

Name: Dr. David Ehrenpreis

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Course title: Representing the Nation: Art and Architecture of Berlin

Track: B-Track

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 72 (6 per day)

ECTS-Credits: 6

Course description

This course is an interdisciplinary investigation of the architecture and visual culture of Berlin from the Romantic period to the present. More than almost any other city, the German metropolis bears the actual marks of divergent conceptions of nationalism. After exploring the theoretical underpinnings of this phenomenon, our approach will be both chronological and thematic. While we concentrate on specific periods, we will focus on a series of case studies. Morning meetings will be devoted to introductory lectures and in-depth discussions of critical texts by authors including Renan, Fichte, Goethe, and Huyssen. Afternoon excursions will complement each morning's study. These will include a tour of Schinkel's Romantic Berlin, the Soviet War Memorial in Treptow, the Reichstag, and the Jewish Museum. Additional visits may include the Nationalgalerie and the Gemäldegalerie. This course will give students the opportunity to explore the complex interplay among memory, history, and national myth, issues of fundamental importance for our own times.

Student profile

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about the history and culture of Berlin through a careful investigation of the city's architecture and visual culture. Because of our multidisciplinary approach, students from a wide range of interests, including anthropology, art, art history, cultural studies, history, political science, and sociology are welcome.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Requirements

Regular attendance and active participation are essential to succeed in the course. In addition to two 3-page critical essays in which students will demonstrate their understanding of the readings and synthesize ideas from the class discussions, they will also complete a series of brief in-class written responses. Finally, they will complete two 5-page take-home essays for their midterm and final examinations.

Grading

Attendance and Participation 30%

Written Assignments: 20%

- Two 3-page Critical Essays
- Written Responses to Readings

First Written Examination 25%

Final Written Examination 25%

Literature

A course reader containing all the required texts including a wide range of primary and secondary writings by authors including Benedict Anderson, J.G. Fichte, J.W. von Goethe, Andreas Huyssen, Ernest Renan, Susan Sontag, and Michael Wise will be provided at the orientation meeting.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Tuesday, June 1, 2010	Introduction/Discussion: What is a Nation? Readings: Anderson - Imagined Communities, 1-36 Renan - What is a Nation? Excursion: Getting our Bearings - Tour of Mitte
Friday, June 4, 2010	Origins of German Nationalism Readings: Herder - Philosophy of History, 280-326 Fichte - from Addresses to the German People Excursion: Representing the Nation - The Gemäldegalerie
Tuesday, June 8, 2010	History and Nation: Berlin Readings: Ladd - Ghosts of Berlin, 1-41 Forster-Hahn - German Painting, 19-39 Excursion: Friedrichswerdersche Kirche (Romantic Sculpture and Architecture) [FIRST CRITICAL ESSAY DUE IN CLASS]
Friday, June 11, 2010	Architecture for the Nation Readings: Goethe - On German Architecture, 33-52 Watkin - German Architecture, 85-117 Excursion: Exploring Schinkel's Berlin - Schloss Glienicke
Tuesday, June 15, 2010	Painting the Nation: Friedrich and Nationalism Readings: Vaughan - Correcting Friedrich, 208-228 Excursion: Schloss Charlottenburg, Neuer Pavillion
Friday, June 18, 2010	The Cult of Monuments Readings: Michalski - Public Monuments, 56-76 Riegl - The Cult of Monuments, 21-51 Excursion: Alte Nationalgalerie [MIDTERM EXAMINATION DUE IN CLASS]
Tuesday, June 22, 2010	Deconstructing the Metropolis: Dada and Weimar Readings: Ladd - Ghosts of Berlin, 83-125 Motherwell - Dada Painters and Poets Excursion: Berlinische Galerie

<p>Friday, June 25, 2010</p>	<p>Art and Fascism Readings: Ladd - Ghosts of Berlin, 127-173 Sonntag - Fascinating Fascism</p> <p>Excursion: Topographie des Terrors</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 29, 2010</p>	<p>National Memory in Communist Berlin Readings: Michalski - Public Monuments, 93-106, 125-153 Ladd - Ghosts of Berlin, 175-215</p> <p>Excursion: Former East Berlin - Treptow Monument</p> <p>[SECOND CRITICAL ESSAY DUE IN CLASS]</p>
<p>Friday, July 2, 2010</p>	<p>On Museums and Memory Readings: Libeskind - Between the Lines, 1-3 Huyssen - The Voids of Berlin, 57-81</p> <p>Excursion: Libeskind's Jewish Museum</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 6, 2010</p>	<p>Representing the Unrepresentable: Holocaust Memorials Readings: Michalski - Public Monuments, 154-189 Kramer - Politics of Memory,</p> <p>Excursion: Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe</p>
<p>Friday, July 9, 2010</p>	<p>Art and Nationalism in Contemporary Berlin [FINAL EXAMINATION DUE IN CLASS]</p>