

**BERLIN YESTERDAY AND TODAY:
From the Third Reich to German Reunification**

2017 J-Term in Berlin and Weimar, Germany (UMAIE)

Put your German to work in real-life situations. Earn academic credit, while living in and learning about the capital of Germany, its history and culture! Berlin presents a wealth of material and opportunities illustrating different aspects of German history. This course introduces students to important time periods such as the Third Reich, with emphasis on the Holocaust and resistance to Hitler, the Cold War, and German Re-unification.

Berlin is one of the most important cultural centers in Europe, and provides an ideal “jumping-off” location for weekend excursions to absorb the art and culture of Germany and surrounding countries. Several walking tours and day trips to nearby points of interest (Potsdam, Wannsee) help round out your experience of the many influences that converge to shape modern Germany and Europe. Weekend excursions to Weimar further highlight and reveal the blending of past and current events and cultures.

The city, its culture and past will serve as a site of research, active learning, and remembrance, demonstrating the relevance of history to understand current events in context. More than 70 years after the end of World War II, the Third Reich still engenders public debate and political decisions. The effects the German resistance had on post war Germany are immense and can still be felt today. By visiting the city of Berlin, the heart of Nazi Germany, students gain a visceral understanding of the period from the 1930's to 1945. Site visits in and outside of Berlin include concentration camps, monuments, memorials, and museums, which represent the recent efforts of the Germans to come to terms with this past. The themes of the course include the study of dictatorships, the causes of the Holocaust and the reactions to it, the connection between politics and place, the experience of victims in representative memoirs, and the role of memory in the aftermath for both victims and perpetrators.

Accommodations

Students will be staying in Apartments close to Berlin Mitte/Kreuzberg.

Classes offered during the Berlin J-Term

Beginning German II

Intermediate German I

Intermediate German II

Conversation and Composition

Contemporary Germany and Current Events

Required Readings (selection: more on web page)

Gabi Baier. *Verschollen in Berlin*. Stuttgart, 2009.

Rosenstrasse (Germany, 2003), Director: Margarethe von Trotta

Wannseeprotokoll

Reinhard Zachau, et al. *Berliner Spaziergänge. Literatur, Architektur, Film*, 2009. (optional)

Brian Ladd. *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape*. 1998.

Peter Neville. *The Holocaust*. Cambridge University Press, 1999 or 2000.

Evaluation

35% Classwork at the Berliner ID **35%** Cultural Sessions with faculty director

15% Homework/Preparation **15%** Portfolio (Journals, Reports, Pictures, Movies, etc)

Program Directors

Susanne M. Wagner, Ph.D., Dept of Modern & Classical Languages, (651) 962-5174; smwagner@stthomas.edu

Dr. Wagner holds a Ph.D. in Germanic Language and Literature from the University of Massachusetts with a focus on German Studies and a specialization in Resistance to Hitler and the Third Reich, and has taken multiple professional development seminars on the teaching of Landeskunde. During her 10+ years of teaching at U.S. Universities, she has taught a full range of all kinds of German language and literature courses. Dr. Wagner has previously directed 4 summer study abroad trips for the University of Arkansas Little Rock (2010–2013) and the 2015 J-Term course to Berlin, Germany (UMAIE).

2017 J-Term in Berlin

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of Germany and the
Heart of Europe**



Destinations

Berlin



Weimar



Potsdam



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