Week 5 due.</p>
Thursday, July 8, 2010	<p>Excursion tba; final discussion & celebration</p>