

The University of Toronto
FOCUS ON BERLIN
German GER336 / Spring 2018

Instructor: **ALEXANDRA GERSTNER** Dept: Germanic Languages and Literatures
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Class meets on **Tuesdays 6-8 pm** at **tbd**



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DESCRIPTION

Berlin is, and always was, multiple places, with shifting identities throughout the decades and a different perspective depending on specific groups of inhabitants (compare e.g. the Jewish, Multicultural, Gay Berlin). In this course, we will explore cultural and historical accounts of the city, putting the emphasis on the 20th century. Who are the people that shaped the German capital, its culture and language? What did “Weltstadt” Berlin of the 1920s contribute to modern culture, in Germany and around the world? We will also look into how writers, artists, musicians and filmmakers from East and West portrayed the divided city and how the meaning of Berlin’s “Erinnerungsorte” (memory sites) has shifted over the past decades.

Sessions will involve class discussions, group work, student presentations, and lectures. The course is also designed to improve German language skills in reading, writing, and speaking with assignments, as well as class discussions, taking place in German. English will be used only for purposes of clarification.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation (in class and online)	25 %
Oral Presentation (Referat)	25 %
2 Short Response Papers	20%
Final Paper (Essay)	30 %

Attendance and Participation (25%): Regular attendance is mandatory. Absences will only be excused according to University regulations: for example, religious holidays, serious accidents or illness (medical note required), and serious family circumstances (written documentation required). Please notify me at least a week in advance in case you know you need to miss class. In addition to excused absences each student may have two (2) unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a reduction of the final grade. Besides regular attendance, your participation represents a substantial part of your final grade. I expect you to come to class in time, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation.

Online participation consists of blackboard contributions. You will need to read the assigned texts to contribute on Blackboard's "Discussion Board" in preparation for class (please make yourself familiar with Blackboard, if you do not know the portal yet: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>). Unless otherwise indicated, you can write on any aspect or question of the text that seems interesting to you. You are expected to read your classmates' contributions. Your work on Blackboard will help you to practice your written German and to participate in class. Blackboard contributions are due Tuesdays, 10 AM. No late work will be accepted.

A short note: as mentioned above, the class will be conducted in German. However, don't be shy because you think your German is not perfect. It's much better to make mistakes than to say nothing. We will help each other to find the right words and structures!

Oral Presentation (Referat) (25%): Each student will need to give a presentation on a topic related to the readings for a particular week. The topic of your presentation should be discussed with me at least one week in advance. The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills (detailed criteria will follow).

Short Response Papers (20%): You will write a response to two texts we have read in class. Each of the two short response papers of 350 words each is worth 10% of the final grade (detailed criteria will follow). See due dates in the course program.

Final Paper (Essay) (30%): Students will have to prepare one essay of 1,200 words. The essay will be an analytical paper focusing on one or several passages of a text or film that we have discussed in class. Topics for papers will be suggested, but you can also develop your own topic after consultation with the instructor. If this kind of writing is new to you or if you need help with

any aspect of your paper, please do not hesitate to see me during my office hours. See due dates in the course program.

A note on missed or late work: Extensions on papers are possible in cases of sickness or personal/family emergency. **Documentation from your college registrar, accessibility services or a medical note is necessary to request an extension.** If you see that you will need an extension, you must speak with the instructor before the paper is due. Extensions will not be granted on the day an assignment is due. An unexcused late assignment will **lose points each day that it is late.** It will lose 3% for each day, counting Saturdays and Sundays. **Papers more than seven days late will not be accepted.** They will receive a zero.

MATERIALS

Detailed information will follow.

OFFICE HOURS AND EMAIL CONSULTATION

I encourage you to come to my office hours if you have any questions. I will be available for email contact but only during regular work hours and not on weekends. I will respond as quickly as possible but remember that your best way to connect with me is through a personal visit in my office Wednesdays, 10-12 am.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences. To learn about the University of Toronto's policy on academic integrity and plagiarism, go to <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students>.

It is essential that you write your papers using your own original thoughts and words, and that you quote every secondary source that you use. When you use the words of someone else – or summarize their thoughts (paraphrasing) – you must **quote** and **cite**. Exact words must appear inside of quotation marks. Proper citation is given in a footnote or endnote, complete with page numbers. Footnotes/endnotes are also required for paraphrases. For direction see the handout “How Not to Plagiarize” available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

Please keep all your rough notes and a second copy of your paper on file until your graded paper is returned to you.

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

CALENDAR

Note: The purpose of this calendar is to provide a general idea of how this course is structured. It may be subject to change. A binding course syllabus will be provided at the first class session.

- Woche 1 Dienstag, 9. Januar 2018: **Einführung**
- Woche 2 Dienstag, 16. Januar 2018: **Berlin um 1900**
- Woche 3 Dienstag, 23. Januar 2018: **Berlin um 1900**
- Woche 4 Dienstag, 30. Januar 2018: **Berlin Metropolis**
- Woche 5 Dienstag, 6. Februar 2018: **Berlin Metropolis**
Short Response Paper 1 due
- Woche 6 Dienstag, 13. Februar 2018: **Berlin unter dem Nationalsozialismus**
- Woche 7 Dienstag, 20. Februar 2018: **Reading Week**
no class
- Woche 8 Dienstag, 27. Februar 2018: **Die geteilte Stadt**
- Woche 9 Dienstag, 7. März 2017: **Die geteilte Stadt**
Short Response Paper 2 due
- Woche 10 Dienstag, 13. März 2018: **Multikulturelles Berlin**
- Woche 11 Dienstag, 20. März 2018: **Gay Berlin**
- Woche 12 Dienstag, 27. März 2018: **Berliner Subkulturen**
- Woche 13 Dienstag, 3. April 2018: **Abschlussbesprechung**
Final Paper due