



## **No Cold War. Locating Divided Berlin in the Global History of the Cold War**

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Summer Semester 2023: 17 April– 21 July 2023

### **CATEGORY**

History and Politics

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

2 contact hours à 45 min per week (summer semester: 14 weeks)

### **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

#### **Time**

Day: Friday, 12-14 c.t. (12:15-13:45)

#### **Place**

Room: 0323-26, Hausvogteiplatz 5-7

### **COURSE LANGUAGE**

This course is taught in English. All core readings will be in English, but some optional readings might be in German. In-class discussions will rely on a basic understanding of German historiographical terminology, although all terms will be explained in class. B2 or higher in English is recommended, A2 or higher in German is helpful but not required. Field trips can be done in German or English, according to the wishes of the group.

#### **Language requirements** (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

English B2 or higher

German A2 or higher (helpful, but not required)

### **TARGET GROUP**

International exchange students of all subjects with a strong interest in the course topic. Berlin Perspectives courses are designed for undergraduate students. Master students may participate if their home university agrees. Regular degree-seeking students can select the course within the elective part of their study program (überfachlicher Wahlpflichtbereich üWP).

## **CREDITS = 5 ECTS**

The Berlin Perspectives courses are offered by the Career Center as part of the elective program üWP. Registration takes place via Agnes.

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In no other city did the Cold War materialize itself more concretely than in Berlin. Set in the emblematic capital, this course offers students a glimpse of the Cold War, understood as both a stable bipolar system of spheres of influence in the European theater, and a dynamic, largely unstable, environment of power struggle (and resistance) in the so-called 'Third World'.

Particularly in the Global South, superpower interference facilitated, exacerbated, and fueled internal conflicts, often leading to bloody proxy wars – which nevertheless allowed local actors to internationalize their greed and grievances. These conflicts might have seemed far away from Berlin – the quintessential 'frontier city' –, but the block confrontation had important consequences here as well.

The Cold War's lingering effects make its study essential to understanding the present. From the perspective of a free and reunited Berlin, students will have the unique opportunity of both studying and experiencing the past under the Iron Curtain, which divided the world, the country, and the city – and made, back then, Humboldt University the scientific center of the GDR, with its extensive networks to the Soviet world, only a mile away from the Berlin Wall.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the Cold War history of Berlin as part of the broader systemic competition.
- grasp structures, dynamics and conflict systems of the Cold War in Europe and beyond.
- understand the different modes the Cold War used in its conflict management in Europe and the so-called 'Third World'.
- embed conflicts from the 'periphery' into the larger global bipolar order.
- analyze modern narratives and collective memory in Berlin regarding the Cold War.

## READINGS

### Required

Reading materials will be provided online prior to the commencement of the course.

### Suggested

Paul Thomas Chamberlin: *The Cold War's Killing Fields. Rethinking the Long Peace*, Harper 2019.

Cynthia H Enloe: *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. 2nd ed., Berkeley 2014.

John Lewis Gaddis: *The Cold War*, Penguin 2007.

Ted Hopf: *Reconstructing the Cold War. The Early Years, 1945-1958*, Oxford University Press 2012.

Frederick Kempe: *Berlin 1961. Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth*, Berkley 2012.

Natasa Miskovic, et al., *The Non-Aligned Movement and the Cold War : Delhi - Bandung - Belgrade*, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014.

Joseph Samuel Nye: *Understanding International Conflicts. An Introduction to Theory and History*, Pearson Longman 2005.

Robbie Shilliam: *International Relations and Non-Western Thought. Imperialism, Colonialism and Investigations of Global Modernity*, Routledge 2011.

Frances Stonor Saunders: *The Cultural Cold War. The CIA and the World of Arts and Letters*. New York: New Press, 2001

Odd Arne Westad: *The Cold War. A World History*, Penguin 2018.

## ASSIGNMENT INFO

### Workload and assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to

- actively attend all sessions (a minimum of 75% attendance is required for classroom and online sessions)
- prepare and revise the classroom/online sessions
- hand in the following **assignments**:
  - a presentation in class of 15 minutes
  - a written paper of 2000 words (excluding bibliography).

Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

## Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of the above-mentioned assignments.

## YOUR INSTRUCTOR

**Dr. Isabella D. Franchini** is a Lecturer at the Chair of War Studies at the University of Potsdam. She received her PhD with highest distinction from the Department of Political Science of the National University of Singapore and the Department of War Studies at King's College London. Her research interests include political and international relations theory, international conflict, national identities, Latin America, and Linguistics. She is a passionate teacher, a cosmopolitan person, and an animal lover, currently living in Berlin with her husband and their cat Lizzie.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

2 hours à 45 min per week

**Week 1: The Cold War – An Overview**

**Week 2: The Frontier City – Cold War Berlin, 1949-1989**

**Week 3: Building Blocks of Confrontation and Alliances in Europe, 1945-1990**

**Week 4: Geopolitics and Intelligence in Cold War Europe**

**Week 5: Field Trip to Prenzlauer Berg (Berlin Wall Memorial and Documentation Centre)**

**Week 6: Challenging the Cold War Paradigm: Gender and Race debates**

**Week 7: A New Political Arena: The Global South between decolonization and non-Alignment**

**Week 8: Communist China: From the birth of the People's Republic of China to post- Mao years**

**Week 9: Korea – Learning the Language of Proxy Wars, 1950-1953**

**Week 10: Cuba– Staring into the Abyss, 1953-1962**

**Week 11: Vietnam: A Postcolonial Quagmire, 1954-1975**

**Week 12: Field Trip to Dahlem: Berlin’s Free University and Allied Museum**

**Week 13: Afghanistan: The Graveyard of the Soviet Empire, 1979- 1989**

**Week 14: No Cold War: Lingering Effects of the Cold War in Europe and Beyond, 1989-2020**

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Registration on Moodle (HU’s e-learning platform)

### **in case of online sessions**

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- *Recommended* hardware: external headset for better sound quality

## **EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES**

**Preparation for lively discussions:** be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

**Assignments:** complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

**Commitment:** pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions in this international classroom.

**Academic guidelines:** Comply with academic integrity policies. Plagiarism in even a small assignment will result in failing the entire course.

**Attendance policy:** Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the lecturer.

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The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 27 October 2022