



Spring term 2022: 9 February – 20 May 2022

Going Local: Negotiating urban contestations in Berlin

Instructor

Sylvana JAHRE

Schedule

weekly

Time

Thursday, 9:00-11:30

Room

tba

Course Level & Target Group

Humboldt Perspectives Study Abroad courses are designed for undergraduate students. Students should have an interest in urban policy and urban theory with regards to the city of Berlin. In this course we will work with innovative methods and produce a podcast as a final assignment. Therefore students should have an interest learning basic skills for audio recording and producing a podcast.

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

In this course we will deal with current urban struggles in Berlin, put them into a greater theoretical, historical and societal context and use concrete case studies for a better and more comprehensive understanding. The course covers topics such as housing struggles and policies, culture and arts in the city, gentrification, post-migration, unequal developments, and postcolonial thoughts on the city. Therefore students should have a general interest in urban policy issues and urban theory. The classical classroom formats are largely replaced by more interactive and innovative formats in combination with field

trips. The final assignment is a written essay and a podcast about one or a combination of topics of the course. During the field trips student gather empirical audio material so that the podcast serves not only as an engagement with the encountered urban issues, but also as a reflection.

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

The objective of this course is to equip students with an in-depth understanding of current urban issues in Berlin, theoretically engage with the encountered case studies, and critically reflect on the topics.

Knowledge

- Understand, describe and identify the core urban themes in Berlin
- Engage with theoretical framework in urban theory
- Provide an overview of academic theoretical and empirical work about Berlin urban issues

Academic/Transferable Skills

- Analyze, communicate and critically reflect on urban theory as well as empirical examples found in Berlin
- Select relevant theories and empirical data to analyze topic-related questions
- Reflect on the encountered issues and develop an own understand through producing a podcast as a final assignment

Competencies

- Become familiar with the most recent academic work on Berlin
- Apply the aforementioned research to identify

Course Schedule

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

Week 1

Content/topic: Introduction

Required Reading: Amin, A. & Thrift, N. (2003): The Legibility of the Everyday City. In: Amin, A. & Thrift, N. (Eds.): Cities. Reimagining The Urban, 7-30.

Group activity / assignment: Quotation Walk, getting to know each other, Mind Map of research interests

Week 2

Content/topic: Housing Market between Neoliberalisation and new Forms of Governance

Required Reading: Rolink, R. (2013): Late Neoliberalism: The Financialization of Homeownership and Housing Rights. In: *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 37, Is. 3, p. 1058–1066.

Group activity / assignment: Stakeholder role play and Mind Map for own research, working on research design

Week 3

Content/topic: The many narratives of Neukölln

Required Reading: Soederberg, S. (2017) *Governing stigmatised space: the case of the 'slums' of Berlin-Neukölln*, *New Political Economy*, 22:5, 478-495.

Group activity / assignment: Field Trip to Neukölln

Week 4

Content/topic: Deprived neighbourhoods and the Social City Programme

Required Reading: *Marcuse, P. (2006): The Down Side Dangers in the Social City Program: Contradictory Potentials in German Social Policy. German Politics & Society, 24(4 (81)), 122-130.*

Group activity / assignment: Field Trip, visit Quartiersmanagement

Week 5

Content/topic: Urban Movements

Required Reading: *Mayer, M. (2013): First world urban activism. In: City, 17(1), 5-19.*

Group activity / assignment: Group work on different case studies

Week 6

Content/topic: Contested Spaces and New Urban Social Movements

Required Reading: *Novy, J. & C. Colomb (2013): Struggling for the Right to the (Creative) City in Berlin and Hamburg: New Urban Social Movements, New 'Spaces of Hope'? In: International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 37(5), 1816-1838.*

Group activity / assignment: Field Trip to Friedrichshain

Week 7

Content/topic: Postmigrant city struggles

Required Reading: *Wiest, K.: Preface: Postmigrant city? Urban migration societies as a starting point for a normative-critical reorientation in urban studies, Geogr. Helv., 75, 1-10.*

Group activity / assignment: Discussing controversy positions in small groups, reflection on own research process and gathered audio material

Week 8

Content/topic: Kreuzberg and its many faces

Required Reading: *Holm, Andrej; Lebuhn, Henrik (2020): Strengthening Urban Citizenship in Berlin. Three Modes of Claiming and Expanding Rights, Resources and Recognition at the Local Level, in: Turner, B. et. al. (Hrsg.): Urban Change and Citizenship in Times of Crisis Vol. 3: Figurations of Conflict and Resistance. Milton Park / New York: Routledge, 81-101*

Group activity / assignment: Field trip to Kreuzberg bringing together the topics housing and postmigrant society

Week 9

Content/topic: The governance of refugees

Required Reading: *El-Kayed, N. & U. Hamann (2018): Refugees' Access to Housing and Residency in German Cities: Internal Border Regimes and Their Local Variations. In: Social Inclusion 6(1), 135-146.*

Group activity / assignment: Field Trip to BENN

Week 10

Content/topic: Unequal developments

Required Reading: *Blokland, T.; Giustozzi, C.; Krüger, D.; Schilling, H. (2016): Introduction: Creating the Unequal City. In: Blokland, T.; Giustozzi, C.; Krüger, D.; Schilling, H. (Hrsg.): Creating the Unequal City: The Exclusionary Consequences of Everyday Routines in Berlin. London/New York, 1-28.*

Group activity / assignment: Together brainstorm on unequal developments and their counterdevelopments

Week 11

Content/topic: Still divided?! Discourses on belonging and exclusion

Required Reading: *Lewek, M. (2016): Spaces of Fear and their Exclusionary Consequences: Narratives and Everyday Routines of Sub-Saharan Immigrants in Berlin. In: Blokland, T.; Giustozzi, C.; Krüger, D.; Schilling, H. (Hrsg.): Creating the Unequal City: The Exclusionary Consequences of Everyday Routines in Berlin. London/New York, 31-51.*

Group activity / assignment: Field Trip to Ahrensfelde

Week 12

Content/topic: Postcolonial Geographies of Migration

Required Reading: *Susan P. Mains , Mary Gilmartin , Declan Cullen , Robina Mohammad , Divya P. Tolia-Kelly , Parvati Raghuram & Jamie Winders (2013) Postcolonial migrations, Social & Cultural Geography, 14:2, 131-144.*

Group activity / assignment: Discussion of Film material, reflection on student's research projects

Week 13

Content/topic: Reading the postcolonial city

Required Reading: *Ryan, J.R.(2004): Postcolonial Geographies. In: James S. Duncan, J.S., Johnson, N.C. & R.H. Schein (Eds.): A Companion to Cultural Geography, 469-484.*

Group activity / assignment: Field Trip to Humboldt-Forum, Mohrenstraße/ Anton-Wilhelm-Amo-Straße

Week 14

Content/topic: Final Session

Required Reading: --

Group activity / assignment: Feedback on student's proposals for final assignments

Assignments

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

- actively attend all classes (a minimum of 80% class attendance is required),
- participate in the discussions
- comment on other students research design
- hand in an essay
- produce a podcast with the empirical audio material

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of

- Weekly participation in sessions and group work
- Podcast
- Essay (podcast and essay deal with the same topic)

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

Students need a smartphone with recording function. If students do not have one, they are kindly asked to contact the course administration Sylvana Jahre so that a recording device can be organised.

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

Sylvana Jahre is a Research Associate and Lecturer at the Department of Geography at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and currently conducts research at the intersection of knowledge, space and what can generally be grasped as migration. In her dissertation she deals with the governance of migration through urban social policy in Berlin. Sylvana has studied Geography, Sociology and Urban Planning at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, the Technical University Berlin, the Lund University in Sweden and the University of Melbourne in Australia.

The course and its syllabus are subject to change.

Last update: **19 May 2021**