

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

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

CATEGORY

History and Politics

COURSE STRUCTURE

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

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Time

Monday: 10-12 c.t.

Place

Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, Room 0323-26

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).

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

In no other city did the Cold War materialize itself more concretely than in Berlin. Set in this 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'.

Specially 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 a free and reunited Berlin, students will have the unique opportunity of both studying 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

Freedman, L. (2002). *Kennedy's Wars: Berlin, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam*. Oxford University Press, Incorporated.

Gaddis, J. L. (2007). *The Cold War*. Penguin.

Hobsbawm, E. J. (1973). *Revolutionaries: contemporary essays*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Hopf, T. (2002). *Social construction of international politics: identities & foreign policies, Moscow, 1955 and 1999*. Cornell University Press.

Immerman, R. H., & Goedde, P. (Eds.). *The Oxford handbook of the Cold War*. Oxford University Press.

Kissinger, H. (2012). *Diplomacy*. Simon & Schuster, Limited.

Kaplan, L. S. (2007). *NATO 1948: the birth of the Atlantic Alliance*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Leffler, M. P., & Westad, O. A. (2011). *The Cambridge history of the Cold War*. Cambridge University Press.

Morrison, J. N. L. (2014). Intelligence in the Cold War. *Cold war history*, 14(4), 575-591. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14682745.2014.950248>

Nye, J. S. (2007). *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History* (Sixth Edition ed.). Pearson Longman.

ASSIGNMENT INFO

Workload and assignments

To be granted 5 ECTS, participants must

- 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 one of the following **assignments**:
 - a presentation in class of 20 minutes
 - a written paper of 25,000 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 INSTRUCTORS

Christian E. Rieck is an Assistant Professor at the Chair of War Studies at the University of Potsdam. He also teaches at the interface between international relations and contemporary history at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Mexico City and Strasbourg, as well as at Humboldt University. He has been a guest lecturer at several universities in Europe and Latin America. After studies in Bayreuth, Sevilla and at HU Berlin, he earned a postgraduate degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Oxford. Previous posts include stints at Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Berlin, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies GIGA in Hamburg, as well as a Carlo Schmid Fellowship at the United Nations in Mexico City.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Session 1:

The Cold War: An Overview

Session 2:

The Frontier City: Cold War Berlin, 1949-1989 Building Blocks of Confrontation and Alliances in Europe, 1945-1990

Session 3:

Building Blocks of Confrontation and Alliances in Europe, 1945-1990

Session 4:

Geopolitics and Intelligence in Cold War Europe

Session 5:

Field Trip to Prenzlauer Berg: Berlin Wall Memorial and Documentation Centre

Session 6:

Challenging the Cold War Paradigm: Gender and Race debates

Session 7:

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

Session 8:

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

Session 9:

Field Trip to Potsdam: The Bridge of Spies and Museum of the Potsdam Conference

Session 10:

Korea: Learning the Language of Proxy Wars, 1950-1953

Session 11:

Cuba: Staring into the Abyss, 1953-1962

Session 12:

Vietnam: A Postcolonial Quagmire, 1954-1975

Session 13:

**Field Trip to Dahlem:
Berlin's Free University and Allied Museum**

Sessions 14:

Angola: The Internationalization of a Civil War, 1975-1990

Sessions 15:

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

Sessions 16:

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

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 07 October 2022