

## The Berlin Wall and the Cold War Era

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25 July – 19 August 2022

**CATEGORY** Social Sciences, Politics & History

### COURSE STRUCTURE

You will receive a total of 45 hours of academic lessons (one lesson equals 45 minutes; 15 hours per week). Lessons will comprise lectures, group work, discussion sessions, and excursions.

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Track B)

- Monday: 9 am – 10.30 am & 11 am – 12.30 pm
- Wednesday: 9 am – 10.30 am & 11 am – 12.30 pm
- Thursday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm

### COURSE LANGUAGE

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

### TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate students of all subjects with a strong interest in contemporary history, social sciences, politics, European studies.

### CREDITS = 5 ECTS

*All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Learning extends beyond your course! As a participant in HUWISU, you are invited to join our cultural and social programs. We offer a fine selection of interesting extra-curricular activities that aim to give all participants an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Through excursions, social gatherings, and sport activities, we are providing you with the opportunity to get to know the city, the university, and your classmates and to meet students from all parts of the world. The costs for these offers are included in the program fee.



Below, you 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*)
- German Parliament (*Bundestag*)
- House of Representatives (*Abgeordnetenhaus*)
- Topography of Terror exhibition
- Political Archive of the Federal Foreign Office

### CULTURAL GUIDED TOURS

- Kreuzberg Tour
- Museum Island (*Museumsinsel*)
- Berlin Cathedral (*Berliner Dom*)
- Daytrip to Potsdam
- Exhibitions

### SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- Welcome Get-Together
- Beach Volleyball
- Farewell Party

## 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 the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

**Commitment in class:** 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:** 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.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

For almost 30 years, the Berlin Wall was a symbol of the division of the city of Berlin, of Germany and of Europe during the era of the Cold War between the two superpowers, the United States of America, and the Soviet Union. Consequently, the fall of the Wall in 1989 was a hugely symbolic turning point in world history.

But how can we explain the building of such a dividing monument? How can we account for its fall in 1989? And how does the Wall influence our lives today?

The course will provide answers to such questions via readings of texts from political science, sociology and history, in order to further investigate the ground on which the events between 1961 and 1989 took place.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of this online course is to introduce participants to the multi-faceted history of the Berlin Wall. After a brief introduction to the historical and ideological backgrounds of the Cold War this course will turn to a detailed analysis of the event history of the Berlin Wall: from the end of World War II via the formation of two blocs until the building of the Berlin Wall, from the building of the Wall via its fall in 1989 until today. To complete the picture of the history of the German/Berlin division and the Cold War, we will focus on the social, economic, and (popular) cultural history of the two German states and Germany since reunification.

## READINGS

*Required:*

Reading materials will be distributed at the beginning of the class.

*Suggested:*

Taylor, Frederick. 2006. The Berlin Wall. 13 August 1961 – 9 November 1989. London: Bloomsbury.

## ASSIGNMENT INFO

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to attend actively all sessions, to present in class (15 minutes), to conduct interviews with Berliners and to write an essay (5-10 pages) on the Berlin Wall and the Cold War.

Submission deadline: last course day.

**The final grade will be composed of a presentation (20%), the final essay (60%) and active participation in the class discussion (20%). A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.**

## YOUR INSTRUCTORS

**Prof. Dr. Jochen Hille**, born 1972, is a political scientist and professor for social work at iba University of Cooperative Education in Hamburg. His main interests are welfare studies (mainly health and labor market policies), European Integration and the construction of national identity. His regional focus lies on Germany and Norway. He studied and carried out research at Freie Universität Berlin, Philipps University Marburg, Universities of Bergen and Oslo (Norway), ETH Zurich and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Beside the scientific work he is professionally working as a consultant for social policies and as a project manager/social worker in diverse governmental labor market programs. He gained a wide range of teaching skills in governmental programs, in civic education, public schools and by teaching high ranked governmental professionals.

In academia he regularly teaches political sciences and economics on the welfare state at „Berlin School of Economics“, the „University of Cooperative Education Plauen“ and the „University of Applied Sciences for Media, Communication and Management“ and occasionally at Best-Sabel University, HTW and Business School Berlin.

**Stefka Wiese** is a social scientist and urban planner. Her main interests are economic sociology (with a focus on socio-ecological transition and comparative capitalism) and transition processes within urban systems and regions. Her regional focus lies on Germany and Europe, including the transition in Eastern Europe. She studied at Technical University Berlin and Humboldt University Berlin. Beside her scientific work she is professionally working as a consultant in the field of ecological transition of economic and urban systems.

She regularly teaches in the fields of political sciences and economics at Humboldt University and at International School of Management Berlin.

In the HUWISU program Jochen Hille and Stefka Wiese are teaching the courses on:

- The Berlin Wall and the Cold War Era
- Nazi-Germany – Rise and Fall
- German Social Market Economy – A better Capitalism?

# COURSE SCHEDULE

## **PART I: Introduction and historical background/overview**

- Introduction and course outline
- Mapping Germany, Europe, and the World: East + West, Then + Now
- Historical and ideological backgrounds: The Soviet Union and the Western Allies from the Russian Revolution until the end of World War II
- Overview of German history 1918 – 1994

## **PART II: Event history and its interpretation(s)**

- From the end of World War II until the formation of the two German states 1949
- Two blocs, two German states, and two Berlins until the building of the Berlin Wall 1961
- The Building of the Berlin Wall 1961: How it happened, why it happened, and what it meant
- Virtual Excursion: Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Straße
- Two blocs, two German states, and two Berlins in the age of the Wall, 1961 – 1989
- The coming down of the Berlin Wall 1989: How it happened, why it happened, and what it meant
- The aftermath of the Fall of the Berlin Wall: German reunification and its domestic, European and global implications

## **PART III: “What life with the Wall was like”**

- Society and Economy in East and West Germany
- (Popular) culture in East and West Germany
- Refugees from East Germany
- Oppression and control in East Germany

## **PART IV: “What life without the Wall has been like”**

- Introduction
- Interviews/Fieldwork
- Presentations of interviews in class
- Film: “Goodbye Lenin”
- In-depth discussion of film

## **PART V: Summary**

- Making sense of the past?
- Wrap-up and Evaluation

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The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 14 April 2022