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| Course Title | <i>Berlin im Winter – Berlin in the Winter</i> |
| Category | Language, Literature & Writing |
| Class Time | Winter Session January 7 th – 25 th 2019 Track A Weekly schedule Monday & Friday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Tuesday: 5.05 pm – 6.35 pm & 6.45 pm – 7.30 pm Thursday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.50 pm |
| Course Level & Target Group | Undergraduate, graduate students as well as Ph.D. candidates who are interested in a semi-intensive language course which can be combined with a subject course. The language courses are offered from level A1 to B2 (beginners, intermediate, advanced). The course is especially suitable for participants who are primarily seeking instruction in the German language and prefer to discover Berlin on their own as well as for students who would like to combine the German course with a content course taught in English. |
| Course Language | All classes will be conducted in German. |
| ECTS | 5 ECTS (45 contact hours) |
| Instructor | The language courses are held by qualified language teachers. The lecturers all have academic degrees and international teaching experience. In the varied teaching sessions they are highly committed to the learning progress of the students. |

Course Description

According to self-assessment and “Sprachpass”, the participants are placed in groups of different language levels. The following descriptions of the courses concern the respective language level, teaching method, focus, topics for discussion as well as the course objective (learning outcome).

Beginners A1 + A2

This course is designed for students with no previous or only little knowledge of German and focuses on the development of communicative competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. With regard to content, one of the foci of this course is Berlin and the region. Therefore, authentic material will be used in the course along with the course book.

- By the end of the course you will be able to engage in simple conversations about familiar things.
- You will know greetings and everyday expressions, you will be able to count and tell time and use sentences in day-to-day contexts.
- Furthermore, you will be able to talk about yourself and your family and friends.
- You can expect to be able to order food and beverages, purchase things and rent a hotel room.
- Furthermore, you will be able to talk about your studies and about your dreams and aspirations.
- In addition, you will feel more able to understand information when you hear German speakers talking about topics familiar to you.

Intermediate B1+B2

This course is designed to improve your writing and speaking competence in German, to increase your vocabulary and to help you developing effective reading and listening strategies. One of the foci is the development of self-correction in oral and written production. Our in-class discussions are based on readings of texts to facilitate exchange of information, ideas, reactions, and opinions. In addition, the readings provide cultural and historical background information. You will expand and deepen your knowledge of grammar through specific grammar exercises.

Course topics, e.g.:

- People in Germany, German history and social situation
- Berlin
- Foreigners in Germany
- German media and music: topics from newspaper articles, films, popular songs

By the end of the course, students will be able to talk, read and write about historical, cultural and social topics, many of them in connection with Berlin and Germany, and use vocabulary and structures accordingly.

Textbooks

Grammar content and textbooks according to student's needs, as participants with different backgrounds will be asked for their exact needs on the first day of the course. Furthermore, we will have to ensure that the textbook we use is new to everybody in the class.

Course Schedule

The respective schedule strongly depends on different aspects such as

- the course book and reading materials
- the background of the students
- personal interests with regard to areas/topics

Lessons will comprise lectures, group work, discussion sessions and excursions.

Components of the language lessons are:

- Grammar
 - Conversation
 - Writing
 - Listening and reading comprehension
 - Pronunciation
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Assignments

Modes of assessment: reading, listening comprehension, writing, speaking, grammar and short presentations according to the level and topics covered in class.

Please note that homework is considered part of the course commitments.

Students will also be asked to work in pairs or in small groups and to contribute to oral discussions in class – due to our communicative approach and in order to use the language not only in written texts, but also in speaking.

Assessment Components

Progress checks with different foci according to topics covered (e.g. grammar, vocabulary, readings skills etc.) and active participation in the class discussion (and possibly presentations on higher levels).

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

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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.
- **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 neighborhoods in Berlin with many bars, pubs and clubs.
 - **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.
 - **Berlin Cathedral (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 under way 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".
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- **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.
 - **Ice Skating:** A fun outdoor sport activity for everyone; even for those who have never been on ice-skates before. Afterwards you may head out for hot beverage to warm up from the inside.
 - **Farewell Party:** At the end of the Winter University we will come together to celebrate the exciting time with HUWISU.
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Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: June 2018