

Course Title	<i>Cultural Memory – Museums in Berlin</i>
Category	Cultural Studies & Religion
Class Time	Winter Session: January 6th – 24th 2020 Track C Weekly schedule Monday: 5.05 pm – 6.35 pm & 6.45 pm – 7.30 pm Tuesday & Wednesday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.50 pm Thursday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
Course Level & Target Group	Undergraduate students of all subjects with a strong interest in cultural studies, history, memory culture, and museums.
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 or higher (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
ECTS	5 ECTS (45 contact hours)
Instructor	Anna Katharina Neufeld, M.A.

Course Description

Museums are keepers of our culture memory. Collecting, preserving and exhibiting are the main tasks museums stand for. Museums focus different subjects and face historical and cultural differences in various ways. What is worth collecting, or how are objects labeled, in what way are they displayed? These are essential questions museums pose still today.

The course wants to look at how different museums in Berlin answer these questions. Viewing historical and cultural heritage within the context of a collection brings up the issue of how objects are (re-)animated to tell a story within an exhibition. So, visits to collections and current exhibitions as for instance the *me collectors room*, the *Museum der Dinge* or the *DDR Museum* are planned. How are exhibitions made? What are significant tools curators use to amplify their thesis? What does *hands on* mean? How are objects animated, what stories do they tell, what role do media play, and can future be exhibited?

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

Visiting different museums and types of exhibitions in Berlin, the course aims at providing an overview from the first collections as cabinets of wonders over to that what is known as Berlin's museum island. The course further focuses on museums that present later and latest periods of Germany's history, which state different forms of memorial culture.

Regarding these and the way permanent and non-permanent exhibitions present their collections, preserve testimonies and objects the course additionally aims at showing how knowledge is kept and simultaneously is produced.

In practical experience sessions called *hands on!* the complex structure of making an exhibition is tried to be conveyed by creating an own show case. Here the acquired knowledge shall be transferred in an own creative process of designing (a) (hi)story with the help of objects that we collect during the course.

Readings

A course reader (including the suggested readings mentioned below in the course schedule) will be distributed at the beginning of the class.

Course Schedule

DEAD OR ALIVE – THE POETICS OF COLLECTING PRESERVING – RESTORING EVERYDAY LIFE EXHIBITING – ANIMATING OBJECTS

Monday, 6th January 2020, 5.05pm – 7.30pm

- ❖ *Introduction*
- ❖ *Hands on!*

Tuesday, 7th January 2020, 1.30pm – 4.50pm

- ❖ *Creating order and knowledge: The palimpsest of cultural heritage*

EXCURSION: Museum Island

Reading

Christina Ines Steingraber: *The Museum Island: Impressions of the Island of the Arts. Staatliche Museen Berlin* 2007. (Excerpts).

Wednesday, 8th January 2020, 1.30pm – 4.50pm

- ❖ *Cabinets of wonder and the art of collecting*

EXCURSION: *me Collectors Room Berlin*, Auguststraße 68, 10117 Berlin

Reading

Horst Bredekamp/Michael Eissenhauer: "The Kunstkammer as Nucleus". In: *The Humboldt-Forum in the Berliner Schloss*. Berlin 2013, pp. 50-58

Thursday, 9th January 2020, 9.00am – 12.30pm

- ❖ *Museums Today*

Reading

Larissa Förster: "Introduction" In: --- (ed.), *Transforming Knowledge Orders. Museums, Collections and Exhibitions*. Paderborn 2014, pp. 7-12.

Stephen Greenblatt: "Resonance and Wonder". In: Ivan Karp/Steven D. Lavine (eds.): *Exhibiting Culture. The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*. Washington, London 1991. pp. 42–56.

Leanne Shapton: *Important Artifacts and Personal Property from the Collection of Lenore Doolan and Harold Morris, Including Books, Street Fashion, and Jewelry*. Saturday, 14 February 2009, New York. Strachan & Quinn Auctioneers. London, New York, Toronto 2009, (Excerpts).

Monday, 13rd January 2020, 5.05pm – 7.30pm

- ❖ *German History*

EXCURSION: *Deutsches Historisches Museum*, Unter den Linden 2, 10117 Berlin

Reading

Joachim Schwend: „The Museum – The Site of Memory in Consumer Cultures“. In: Sabine Coelsch-Foisner/Douglas Brown (eds.): *The Museal Turn*. Heidelberg 2012. pp. 19–34.

Tuesday, 14th January 2020, 1.30pm – 4.50pm

- ❖ *“Tourism, Museums, Heritage, and Everyday life”*

- ❖ *Of Differences in Presentations*

EXCURSION: *DDR Museum*, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 1, 10178 Berlin

Reading

Ingrid von Rosenberg: "The Musealisation of everyday life". In: Sabine Coelsch-Foisner/Douglas Brown (eds.): *The Museal Turn*. Heidelberg 2012. pp. 81–84/91–100.

Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett: "Exhibiting the Quotidian". In: ---: *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage*. Berkeley 1998. pp. 47–56.

Wednesday, 15th January 2020, 1.30pm – 4.50pm

❖ **Museums and Celluloid?**

SCREENING: *Good Bye Lenin* (Wolfgang Becker, GER 2003)

Thursday, 16th January 2020, 9.00am – 12.30pm

❖ **Museums and Future**

EXCURSION: *Futurium*, Alexanderufer 2, 10117 Berlin

Monday, 20th January 2020, 5.05pm – 7.30pm

❖ **Of Things and Objects or Thongs and lbjects**

EXCURSION: *Werkbundarchiv – Museum der Dinge*, Oranienstraße 25, 10999 Berlin

Reading

<https://www.museumderdinge.org/thing-of-the-month/archive>

Tuesday, 21st January 2020, 1.30pm – 4.50pm

❖ **Hands on! Telling our own (hi)story**

Reading

Lorraine Daston: "Speechless". In: Daston Lorraine (ed.): *Things That Talk. Object Lesson from Art and Science*. New York 2004, pp. 9–26.

Wednesday, 22nd January 2020, 1.30pm – 4.50pm

❖ **curating: Hands on!**

Thursday, 23rd January 2020, 9.00am – 12.30pm

❖ **Hands on! Presentation**

❖ **wrap up discussion**

Assignments

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

- participate actively in all classes
- essay to one of the excursions
- participation and presentation of *Hands on!*

Assessment Components

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. The final grade will be composed of active participation during class discussions as well as the other tasks given in class.

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.
- **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 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.
 - **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

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 finishing her PhD at the department of German Literature and 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: September 2019