



<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>The Berlin Wall and Cold War Era</i></b>
<b>Category</b>	History & Culture
<b>Class Time</b>	<b>Winter Session: January 7<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2019</b> <b>Track B</b> <b>Weekly schedule</b> Monday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.50 pm Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Friday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.05 pm
<b>Course Level &amp; Target Group</b>	Undergraduate students of cultural studies, history, environmental planning and students with a strong interest in the topic.
<b>Course Language</b>	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 or higher (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
<b>ECTS</b>	5 ECTS (45 contact hours)
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Jochen Hille

## 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, while also taking the opportunity to explore the ground on which the events between 1961 and 1989 took place.

## Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

The aim of this 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.

## Suggested Readings

Taylor, Frederick. 2006. *The Berlin Wall*. 13 August 1961 – 9 November 1989.

1. London: Bloomsbury.

A course reader will be distributed at the beginning of the class.

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## 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
- Excursion: Overview of German history 1918 – 1994, Permanent Exhibition in the German Historical Museum

### **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
- 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
- Excursion: Palace of tears (Friedrichstraße)
- Oppression and control in East Germany
- Excursion: Stasi Museum Berlin (Normannenstraße)

### **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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## Assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, students are required to

- participate actively in all classes,
- to interview,
- to write an essay.

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## Assessment Components

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. The final grade will be composed of active participation during class discussions and an essay.

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](http://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.

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## 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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## Your Instructor

Dr. Jochen Hille, born 1972, is a political scientist. 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.

In the HUWISU program he has been teaching since 2013 the courses on:

The Berlin Wall

Nazi-Germany – Rise and Fall

German: Social Market Economy – a better Capitalism?

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Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: June 2018