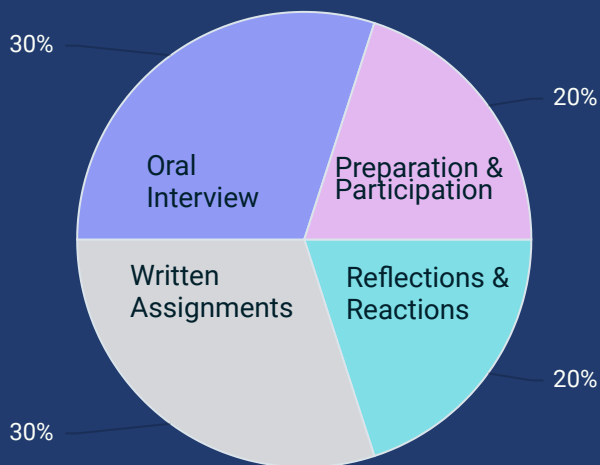


# -FOCUS ON BERLIN- WHAT LIES BEYOND THE WALL

GER336H / 2021-22 / SYLLABUS

THIS CLASS MEETS ON  
THURSDAYS 10-12 AT TF201

## GRADE BREAKDOWN



## DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

**Preparation/Participation:** Active participation is based on thorough preparation and regular attention of class. You are expected to contribute to a meaningful exchange of ideas and are graded according to the quality and frequency of your participation.

**Reflections/Reactions:** You are required to post two brief reading reflections (of 250-300 words) and two even briefer reactions (100-120 words) on your peers' reading reflections throughout the semester.

**Written Assignments:** The first one requires you to interpret a text passage based on your own close critical reading. The other asks you to do research and to write the introductory paragraph of an essay (complete with a thesis).

**Oral Interview:** Individual oral interviews will take place in the last week of the semester. They last roughly 15 minutes and cover the course materials and class discussions.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Vor sechzig Jahren, am 13. August 1961, wurde fast von einem Tag auf den nächsten die berühmte Berliner Mauer hochgezogen, die danach Jahrzehnte lang das Schicksal aller Deutschen, vor allem aber der Berliner prägte – ein Symbol des Kalten Krieges und eine Trennlinie zwischen gegensätzlichen Ideologien, die das Land in zwei Teile spaltete. Am 9. November 1989 fiel die Mauer, und im Jahr darauf feierte Deutschland die Wiedervereinigung. Trotzdem scheint die Trennung bis heute nicht ganz überwunden, der Schatten der Mauer liegt immer noch über der Stadt. Die physische Mauer mag mehr oder minder verschwunden sein, eine mentale Mauer aber ist geblieben – ganz wie der Autor Peter Schneider 1982 vorhersagte: *Die Mauer im Kopf einzureißen wird länger dauern, als irgendein Abrissunternehmen für die sichtbare Mauer braucht.*

In diesem Kurs geht es um literarische und filmische Darstellungen der Berliner Mauer und dem Leben hinter der Mauer. Dabei stellen wir uns die Frage: Was liegt jenseits der Mauer, damals wie heute? Ist eine unvoreingenommene Sicht auf ‚die andere Seite‘ möglich? Sind wir in der Lage, uns prägende Ideologien und Indoktrinierungen abzuschütteln? Können wir die mentalen Mauern überwinden, die uns von anderen trennen? Im Mittelpunkt des Kurses steht Peter Schneiders kurzer Roman *Der Mauerspringer* (1982), in dem es exakt um diese Fragen geht...

## COURSE MATERIALS

You will need to purchase Peter Schneider *Der Mauerspringer* (1982, ISBN: 3499135329) at the UofT Bookstore. All other texts will be made available on Quercus. Two movies can be watched at Media Commons or be purchased on iTunes.

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR

**Prof. Erol M Boran**

Office Hours: Monday 1-3  
at Odette Hall #318

Email: erol.boran@utoronto.ca



# Course Calendar

#	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	Sept. 9	Einführung: Jenseits der Mauer	
		<i>No Class (Yom Kippur)</i>	
2	Sept. 23	<b>Geschichte(n) der Mauer</b>	
3	Sept. 30	<b>Westliche Blicke</b> (Schneider 1)	Reflection 1A
4	Oct. 7	<b>Reise nach Osten</b> (Schneider 2)	Reflection 1B
5	Oct 14	<b>Mauer-Utopien</b> (Schneider 3)	Close Reading
6	Oct 21	<b>Doppelgänger</b> (Schneider 4)	
7	Oct 28	<b>Mauer im Kopf</b> (Schneider 5)	Research Task
8	Nov. 4	<b>Poeten der Teilung</b> (Biermann)	(Online Session)
		<i>No Class (Reading Week)</i>	Nov. 12: Paragraph
9	Nov. 18	<b>Türkische Augen</b> (Özdamar/Kara)	Reflection 2A
10	Nov. 25	<b>Alternative Realitäten</b> (Becker)	Reflection 2B
11	Dec. 2	<b>Berliner Fragment</b> (Şenocak)	
			Dec.9: Oral Interview

## READING LIST

- Edgar Wolfrum: *Die Mauer. Geschichte einer Teilung* (2009; Exzerpt)
- Peter Schneider *Der Mauerspringer* (1982)
- Wolf Biermann: *Ausbürgerung* (2001), Lieder & Interviews
- Emine Sevgi Özdamar: *Mein Berlin* (1999),
- Yade Kara: *Selam Berlin* (2003; Exzerpt)
- Zafer Şenocak: "Die Hauptstadt des Fragments" (2003)

# Relevant Matters

**Attendance:** German seminars are attendance-based. Regular attendance is mandatory. Attendance is taken early each session, and absences are only excused according to UofT regulations (e.g., religious holidays, serious accidents or illness, serious family circumstances). Please notify me asap if you know you need to miss class. In addition to excused absences, you have one unexcused absence. (If you register late for the course, this will count as your unexcused absence.) Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 10% reduction of your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with all readings & assignments.

**Communication:** It is important that you contact me to discuss any matters related to the class as soon as they arise. Don't wait until the end of the term. It is much more productive to meet during the term while there is still opportunity to address concerns. Email is an efficient means of communicating. While I make every effort to respond promptly, please don't expect me to respond instantaneously to emails sent shortly before class, during evening hours, or on weekends. Plan ahead so you don't have to reach out last minute in urgent matters.

**Preparing Texts:** Read closely, be critical! Always read 'with your pen in hand'! Make sure to mark relevant passages and put comments on the margins. Consider summarizing main ideas of texts and writing down your reaction to them. The idea is to prepare texts in such a way that they are easily available for class discussion. (Films should be approached the same way.)

**Missed/late work:** Extensions for assignments must be discussed with me before the due date. I won't accept excuses given after that, except for emergencies, Unexcused late assignments will result in a zero.

**Mobile Devices & Computers:** In order to minimize distractions during class time, phones or similar mobile devices have to be turned off during meetings unless requested otherwise by the course instructor.

**Sources of Research:** This course requires use of library and internet resources. Using the internet, you need to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources. Wikipedia (like other free-content encyclopedias) is NOT a reliable source and thus should not be used & quoted in assignments. (However, it may serve as a starting-point of your research; sometimes it offers helpful links and materials.)

**Disability Access:** UofT is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have accessibility concerns, please contact Accessibility Services and visit the University's accessibility website. Please note that restrictions and required services need to be communicated to the instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used. The use of online translation machines is prohibited and subject to penalty. For more information check UofT's Academic Integrity Website.

**Privacy Considerations:** Provostial guidelines on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology state: The unauthorized use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduced lectures, course notes or teaching materials provided by instructors is covered by the Canadian Copyright Act and is prohibited. Students must obtain prior written consent to such recording. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld. Creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures and/or taking screenshots of class chats, discussion board entries or other class content and distributing them via the Internet using social media (such as Facebook, peer-to-peer file sharing such as One Drive or Dropbox, or other distribution channels) violate intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, persons who have special needs will be accommodated.