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| Course Title | Berlin's Graveyard Culture as Mirror – Interdisciplinary Perspectives |
| Category | History & Culture |
| Class Time | Session 1 Track C Weekly schedule Tuesday: 1.30 pm - 3 pm & 3.30 pm - 5 pm Wednesday: 1.30 pm - 3 pm & 3.30 pm - 5 pm Friday: 9 am - 10.30 am & 11.00 am - 11.45 am |
| Course Level & Target Group | Course Level: no previous knowledge on the topic death and dying necessary; Understanding of postmodern approaches to educational research are of advantage Target Group: for all those who are interested in getting critically involved in questions around death and dying. |
| Course Language | 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. |
| ECTS | 5 ECTS (45 contact hours) |
| Instructor | Anna Katharina Neufeld, M.A. |

Course Description

The course "Berlin's Graveyard Culture as Mirror of Society - An Interdisciplinary Perspective" approaches the subject of life, death and dying from the spatial defined area of cemeteries. This means we are going to look at historical and cultural changes, as well as their implications on society, landscape art, law or upcoming industries.

The course will read texts in cultural and social history as well as in literature around the subject matter of death and dying and will complement these with excursions to different prominent graveyards in Berlin.

The course will focus on the relationship between life and death, on the changes in memorial architecture and landscape art (as far as alternative modes of green funerals and coffins), the transformation of a "culture of mourning", as well as the varieties of different religions and spirituality cemeteries currently reveal.

Excursions to cemeteries as well as a crematorium are planned.

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

Advancing from an historical perspective on sepulchral culture the course "Berlin's Graveyards" will focus on historical and contemporary forms of funeral customs that can be found on cemeteries. Here Berlin's cemeteries open a wide range of different possibilities: not only War Memorials or specific Jewish cemeteries can be found here which mirror a cross section of Berlin's past aristocratic, bourgeois or artistic and military society. Berlin's cemeteries illustrate how cities grow, develop and change within different periods of time.

They further show in how far our current way of dealing with death and dying is reflected in funeral customs as for instance the "FriedWald", anonymous burials or cemeteries for various different cultures prove.

The course aims to combine reading and excursion and join the impressions together. Doing so, makes clear that not only past and present / death and life meet on cemeteries but different disciplines and perspectives such as law, architecture, literature, industry, social studies, ethnological perspectives as well as cultural techniques come together here. Next to visiting a choice of significant cemeteries in Berlin (Dorotheenstädtischer Friedhof, Jüdischer Friedhof Schönhauser Allee, Alter Sankt Matthäus Kirchhof, Kirchhof St. Bartholomäus in Pankow) an excursion to a crematorium is planned.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- read cemeteries as *narrators* of cultural and social changes in a city / society
 - have an (historical) overview over the cultural changes between life and death due to the knowledge the cemeteries offer
 - get an idea of how death and dying is approached today and what challenges we face
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Readings

Required

- Peter Standford, "Introduction" In: Standford, Peter, *How to read a Graveyard. Journeys in the Company of the Dead*. London 2013. pages xi – xix.
- Philippe Ariès, "The Hour of Our Death" In: Robben, Antonius C.G.M., *Death, Mourning and Burial. A Cross-Cultural Reader*. Malden, Oxford, Victoria 2004, pages 40-48.
- Philippe Ariès (1977), "Places of Burial" In: Ariès, Philippe, *The Hour of Our Death*. New York 1987, pages: 29-33 / 36-51.
- Philippe Ariès (1977), "Places of Burial" In: Ariès, Philippe, *The Hour of Our Death*. New York 1987, pages: 29-33 / 36-51.
- Howard Colvin, "The Triumph of the Cemetery" In: Colvin, H., *Architecture and the Afterlife*, New Haven: Yale University Press 1991. pages 364-374.
- The Brothers Grimm, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1812)
- Thomas Macho, "The Return of the Dead after the Modern Age." In: *Six Feet Under. Autopsy of Our Relation to the Dead*. Bern 2006-2007. pages 15-27. (Die Neue Sichtbarkeit des Todes)
- Janneke Peelen, "Reversing the past: Monuments for stillborn children" *Mortality*, Vol. 14.2, Mai 2009. pages: 173-184.
- Arnold van Gennep (1960), "The Rites of Passage" In: Robben, Antonius C.G.M., *Death, Mourning and Burial. A Cross-Cultural Reader*. Malden, Oxford, Victoria 2004, pages 213-223.
- www.ifldie.net
- <http://www.stayalive.com/en>
- <http://www.yourdigitalafterlife.com>
- <http://www.youdeparted.com>

Suggested / for presentations

- Nicola Wright, "Death and the Internet. The implications of the digital afterlife." In: *First Monday*, Vol. 19. No. 6, 2. June 2014.
- Douglas Davies, "Coping with Corpses" In: Davies, Douglas, *Death, Ritual and Belief. The Rhetoric of Funerary Rites*. London, Washington 1997. Pages: 28-39.
- Charles Cowling, "What is a green funeral?" In: Cowling, Charles, *The Good Funeral Guide* London, New York, 2010, pages: 25ff
- Elisabeth Bronfen, "Bodies on display" In: Bronfen, Elisabeth, *Over her dead Body. Death, femininity and aesthetic*. Manchester 1992. pages: 95-109.
- Joachim Jacobs, *Houses of Life: Jewish Cemeteries in Europe*, London 2008. pages 109-111 / 118-123.

Supplemental

- Philippe Ariès (1977), "The Relocation of the Cemeteries" In: Ariès, Philippe, *The Hour of Our Death*. New York 1987, Pages: 520-536.
 - Tony Walter, "Three ways to arrange a funeral: mortuary variation in the modern west", *Mortality*, August, 10 (3), 2005, 173-192.
 - John Seymour, *Childbirth and the Law*. Oxford 2000, pages: 137-143 / 258-263.
 - Tony Walter, "Modern Death: Taboo or not Taboo?" In: *Sociology* Vol. 25, No.2, 1991, pp. 293-310.
 - Andy Clayden / Trish Green / Jenny Hockey / Mark Powell, "From Cabbages to Cadavers: Natural Burial Down on the Farm" In: Maddrell, Avril/ Sidaway, James D. (eds.), *Deathscapes. Spaces for Death, Dying, Mourning and Remembrance*. 2010. pages 119-138.
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Course Schedule

TUESDAY, 20.06.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Welcome and introduction

Required Reading

- Peter Standford, "Introduction" In: Standford, Peter, *How to read a Graveyard. Journeys in the Company of the Dead*. London 2013. pages xi – xix.
- Philippe Ariès, "The Hour of Our Death" In: Robben, Antonius C.G.M., *Death, Mourning and Burial. A Cross-Cultural Reader*. Malden, Oxford, Victoria 2004, pages 40-48.

WEDNESDAY, 21.06.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Churchyard / in the city

EXCURSION: Berliner Dom, Am Lustgarten, 10178 Berlin

Required Reading

- Philippe Ariès (1977), "Places of Burial" In: Ariès, Philippe, *The Hour of Our Death*. New York 1987, pages: 29-33 / 36-51.

FRIDAY, 23.06.2017, 9.00 – 11.45h

Graveyard / outside the city

EXCURSION: Dorotheenstädtischer-Friedhof, Chausseestr. 126, 10115 Berlin

Required Reading

- Howard Colvin, "The Triumph of the Cemetery" In: Colvin, H., *Architecture and the Afterlife*, New Haven: Yale University Press 1991. pages 364-374.

Optional Reading

- Philippe Ariès (1977), "The Relocation of the Cemeteries" In: Ariès, Philippe, *The Hour of Our Death*. New York 1987, Pages: 520-536.

TUESDAY, 27.06.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Jewish culture in Berlin

EXCURSION: Jüdischer Friedhof Schönhauser Allee, Schönhauser Allee 23–25

Required Reading

- Joachim Jacobs, *Houses of Life: Jewish Cemeteries in Europe*, London 2008. pages 10-22.

Reading for Presentation

- Joachim Jacobs, *Houses of Life: Jewish Cemeteries in Europe*, London 2008. pages 109-111 / 118-123.

WEDNESDAY, 28.06.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Sculptured Beauty – Literature and Dead Women

Required Reading

- The Brothers Grimm, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1812)

Reading for Presentation

- Elisabeth Bronfen, "Bodies on display" In: Bronfen, Elisabeth, *Over her dead Body. Death, femininity and aesthetic*. Manchester 1992. pages: 95-109.

FRIDAY, 30.06.2017, 9.00 – 11.45h

The migration or emigration of the dead?

Required Reading

- Thomas Macho, "The Return of the Dead after the Modern Age." In: *Six Feet Under. Autopsy of Our Relation to the Dead*. Bern 2006-2007. pages 15-27. (Die Neue Sichtbarkeit des Todes)

Optional Reading

- Tony Walter, "Modern Death: Taboo or not Taboo?" In: *Sociology* Vol. 25, No.2, 1991, pp. 293-310.
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TUESDAY, 04.07.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Stillborn – Traces of legal and political implications on death and dying

EXCURSION: Alter St.-Matthäus Kirchhof, Großgörschenstraße 26, 10829 Berlin

Required Reading

- Janneke Peelen, "Reversing the past: Monuments for stillborn children" *Mortality*, Vol. 14.2, Mai 2009. pages: 173-184.

Optional Reading

- John Seymour, *Childbirth and the Law*. Oxford 2000, pages: 137-143 / 258-263.

WEDNESDAY, 05.07.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

"rites des passage" - Ways of being buried

Required Reading

- Arnold van Gennep (1960), "The Rites of Passage" In: Robben, Antonius C.G.M., *Death, Mourning and Burial. A Cross-Cultural Reader*. Malden, Oxford, Victoria 2004, pages 213-223.

Reading for Presentation

- Charles Cowling, "What is a green funeral?" In: Cowling, Charles, *The Good Funeral Guide* London, New York, 2010, pages: 25ff

Optional Reading

- Tony Walter, "Three ways to arrange a funeral: mortuary variation in the modern west", *Mortality*, August, 10 (3), 2005, 173-192.

FRIDAY, 07.07.2017, 9.00 – 11.45h

EXCURSION: The World Wide Web and its virtual cemeteries, and what else?

Required Reading

- www.ifldie.net – Intro-film
- Legacy Locker - Intro-film
- www.cemetery.org
- <http://shesdevilish.tripod.com/grave.html>

Further WEBSITES to read:

- <http://www.stayalive.com/en>
- <http://www.yourdigitalafterlife.com>
- <http://www.youdeparted.com>

Reading for Presentation

- Nicola Wright, "Death and the Internet. The implications of the digital afterlife." In: *First Monday*, Vol. 19. No. 6, 2. June 2014.

TUESDAY, 11.07.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Grave or urn?

EXCURSION: Krematorium Ruhleben, Am Hain 1, 13597 Berlin

Required Reading

- Douglas Davies, "Coping with Corpses" In: Davies, Douglas, *Death, Ritual and Belief. The Rhetoric of Funerary Rites*. London, Washington 1997. Pages: 28-39.

WEDNESDAY, 12.07.2017, 13.30 – 17.00h

Green funeral and Woodland Burial – "transforming black to green"?

EXCURSION: FriedWald: Kirchhof St. Bartholomäus in Pankow, Giersstraße 19/21, 13088 Berlin

Required Reading

- Andy Clayden / Trish Green / Jenny Hockey / Mark Powell, "From Cabbages to Cadavers: Natural Burial Down on the Farm" In: Maddrell, Avril/ Sidaway, James D. (eds.), *Deathscapes. Spaces for Death, Dying, Mourning and Remembrance*. 2010. pages 119-138.

FRIDAY, 14.07.2017, 9.00 – 11.45h

Round Table - Rap up / Feedback

Assignments

Reading of the required texts

Presentation of a text or preparation of an excursion

Presentation at the *Round Table* discussion: creative debate around a number of significant objects which are concerned with the subject matter and have been chosen and will be presented by the students

Bring in ideas, knowledge and experiences

Take actively part in excursions

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of a midterm project and final presentation as well as active participation in the class discussion. A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. 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, local constituents engaged with on the visits).

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 (see FAQs on www.huwisu.de).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office (80% class attendance are required).

Field trips: if classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time – transportation difficulties are never valid reasons for an excused absence.

Cultural Extra-curricular Activities

HUWISU offers a fine selection of interesting extra-curricular activities and aims to give all participants an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Your program includes excursions, sport activities and social gatherings providing you the opportunity to get to know the city, the university and your classmates better and to meet students from all parts of the world. The costs for these offers are included in the course fees.

Below you will find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program after your enrolment via email as well as during the course period.

Political and historical guided tours:

- **Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt):** It's the central coordination point for the entire government policy. The office is in constant contact to departments and other authorities.
 - **German Parliament (Bundestag):** As the highest organ of the legislative in Germany it's elected by the German people. In practice Germany is governed by a bicameral legislature, of which the Bundestag serves as the lower house and the Bundesrat equals the upper house.
 - **House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus):** It's the state parliament (Landtag) of Berlin and located in the center of the reunified city. Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror and the Bundesrat, it presents an arresting contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.
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- **Topography of Terror:** A permanent exhibition with focus on the central institutions of the SS and police during the “Third Reich” and the crimes they committed throughout Europe. With the help of mostly photographic material, visitors are led through the major themes of the exhibition’s five main segments.
- **Political Archive:** As the “memory” of the Federal Foreign Office it preserves the files on German diplomacy since 1867, as well as the international treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and its predecessors in title. The records are preserved, processed and made available for academic research.

Cultural guided tours:

- **Kreuzberg Tour:** Kreuzberg has emerged from its history as one of the poorest quarters in Berlin in the late 1970s to a cultural center of today’s Berlin. A unique area and one of the hippest neighbourhoods in Berlin with many bars, pubs and clubs.
- **Berlins Museum Island (Museumsinsel):** was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999 and is an ensemble of five museums: Old Museum, New Museum, Old National Gallery, Pergamon Museum and Bode Museum.
- **Berliner Dom:** Berlin’s largest and most important Protestant church is located on the Museum Island.
- **Daytrip to Potsdam:** Be inspired by the illustrious attractions of the UNESCO’s World Heritage while underway through the city of Potsdam. Immerse yourself in the history and present of Potsdam and discover many palaces, gardens, and historic quarters such as the “Holländisches Viertel” or the “Nikolaikirche”.
- **Exhibitions:** Berlin is known for its unique galleries and exhibitions, that is why we will visit at least one during the Winter University.

Social gatherings

- **Welcome Get-Together:** We invite you to meet all participants as well as the HUWISU staff in a relaxed atmosphere.
- **Boat trip:** Get to know Berlin from a completely new perspective and see Berlin’s famous sights while floating along the river Spree.
- **Beach Volleyball:** A fun outdoor sport activity on long warm summer evenings for those who love to play and everyone who just want to enjoy watching the others play, lying in the sand, meet friends for some drinks, or simply relax in the middle of Berlin.
- **Biergarten:** You can’t leave Berlin without having experienced a Biergarten. The perfect place to finish off your busy day with a cool “Feierabend” drink.
- **Farewell Party:** At the end of the Summer University we will come together to celebrate the exciting time with HUWISU.

Your Instructor

Anna Katharina Neufeld studied English und German at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. After working for the *International Literature Festival Berlin*, at the *German Historical Museum Berlin*, as well as in the *Jewish Museum Berlin*, she now works as a freelance curator, curating several smaller exhibitions.

As scholar of the *Evangelische Studienwerk e.V.* she is currently writing her PhD at the department of cultural studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin on *Dying narratives*. In this context she has published articles, organized conferences and has worked as lecturer for different universities concentrating on altering aspects of her academic field. Her focus on the present debate on death and dying, as well as her experiences in museology open her lectures for interdisciplinary approaches, which have accompanied her throughout her educational work. These are enriched by her interest in alternative forms of teaching and presentation.

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: November 2016