

HU | P S A

Humboldt Perspectives
Study Abroad



Fall term 2021: 6 September – 11 December 2021

Exploring Berlin Museums – Focus on Memory and Migration

Instructor

Dr. Victoria BISHOP KENDZIA

Schedule

weekly

Time

Wednesday, 12:30-15:00

Room

tba

Due to the insecurity of the pandemic, this course can be adapted in the following ways:

- 1.** It can be a digital course, if museum visits are not possible. In this case students will have online assignments to complete in lieu of excursions to museums.
- 2.** It can be blended, if museum visits are possible. In this case students who are in Berlin can visit the museums. Any students who are registered in the course, but cannot be in Berlin can do the online assignments. Class discussions would then take place digitally in Zoom meetings and/or via Discussion Fora in Moodle.
- 3.** It can be an in-person class, if all the students are in Berlin and the university and museums are open.

Should the course be digital or blended, students who cannot attend Zoom meetings will have the option of submitting their input in Discussion Fora in Moodle.

Course Level & Target Group

Humboldt Perspectives Study Abroad courses are designed for undergraduate students. This course is directed at students interested in wide range of topics: museology, history, memory studies, ethics, Jewish studies, and migration studies are just a few of the disciplines that this course can complement.

Language requirements

This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.

Credits

6 ECTS

Course Description

Berlin's rich museological landscape lends itself to in-depth exploration: How are the upheavals of the 20th and 21st centuries remembered and represented? How can the urban landscape be read as a myriad of dynamic sites? What do these sites, in turn, tell us about past traumas and present-day issues? This course aims to enable the students to get to know a number of Berlin museums focussing on key aspects of memory of the Second World War and Post-WWII migration, using anthropological methods. Students are encouraged to critically analyse these representations within larger theoretical frameworks of "self" and "other" constructions, exploring the role of museums in rendering such constructions visible.

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

The objective of this Bachelor-level course is to familiarize the students with a number of key Berlin museums. In addition, they are to be equipped with ethnographic methods in order to critically approach the material, reflecting on their own positionalities. They will also develop their abilities to read and reflect on a variety of relevant academic literature.

Learning Objectives

The aim is to have students:

- Understand, describe and identify key aspects of Berlin's museological landscape
- Reflect critically on scholarly texts and sites and media output relevant to the Museology, Memory and Migration in Germany.

and acquire the following skills and competencies:

- The use of ethnographic and critical analysis methods to virtually explore settings and sites.
- Identifying and reflecting on the positionality of scholarly authors, museum stakeholders, and themselves.
- Communicating and discussing key ideas in a constructive and respectful way.

Course Schedule

(14 weeks, 3 hours à 45 min. per week)

Week 1 – Zoom meeting or in-class session. Introduction to the course and lecture by the instructor.

Week 2 – Excursion to the Jewish Museum Berlin or virtual visit with submission of assignments via Moodle.

Week 3 – Zoom meeting or in-class session. Discussion of the Jewish Museum Berlin and 2 required readings on this topic. Details tba.

Week 4 – Excursion to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe or virtual assignments via Moodle.

Week 5 – Zoom meeting or in-class session. Discussion of both sites in comparison and 2 required readings. Details tba.

Week 6 – Excursion to the German Historical Museum or virtual assignment via Moodle.

Week 7 – Zoom meeting or in-class session to discuss the previous week's visits/assignments. Short lecture on migration in Germany by the instructor.

Week 8 – Walking tour of Berlin with the instructor to gain an overview of the richness of the museological landscape or virtual assignment highlighting a number of sites. I have decided to include this session so that students can become aware of a number of lesser-known sites and have a wealth of choices for their own projects and final papers.

Week 9 – Excursion to a museum that highlights migration site tba/virtual assignments via Moodle.

Week 10 – Zoom meeting or in-class session to discuss the previous week's visit/assignments. Discussion of 2 required readings on migration in Germany. Details tba.

Week 11 – Excursion to a second local museum that includes migration site tba/virtual assignments via Moodle.

Week 12 – Zoom meeting or in-class session to discuss the museums in comparison and 2 final required readings on the topic. Details tba.

Week 13 – Zoom meeting or in-class session. Student presentations I. Here students present their own short research projects and get feedback from each other and the instructor.

Week 14 – Zoom meeting or in-class session - Student Presentations continued and Feedback and summary discussion.

Assignments

In order to be granted 6 ECTS, participants will be asked to

- i. actively attend all classes (a minimum of 80% class attendance is required), if in person classes are possible.
- ii. Submit of short written assignments based on the virtual visits and related media via Moodle. OR visit the museum in person. You would not need to do both.
- iii. Submit of two to three discussion/content questions on each scholarly reading, as assigned via Moodle. There will be eight required readings in total. ***This is a requirement for all students, regardless of the final format of the course.***
- iv. Participate in active exchange in ***either*** Moodle Discussion Forums (asynchronous) ***or*** Zoom meetings (synchronous), if in person classes are not possible.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of

- i. attendance if in person course/submission of bi-weekly assignments on specific museums, if digital
- ii. submission of 2-3 content/discussion questions on the required readings by the deadlines outlined in Moodle.
- iii. participation in ***either*** Zoom meetings ***or*** Discussion Forums as outlined above.

iv: submission of your research paper and a short presentation of your topic **either** in Zoom, Discussion Forum, **or - the pandemic allowing -** in person.

Each component is worth 25% of your final grade.

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

Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the classroom: 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 schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: Pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers, locals engaged with on the visits).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Attendance policy: 80% class attendance are required. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work.

Field trips: If classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time.

Your Instructor

Dr. Victoria Bishop Kendzia's teaching method, although anthropologically inflected, is interdisciplinary in nature and is, therefore, not limited to the social sciences. It appeals to students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds from history to art, through to geography, theology, and politics. The focus of her work is on the urban landscape, especially, but not only, museums and memorials in and around Berlin. In this context, locations can be explored as dynamic sites that project and reframe key aspects of history and culture. The urban laboratory that is Berlin is particularly well-suited to this endeavour, given the historical and cultural upheavals it has witnessed during the 20th century and beyond. She defended her dissertation on visitor experience at the Jewish Museum Berlin in 2013 at the Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt University Berlin under the supervision of Prof. Wolfgang Kaschuba and Prof. Sharon Macdonald. Her doctoral work was based on ethnography of young Berlin-based high school students in and around the Jewish Museum Berlin. She has a background in Museum Studies, having completed her master's degree in this field from the University of Toronto, Canada in 2001 and her Bachelor of Arts Honours at the same university in 1999. She has been publishing scholarly articles in her field since 2009 and teaching at the university level since 2008. Her most recent publication is the 2018 monograph: *Visitors to the House of Memory. Political Education and Identity at the Jewish Museum Berlin*. London and New York: Berghahn Books. A new paperback edition of this book is forthcoming in December 2020.

The course and its syllabus are subject to change.

Last update: 23.11.2020