

Literature in Berlin: Texts and Spaces

Winter Semester 2022/23: 17 October 2022 – 18 February 2023

CATEGORY

Literature and Journalism

COURSE STRUCTURE

2 contact hours à 45 min per week (winter semester: 16 weeks)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Time

Tuesday, 14-16 c.t.

Place

Room: 0323-26, Hausvogteiplatz 5-7

COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught in German, including the readings. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, language B2 is required. There are some options in English. So it is possible to write the final essay in English and parts of the reading can be done in English.

Language requirements (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

German B2

English B2 (optional)

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

From the Enlightenment up to the present Berlin has been a preferred home for poets, novelists, playwrights, journalists and creative writers of any kind. Their stories and visions not only represented but also shaped the idea of the city. This course includes selected works of literature (and some works of visual art as well) written in different periods in Berlin. The works are contextualized to the dynamic and multilayered history of the city and are connected to the urban spaces of today. Enhanced as well through excursions our readings and discussions help students gain insight into the rich cultural history and the current discourses in and about Berlin.

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 & outdoor/online sessions
- hand in the following **assignments**:
 - One smaller individual presentation of 10-15 min. and a group presentation about the results of explorations in the city
 - A written paper of approx. 20,000 characters including spaces

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. Marita Meyer studied Germanic Philology, Philosophy and History of Art in Heidelberg, where she obtained her doctor's degree in 2000 with a book on Peter Weiss and questions of representing the Holocaust. She worked as a lecturer at Yale University in 2000/01 and as a lecturer for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at the University of Szczecin (Poland) from 2001 to 2006. Since 2007, she has been teaching German literature and culture at Freie Universität Berlin, where she was head of the Master's program „Deutsch als Fremdsprache: Kulturvermittlung“ from 2013 to 2015. Since 2018 she teaches also as Guest Professor at Middlebury College, Vermont. Her recent research and publications focus on the discourses of globalisation and ecology in art and literature.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (18. 10.): Vorstellung und Einführung

Week 2 (25. 10.): Die Berliner Aufklärung

- Der Dramatiker G.E. Lessing, der Buchhändler C.F. Nicolai und der jüdische Gelehrte Moses Mendelssohn im Dialog
- Literatur: Die Ringparabel aus dem Drama *Nathan, der Weise* (1779), 3. Aufzug, 7. Auftritt
- Orte: Theater in der Behrensstr.; Spandauer Str.

Week 3 (1. 11.): Salonkultur

- Die Salons von Henriette Hertz und Rahel Varnhagen
- Literatur: Briefe von Rahel Varnhagen (zwischen 1790 und 1806)
- Ort: Jägerstr., Nähe Gendarmenmarkt

Week 4 (8. 11.): Berliner Romantik

- Literatur: E.T.A. Hoffmann: *Vetters Eckfenster* (1822); F. de la Motte-Fouqué: *Undine* (1811)
- Ort: Gendarmenmarkt

Week 5 (15. 11.): Alte Nationalgalerie (Exkursion I)

- C. D. Friedrich (Romantik)
- Adolph Menzel (Realismus)

Week 6 (22. 11.): Berliner Realismus

- Literatur: Theodor Fontane: *Irrungen, Wirrungen* (1887)
- Ort: Zoologischer Garten, Kurfürstenstr.

Week 7 (29. 11.): DADA Berlin

- Literatur: Kurt Schwitters: *An Anna Blume* (1919)
- Gemälde: Hannah Höch: *Roma* (1925)
- Ort: Berlinische Galerie

Week 8 (6. 12.): Zeitungsstadt Berlin / Neue Sachlichkeit

- Literatur: Kurt Tucholsky: *Berlin. Berlin* (1920); Gabriele Tergit: *Gerichtsreportagen* (1924-1933); Mascha Kaleko: *Das lyrische Stenogrammheft* (1933)
- Ort: Friedrichstr.

Week 9 (13. 12.): Großstadtroman

- Literatur: Alfred Döblin: *Berlin. Alexanderplatz* (1929)
- Orte: Rosenthaler Str., Alexanderplatz

Week 10 (20. 12.): Berlin im Nationalsozialismus

- Literatur: Inge Deutschkron: *Ich trug den gelben Stern* (1985)
- Ort: Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt in der Rosenthalerstr.

Week 11 (10. 1.): Auf den Spuren des Nationalsozialismus in Mitte (Exkursion II)

Week 12 (17. 1.): Das geteilte Berlin

- Literatur: Peter Schneider: *Der Mauerspringer* (1982)
- Ort: Mariannenplatz

Week 13 (24. 1.): Berliner Mauer (Exkursion III)

Week 14 (31. 1.): Berliner Flaneure und Flaneusen

- Literatur: Michael Rutschky: *Berlin. Die Stadt als Roman* (2001); Annett Gröschner: *Berliner Bürger*stuben* (2019)
- Orte: Reichstagsgebäude, Volksbühne

Week 15 (7. 2.): Schreibende Migrant:innen

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar: *Ah, hier hat es auch geschneit* (2009)

Week 16 (14. 2.): Abschlussdiskussion

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 (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.

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 26. September 2022