

GER 392

Berlin in the 20th Century
Spring 2012



Instructor: **Dr. Ana Djukic-Cocks**

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Office hours: W, F 3:00-4:00pm, and/or by appointment

Course objectives:

1. To analyze in detail a selection of significant literary works focusing on Berlin with special consideration of the intellectual and cultural currents of the time.
2. To analyze different ideological backgrounds reflected in the 'zeitgeist' and its representation in literature and art.

Description: The course covers five major periods of German social and cultural history focusing on Berlin since the turn of the century:

- Wilhelmine time, the First World War and the fall of the monarchy in 1918
- Weimar Culture
- The Third Reich (1933-45)
- The divided city until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989
- Berlin after the Reunification of Germany.

Designed as an interdisciplinary course, Berlin in the Twentieth Century focuses first on Berlin as the capital of the German Empire when culture took an unparalleled upswing. The second portion focuses on modernist experiments in the "Roaring Twenties", from Expressionism to Dadaism, and Realism. The third part investigates the volkish ideologies of Nazi-Culture, including its propaganda campaigns through literature and film. Voices from the resistance, as well as exile and Holocaust accounts written by German-Jewish authors provide historical, cultural, and literary responses. The fourth section of the course illuminates the country's postwar division, and the social restructuring of West and East Berlin, with an emphasis on works by Nelly Sachs, Bertolt Brecht, Christa Wolf, and Günter de Bruyn. Special attention will be paid to German literature by foreign authors like Zehra Cirak and Rafik Schami. The last portion focuses

on Berlin as the capital of the new reunited Germany and the literary reactions to the Revolution of 1989 and the post-unification reality.

Required reading materials:

1. *Berlin, mit deinen frechen Feuern. 100 Berlin-Gedichte* hrsg. v. Michael Speier (100 poems about Berlin)
2. Thomas Brussig *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, 1999 (Centered around young Micha Kupisch and his family and friends, the novel relates a variety of episodes exposing the bizarre and grotesque everyday lives of those living in the German Democratic Republic.)
3. Peter Schneider *Der Mauerspringer*, 1982 ("The Wall Jumper". Peter Schneider's description of the Berlin Wall from both sides - as well as the Wall within people's own head.)
4. Barbara Honigmann *Eine Liebe aus nichts*, 1991 (Story of a young expatriate's journey back to Weimar to attend her father's funeral. As the narrator remembers her father's life, she explores her own past and relates her struggle to establish new roots following her emigration from Berlin to Paris.)
5. Wladimir Kaminer *Schönhauser Allee*, 2001 (Vignettes about modern Berlin from a perspective of a recent immigrant)
6. *Berliner Spaziergänge* <http://www.pullins.com/BookViews/BV9781585102846.pdf>

Additional reading materials:

1. Carl Zuckmayer *Der Hauptmann von Köpenick*, 1930 (a satirical play directed against the life and institutions of Wilhelmine Germany)
2. Alfred Döblin *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, 1929 (one of the most significant novels in German literature about the life in the big city)
3. Kurt Pinthus (ed.) *Menschheitsdämmerung. Ein Dokument des Expressionismus*, 1920 (the most important anthology of German expressionist poetry)
4. Nelly Sachs *In den Wohnungen des Todes*, 1947 ("Where Death Resides", selected poetry by this German-Jewish author written in exile)
5. Irmgard Ackermann (ed.) *Fremde Augenblicke. Multikulturelle Literatur in Deutschland 1996* ("Strange Moments. Multicultural Literature in Germany", an anthology of short stories written by foreign authors)

Evaluation:

- Reading, research and writing assignments and oral reports (Referate) = 30%. You will have frequent assignments involving course materials.
- Class attendance and participation in class discussions (Seminare) = 30%. Regular attendance, reading preparation, and active class participation are the most important factors for your success in the course.
- One midterm exam = 20%.

- Final Paper (Semesterarbeit), 10-15 page typed, double spaced research paper = 20%.

Course Content:

Week of:	Monday	Wednesday
Jan. 23	Einführung	Ein geschichtlicher Überblick
30	Der Expressionismus	Die Kultur der Weimarer Republik
Feb. 06	Die goldenen Zwanziger	Die goldenen Zwanziger
13	Das Dritte Reich	Das Dritte Reich
20	Stunde Null	Die geteilte Stadt
27	Die Fünfziger	Midterm exam
Mar. 05	Die Sechziger	Die Sechziger
12	S P R I N G B R E A K	
19	Die Siebziger	Die Siebziger
26	Die Achtziger	Die Achtziger
Apr. 02	Der Fall der Mauer	Die wiedervereinigte Stadt
09	Berlin als Hauptstadt	Das multikulturelle Berlin
16	Das multikulturelle Berlin	Quest Day
23	Berlin heute	Berlin morgen
30	Zusammenfassung	Zusammenfassung

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 9, 2012 8:00-10:00am