The University of Toronto

FOCUS ON BERLIN

German 336H / Spring 2015

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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%