

The University of Toronto
FOCUS ON BERLIN
German 336H / Spring 2015

Instructor: **STEFAN SOLDOVIERI** Dept: German
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Hours: TBÖ Tel.: 416/926-2341

Class meets on **Tuesday 2-4, TF 201**



DESCRIPTION

“Sich in einer Stadt nicht zurechtfinden heißt nicht viel. In einer Stadt sich zu verirren, wie man in einem Walde sich verirrt, braucht Schulung.”

Walter Benjamin, “Berliner Kindheit”

Taking as our inspiration Benjamin’s seemingly paradoxical notion of the training required to “get lost” in the city, this course will consist of a set of cultural excursions into Berlin’s past and present. Focusing for the most part on the Twentieth Century, we will explore a range of literary, filmic, architectural, and historical texts charting Berlin’s shifting identity as an industrial metropolis, centre of Nazi Germany, divided cold war city and finally its postmodern reinvention as the capital of the ‘Berlin Republic.’

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Class participation/preparation	10 %
Quizzes	25 %
Presentation	20 %
Response papers	20 %
Term essay	25 %