



The EAST/WEST Competition – Urban Planning, Cultural Policy And Economics in Divided Berlin

Winter Semester 2021/22: 18 October 2021 - 19 February 2022

CATEGORY

History

COURSE STRUCTURE

The seminar is offered in the classroom with two hours à 45 min per week for 16 weeks or, following any applicable pandemic containment guidelines, as a digital format. Various field trips will convey particular contents outside of closed classrooms. Field trips may be combined into four-hour blocks, or divided to meet small group teaching requirements.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Time

Monday, 10-12 c.t. (10.15 am – 11.45 am)

Place

Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, 10117 Berlin
Room 0323-26

COURSE LANGUAGE

Course taught in English with parts of literature and sources in German. The proportion of the German language and the number of German-language sources will increase in the course of the seminar, corresponding to the faculty of speech gained by the participants. Written assignments can be submitted in either German or English.

Language requirements (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

English: B-level (B2-B1), minimum

German: B-level (B2-B1), minimum, at beginning of the term. Please note that sources and reading material contain texts in German.

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).

This seminar targets students interested in urban sociology and planning, metropolitan studies, German cultural history, economics, art history, and architectural history. Interested students of the humanities and social sciences are invited.

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).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

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

in case of online classes

- 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 (classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Berlin is the city of East / West competition. Since the division of the city into East and West, demonstrating the power of the capitalism and socialism respectively was central to urban planning. In the beginning, the solution of obstacles to urban development proved vital. This seminar examines the dualism in urban planning between East and West Berlin chronologically. Seminar presentations and two excursions trace the diverse targets and demands of capitalist and socialist urban planning. For the analysis, we do not only consider architectural and formal aspects. The Seminar provides a closer look to strategies and models of financing and commercialisation of urban planning. Cultural contexts, living and dwelling models and political strategies will be looked at as well.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The seminar learning objectives are linked to the specific themes of the course and seek to facilitate an increased competency to:

- a) understand the history of urban development in divided Berlin after the Second World War and appreciate the legacy and implications of political, social, and artistic contexts that constitute Berlins cultural and architectural landscape today,
- b) identify, comprehend and discuss current research issues,
- c) distinguish and integrate different forms of knowledge and academic disciplinary approaches, through independent learning and collaborative study, attain, use, and develop multidisciplinary knowledge in the arts, humanities, urban studies, and social sciences and the ability to integrate information across disciplines,
- d) improve oral and written communication skills, acquire, articulate, and convey academic content using verbal and non-verbal methods of communication such as presentations, charts, video formats, exhibition, etc, apply principles of ethics and respect in interaction with fellow students as well as with a broader research community by answering to overall academic policies and guidelines.

READINGS

Preparatory literature:

- Bernt, M., Grell, B. & Holm, A. (2013): *The Berlin Reader: A Compendium on Urban Change and Activism*. Bielefeld, Transcript.
- Bodenschatz, H. (2010): *Berlin urban design – A brief history*. Berlin, DOM.
- Buttlar, A.v., Dolff-Bonekämper, G. & Wittmann-Englert, K. (Ed.) (2013): *Baukunst der Nachkriegsmoderne*. Berlin, Reimer.
- Dolff-Bonekämper, G., Kier, H. (Ed.) (1996): *Städtebau und Staatsbau im 20. Jahrhundert*. München, Deutscher Kunstverlag.
- Internationale Bauausstellung Berlin 1987 (Ed.) (1991): *Project Report /International Building Exhibition Berlin 1987*. Berlin, SenStadt.
- Kleihues, J.P. (Ed.) (1986): *International Building Exhibition, Berlin 1987 : Examples of a New Architecture*. Hoboken, Wiley.
- Nakamura, Toshio (Ed.): *International Building Exhibition Berlin 1987*. Tokyo, a+u.
- Schlusche, G., Pfeiffer-Kloss, V., Dolff-Bonekämper, G. & Klausmeier A. (Ed.) (2013): *Stadtentwicklung im doppelten Berlin: Zeitgenossenschaften und Erinnerungsorte*. Berlin, Ch.Links.
- Urban, F. (2009): *Neo-historical East Berlin. Architecture and Urban Design in the German Democratic Republic 1970-1990*. Surrey, Taylor & Francis.

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 and the field (reading and literature is provided via online platform)
- prepare and present an assigned topic, including given material, for classroom/online sessions or field trip (30-40 minutes, group presentations are possible)
- hand in the following **assignments**:
 - a) one photo-essay that links a particular seminar topic to your perception of Berlin's urban landscape
 - b) one short portfolio of a building or a neighborhood
 - c) two response papers of approx. 2.500 characters, incl. spaces
 - d) a written assignment discussing a relevant issue from the seminar theme of approx 20.000 characters, incl. spaces, this assignment may be an elaborated text version of your presentation topic

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

Michael Grass, PhD

Before being awarded a PhD in German Studies from the University of Warwick (UK), Michael Grass received M.A. degrees in art history and philosophy as well as an M.Sc. in Urban Studies/Monument Preservation. Since 2008, he examines transformation processes in urban and rural areas after 1945 - especially on the International Building Exhibition in Berlin 1987 and trends in urban planning and the fate of GDR built heritage after the fall of the Berlin Wall. His research concerns the conflicts and controversies of Berlin urban development and architectural narratives between 1945 and 1990. He is a lecturer at the Humboldt University in Berlin since 2014, guest lecturer at the Bauhaus University in Weimar and the FHNW Basel. He is also active in Berlin as a monument conservator and planner, among others for the Berlin Monument Authority and municipal institutions on issues relating to the preservation and evaluation of their cultural and monument landscape.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

Admin: course plan, sources, field trips

Introduction: Berlin's urban history, the city in the 19th and early 20th century, understanding methodological approaches to urban studies, architecture as a document

Week 2: Berlin, the Cold War and the conflict of systems

Keywords: Berlin Blockade, Berlin Airlift, Marshall Plan, SMAD, "Ost-Politik"

Week 3: Plans and visions

Keywords: Collective, Cooperative, "Mietskaserne" and the criticism of Berlin's historic patterns, ideal city, utopia, new towns, the typology of Berlin's urban design – history, continuity and spatial narratives.

Literature: Andrea Contursi: The *Kollektivplan* for Berlin of 1946 between Infrastructure Planning, Rationalization and City Design. In: Herold|Stefanovska 2012, 90-97.

Week 4: Prototypes for the New Germany

Keywords: Stalinallee, Ernst-Reuter-Speech, the two German nations, Berlin division, 17. Juni 1953, architecturally manifested politics and economy.

Literature: Ralf Ahrens: Planning priorities, managing shortages: Industrial policy in the German Democratic Republic, from Stalinism to welfare dictatorship. In: Christian Grabas and Alexander Nützenadel (Ed.): Industrial Policy in Europe after 1945. Wealth, Power and Economic Development in the Cold War. London (Palgrave) 2014, S. 300-321.

Week 5: The East/West – competition in urban planning

Keywords: Continuities or separations: whose past in whose Berlin, Hansaviertel, Interbau, Stalinallee.

Literature: Florian Urban: Recovering Essence through Demolition: The "Organic" City in Postwar West Berlin. In: Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 63, No. 3 (Sep., 2004), pp 354-369.

Week 6: Field trip

Week 7: The Wall

Keywords: Political background, symbolics, memorialisation and musealisation

Literature: Hope M. Harrison: After The Berlin Wall Memory And The Making Of The New Germany. Cambridge, 2019, pp 9-29.

Week 8: After Stalin, Modern East Berlin vs West exclave

Keywords: Alexanderplatz, Ernst-Reuter-Platz, the Europa-Center and the "Showcase of the West"

Literature: Bruno Flierl: Urban Design in Berlin, GDR. Berlin 1986 - Re-arrangement of East Berlins City Centre, pp 137-150.

Week 9: The modern city's urban politics

Keywords: Urban renewal, Berlin West and the FRG, Klausenerplatz, redevelopment, Block 118, Block 270, the beginning of Berlin urban activism, Block perimeter design

Literature: Salgo, Andreas: The Dawn of the Postmodern. Critical Activism in the 1960s and the Change of Urbanist Paradigm. In: Herold|Stefanovska 2012, 113-124.

Week 10: Field trip

Week 11: Re-invent the city EAST

Keywords: Urban Renewal as urban historiography, "Flächensanierung", Problems of wide range redevelopment, WBS 70, Arnimplatz, Nicolai Quarter

Literature: Rubin, Eli: From „Mietskaserne“ to „WBS 70“. Central European History 47 (2014), 334–374.

Week 12: "Careful Urban Renewal"

Keywords: IBA, International Building Exhibition 1987, Kreuzberg und südliche Friedrichstadt, alternative approaches to urban change and redevelopment

Literature: Nelson Mota: Critique: building appraisals Álvaro Siza's Bonjour Tristesse: a symphony for a big city. In: The Journal of Architecture, 19 (5), pp 779-808.

Bauausstellung Berlin (Ed.): First Projects in Careful Urban Renewal. Berlin 1987. (exc.)

Week 13: "Critical Reconstruction"

Keywords: IBA, International Building Exhibition 1987

Literature: Wallis Miller: IBA's "Models for a City": Housing and the Image of Cold-War Berlin. In: Journal of Architectural Education. 46 (4), pp 202-216.

Week 14: Field trip

Week 15: Berlin Wonderland?

Keywords: reunification, Berlin borderland, reconstruction, Berlin Castle, squatters, city centre, Public private partnerships, remembrance and "compensation"

Literature: Claire Colomb: Requiem for a lost Palast. 'Revanchist urban planning' and 'burdened landscapes' of the German Democratic Republic in the new Berlin. In: *Planning Perspectives*, 22 (July 2007) 283–323.

Week 16: Final discussion
