

ART 494: Travel and Study Abroad
Exploring Contemporary Visual Culture in Berlin

Summer 2015
Trip Dates: June 2–25, 2015
(subject to change)

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Countries and topics to be selected by the department and instructors sponsoring the program. For information, contact the Department of Art early in the term preceding the term of travel study. Prerequisites: consent of instructor and interview. May be repeated for up to 6 units.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since the fall of the wall in 1989, Berlin has risen to become one of the most important centers for contemporary art in the world. Countless museums and galleries have emerged in the wake of this city's cultural renaissance. Adding to its wealth of native talent, artists from all corners of the globe have flocked to the city, drawn by the allure of its vibrant art scene and inexpensive cost of living.

Exploring Contemporary Visual Culture in Berlin is an immersive experience. Students are instructed via lectures during visits to museums, galleries, historic sites, and artists' studios. Special focus will be given to important contemporary German artists.

Site visits are interspersed with four theme-based projects. Each assignment reflects important issues in contemporary art, references the experience of a foreign visitor, and touches on the history of Berlin and Germany.

Students will fabricate visual responses for each project. Students are not limited in their choice of medium.

Readings are assigned for each unit. Discussion is a vital part of the curriculum. A sketchbook dedicated to the course is required of each student.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Solve artistic problems with visual and conceptual sophistication in their chosen media.
- Analyze and discuss both process and finished work via class critiques
- Develop personally significant directions for making work.
- Demonstrate understanding of the wide variety of common conceptual concerns for contemporary artists in Berlin, Germany, and the world, including their historical precedents.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- Students may work in the media of their choice, but must be committed to working professionally and gathering all components needed to complete their project, despite the difficulties of working in a foreign country.
- Students should expect to spend a *minimum* of 6 hours a week outside of class on work related to in-class assignments.
- Attendance is mandatory. 1 absence will lower a student's cumulative final grade by one letter grade. Any subsequent absences will result in failure of the class.
- If absent, it is the student's responsibility to come to the next class prepared for that particular class and make up any in-class work. Students should consult their fellow students to find out what information or assignments they have missed and what is due in the next class.
- Students are expected to come to class on time and must be present for the entire class period. Arriving more than 5 minutes late will lower the points received for your class work grade for the day (at my discretion) and will be marked as late. Leaving class early will be marked as an absence. Every third time a student is late will be considered an absence.
- Because of the fast-paced nature of this study abroad course, make-up assignments are not possible.
- Students are expected to refrain from cell phone use. If this happens, I will reduce class work points for the day at my discretion.
- It is your responsibility to promptly and clearly communicate with me regarding any difficulties, illnesses, or emergencies.
- Please also feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about the class or course work. You may always schedule a meeting with me outside of class. I am always available via email and will answer promptly.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Course reader, able for purchase at the school store
- *Lonely Planet Berlin* by Andrea Schulte-Peevers
- [German language textbook/dictionary will be determined by language school students attend]
- Sketchbook: 8 ½" x 11" in size. This should always accompany you to class—you will use it for in-class exercises, to take notes, to brainstorm and develop sketches for class projects. This must be a dedicated sketchbook for this course.

- Digital camera: This must be at least 8 megapixels. This will be utilized to document your work. You CANNOT use your phone.

It is highly recommended that you bring a laptop. It will make your life easier. If you intend to work digitally, you should plan to bring one and make sure it is loaded with all software you require. You should also bring any digital equipment (special cameras/lenses video/audio recorder, external hard drive, card readers, connecting cables etc.) you might anticipate needing to complete projects.

It is absolutely imperative that you bring the correct power adapters for German outlets. Please make sure to take care of this before we leave.

SUPPLIES

I highly encourage you to use a wide variety of materials, both traditional and nontraditional. As a result, you will have to buy or find items and tools of your choosing in order to complete projects. I encourage you to be resourceful and to look for inexpensive items.

Art Supply Stores

- [to be determined with help of AIFS or CIS. Will include name, address, U-Bahn stop.]

Hardware Stores

- [to be determined with help of AIFS or CIS. Will include name, address, U-Bahn stop.]

STUDIO

[This section will include information about how to access the studio designated for this course, policies on cleanliness, etc.]

COMPUTER ACCESS

[This section will include information about access to computers/internet/printers in the event that students cannot bring a laptop.]

BLACKBOARD

All class resources and grades will be posted to Blackboard. I will inform you when grades are posted.

EMAIL

It is your responsibility to check your Towson University email account regularly as this is my primary mode of communication with you outside of class. Failure to check your email will not excuse you from knowing about important changes or additions to the coursework.

EVALUATION: PROJECTS

- Assigned projects are evaluated on the basis of the quality of your sketches, aesthetic qualities, craftsmanship, conceptual development, and documentation.
- Each category is graded on a scale of 1 to 10 (0 = no work, 1–2 = poor, 3–4 = fair, 5–6 = satisfactory, 7–8 = good, 9–10 = excellent). The percentage you receive is based on the number of points you receive divided by of 50 (the total number of points you can receive). The percentage you receive determines your letter grade.
- Grades will be posted to Blackboard along with their associated rubric.
- All class and homework assignments must be completed by the start of each class in which they are due or you will receive an F. We do not have much time in Berlin and the class will move quickly, so it is of the utmost importance that you stay on task and keep up with your work.
- If you are working digitally, lost or corrupt files and/or the inability to print will not excuse you from deadlines. Be sure to back up your work on a regular basis so that nothing is lost. A backup is considered two separate places other than the computer where you are working.

EVALUATION: CLASS WORK

Every day you will be graded on a scale of 0–10 for your class work (0 = not present, 1–2 = poor, 3–4 = fair, 5–6 = satisfactory, 7–8 = good, 9–10 = excellent).

This is an evaluation of how engaged and focused you are in our in-class work sessions, how prepared you come to class, and how well you participate during critique sessions.

Your class work grade percentage is determined by dividing the number of points you received by the total number of points that are possible. The percentage you receive determines your letter grade.

EVALUATION: READING RESPONSES

You will be required to do reading responses for each section you are assigned in our reader. These must be at approximately 300 words, formulated in paragraphs, and always consist of:

1. A basic outline of the entire reading
2. Three insights you gained from the reading and how they relate to your experiences in Berlin and your art practice

You are required write your responses in your sketchbooks. Please write the title of the reading you are responding to at the top. Late responses will not be accepted.

Every reading response will be evaluated on the same 1-10 scale as other grades. The total number of points you receive during the semester will be divided by the total number of points that it is possible for you to receive. This will determine your grade percentage and letter.

Please make sure to break your paragraphs and check your grammar and spelling. This affects your grade.

EVALUATION: BREAKDOWN

Letter grade equivalents for percentages are as follows:

95–100	=	A
90–94	=	A-
87–89	=	B+
84–86	=	B
80–83	=	B-
75–79	=	C+
70–75	=	C
60–69	=	D
0–60	=	F

Letter grades should be interpreted in the following way:

- A/A- = excellent achievement in most or all facets of the project
- B+ = very good achievement overall and some excellent work in limited facets
- B = very good achievement overall
- B- = better than satisfactory achievement with some very good work in limited facets
- C+ = satisfactory work with some better than satisfactory work in limited facets
- C = satisfactory work or the minimum requirements met
- D = achievement is not satisfactory and some minimum requirements were met
- F = work is not satisfactory and the level of achievement is poor

Please note: It is not possible to achieve a high and/or passing grade without coming to class prepared and on time, committing fully to the process of arriving at final work both inside and outside class, contributing to class discussion/critique, or regularly attending class even if the final work on your projects is exemplary.

EVALUATION: FINAL GRADE

Final grades are based on an average of grades received for all projects, critiques, class work, reading responses, and in-class exercises. Remember: 1 absence will lower a student's cumulative final grade by one letter grade. Any absence beyond this will result in a grade of F.

PROJECT THEMES

1. past/present
2. self/other
3. local/global
4. communication/systems

You may repond to each topic in the medium of your choice. Think carefully about how each theme relates to what we are visiting, seeing, and discussing at that point in our trip. Carefully consider what each of these subjects means to you personally, to your experience in Berlin, and to the issues you are dealing with in your own artistic practice. Your challenge is to visually address each issue in a way that is consistent with the methods of contemporary art we are studying.

SCHEDULE

Please keep in mind that we will often not be in a classroom. Activities and dates may be changed according to unexpected site closings or additional events scheduled. Please arrive on time to the designated meeting spot and maintain a cheerful, flexible attitude for the day's itinerary. You will receive a detailed itinerary with times for each meeting as soon as we arrive in Berlin, but will need to bring this syllabus to keep up with class expectations, etc.

[The following is an approximate schedule. Dates and exact duration are to be determined.]

* every weekday morning students will attend German lessons for an hour or two, afternoons will be devoted to site visits, discussion, in-class work on projects, and critiques

Tuesday, June 2	Depart for Berlin
Wednesday, June 3	Arrive in Berlin Check-in to accomodations Tour of student facilities/classrooms Berlin orientation Group welcome dinner
Thursday, June 4	Introduction to the class Lecture: Project 1 — <i>past/present</i> Berlinische Gallery Checkpoint Charlie <u>Homework</u> : reading + written reaction
Friday, June 5	Me Collectors Room The Missing House <u>Homework</u> : Project 1 sketches

- Saturday, June 6** Discussion of ideas for Project 1
Movie screening: *Berlin—Symphony of a Metropolis*

Homework: begin work on Project 1
- Sunday, June 7** Brandenburg Gate
Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Homework: continue work on Project 1
- Monday, June 8** Work day: scheduled studio visits to check in on Project 1

Homework: finish Project 1
- Tuesday, June 9** Project 1 due
Critique
Lecture: Project 2—*self/other*

Homework: reading + written reaction
- Wednesday, June 10** Stolpersteine
Berlin Wall Memorial

Homework: Project 2 sketches
- Thursday, June 11** Discussion of ideas for Project 2
Artist studio visit

Homework: begin work on Project 2
- Friday, June 12** Sammlung Boros
Movie screening: *Wings of Desire*

Homework: continue work on Project 2
- Saturday, June 13** Work day: scheduled studio visits to check in on Project 2

Homework: finish Project 2
- Sunday, June 14** Project 2 due
Critique
Lecture: Project 3—*local/global*

Homework: reading + written reaction
- Monday, June 15** Reichstag

Homework: begin work on Project 3

Tuesday, June 16 Hamburger Bahnhof
Mitte galleries
Homework: continue work on Project 3

Wednesday, June 17 Work day: scheduled studio visits to check in on Project 3
Homework: finish Project 3

Thursday, June 18 Project 3 due
Critique
Lecture: Project 4: *communication/systems*
Homework: reading + reaction

Friday, June 19 Tacheles
KW Institute
Visit with gallerist
Homework: Project 4 sketches

Saturday, June 20 Discussion of ideas for Project 4
Movie screening: *The Lives of Others*
Homework: begin work on Project 4

Sunday, June 21 Bike tour
East Side Gallery
Homework: continue work on Project 4

Monday, June 22 Work day: scheduled studio visits to check in on Project 4
Homework: finish Project 4

Tuesday, June 23 Project 4 due
Final critique
Homework: Assemble digital portfolio

Wednesday, June 24 Digital portfolios due
Individual meetings
Farewell dinner

Thursday, June 25 Return to USA

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM

All students must comply with Towson University's Student Academic Integrity Policy. For more information please visit this link:

<http://inside.towson.edu/generalcampus/tupolicies/documents/03-01.00%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf>

All class members are to follow the fundamental principles of academic integrity outlined in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. The Policy on Academic Misconduct appears in the Code and in the Schedule of Classes. The basic principle is that students take credit only for the ideas and efforts that are their own. Any act of academic dishonesty will place you in jeopardy of the most severe form of sanction by Towson University—expulsion from the University. Included among dishonest behaviors in an academic setting are cheating (using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, materials, information, or study aids in an academic exercise), fabrication (falsifying or inventing information in an academic exercise), plagiarism (adopting or reproducing of ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment), interference (stealing, changing, destroying, or impeding another student's work), and facilitating (intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another student commit an act of academic misconduct). Students who submit work that shows evidence of plagiarism, fraud or copyright violation will receive a grade of 0 points for that project or exercise.

You are encouraged to look at other people's work, especially those found in the library and in professional publications and books. You may even be influenced by their style and artistic solutions. However, all of your work must be original. You will receive an automatic zero for project or exercise if you duplicate the work of others or misrepresent work of others as your own. For written assignments, the work must also be your own. Quotations and paraphrasing must be cited properly.

It is illegal to copy any software, fonts, utility applications and anything else other than your own files from any computer in the computer lab or anywhere else on campus. If caught attempting to do this, students will fail this class with no exceptions. The only time you may copy anything is to copy fonts to output your files to service bureau printers. Please consult Towson University's Guidelines for Responsible Computing if you have any questions:

<http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/ots/aboutots/otspolicies/responsible.asp>

CIVILITY POLICY

COFAC places a priority on learning. We value the inherent worth and dignity of every person, thereby fostering a community of mutual respect. Students have the right to a learning environment free of disruptive behaviors and offensive comments. Faculty have the right to define appropriate behavioral expectations in the classroom and expect students to abide by them. Faculty have the responsibility to manage and address classroom disruption. Staff have the right and responsibility to define appropriate behaviors necessary to conduct any university activity free of disruption or obstruction.

We believe that in order to achieve these ideals, all COFAC students, staff, and faculty are expected to exhibit and practice civil behaviors that exemplify: (1) respecting faculty, staff, fellow students, guests, and all university property, policies, rules and regulations; (2) taking responsibility for one's choices, actions and comments; (3) delivering correspondence – whether verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic – with respectful language using professional writing standards and etiquette; and (4) accepting consequences of one's choices and actions. The use of offensive, threatening or abusive language, writing, or behavior will not be tolerated and can lead to academic dismissal. Further information about civility can be found in Appendix F of the university catalog.

http://www.towson.edu/main/academics/ugrad/documents/TUcatalog_2013-14_Final_LINKED.pdf

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, appropriate accommodations will be made for all students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. This information will be kept confidential.

<http://www.towson.edu/dss/>

WEAPONS POLICY

Towson University prohibits the possession or control of any weapon while on university property.

The term weapon includes any potentially dangerous object or substance including, but not limited to, any firearm (including any weapon or instrument from which a shot, projectile, or other object may be discharged by force, whether operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded); any BB gun, pellet gun, air rifle, paint gun, or any replica firearm, sword (including decorative), or other martial arts weapon; any bomb (or other explosive material), knife (other than an ordinary pocketknife carried in a closed position, with a blade of three inches or less), switchblade, billy club, nunchaku, blackjack, bludgeon, metal knuckles, slingshot, razor, or ice pick; illegal or potentially dangerous chemicals, fireworks, or any instrument, which by its nature or circumstances present may be reasonably construed as a weapon.

Any member of the university community who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the university and may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

<http://inside.towson.edu/generalcampus/tupolicies/documents/06-01.11%20Weapons%20Prohibited.pdf>