

# The EAST/WEST Competition – Urban Planning, Cultural Policy And Economics in Divided Berlin

<b>Semester:</b>	Summer semester 2018
<b>Course instructor:</b>	Michael Grass (grass.m@gmx.de)
<b>Subject area:</b>	The seminar targets students interested in urban sociology and planning, metropolitan studies, German cultural history, economics, art history, and architectural history. Interested students of the humanities and social sciences are invited.
<b>Credits:</b>	5 ECTS
<b>Time:</b>	Tuesdays, 14:00-16:00 c.t.  lecture period starts Monday, 16 April 2018 – first session: 17.04.; lecture period ends Saturday 21 July – last session: 17.07. Holidays during summer term: 1 May 2018 (Tuesday); 10 May 2018 (Thursday); 21 May 2018 (Monday)
<b>Room:</b>	0323-26

## Course description:

Berlin is the city of East / West competition. Since the division of the city into East and West, demonstrating the power of the capitalism and socialism respectively was central to urban planning. Shortly after the war, the solution of obstacles to urban development proved vital, but the ideological usability of economic strategies and architectural prototypes soon became an essential concern urban redevelopment policy of both nations.

This seminar examines the dualism in urban planning between East and West Berlin chronologically. Seminar presentations and two excursions trace the diverse targets and demands of capitalist and socialist urban planning. For the analysis, we do not only consider architectural and formal aspects. The Seminar provides a closer look to strategies and models of financing and commercialisation of urban planning. Cultural contexts, living and dwelling models, political strategies and narratives will be looked at as well.

There will be two field trips which are planned as four-hour blocks. In order to prevent absence from other seminars for more than one time, the starting time for the trips vary. Field trip dates and rendezvous points will be detailed in the first session. The field trips involve travelling with public transport. Please ensure, that you will have a valid ticket.

## Course requirements

- Active participation in class discussions and field trips.
- Attendance Policy: You may not miss more than 20% of seminar time, that is 2 sessions. If you do know you have to miss a class, let me know in advance in order to arrange a make-up task, if necessary. In the case of illness or other unforeseen situations, do e-mail me as soon as possible. You are asked to send some written confirmation of the emergency/sick certificate to the admin team as well (berlinperspectives@hu-berlin.de).  
Do become familiar with public transport in Berlin. Especially for the field trips: work out how to get to the sites in advance. It is the students' responsibility to get to the sites on time.
- Assessments: To successfully complete the course you have to give an oral presentation and you need to hand in two written assignments. There will be smaller activities in class as well as individual homework that contributes to your assessment.  
**Oral presentations:** 20 minute presentation as an introduction to the session's topic using the text material provided, including the moderation of the discussion.  
Possible presentation topics and course schedule is presented during the first session. There is also the option to present during one of the field trips.  
**Written assignments:** Every participant is asked to hand in critical response paper concerning one of texts provided. The response paper is supposed to be about 350 words (1 A4 page), the paper includes questions or remarks you have after reading the text. Response papers are to be submitted via moodle. Your final term paper is an essay, about 2000 words. The deadline for the assignment is the last regular session, ##### 2018. Please hand in your printed copy during the last session. Additionally send one copy as a PDF-file via email to me (grass.m@gmx.de) before the start of the last session.  
Please note that papers handed in later than #####, 2018 are not accepted.  
For your paper you may choose one of three topics. Essay topics will be presented during the first session. It is also possible to write a paper out of your presentation's topic. You have to prove, that you are able to develop a relevant research question and that you are able to answer that question using written sources. However, if you intend to develop your own topic you need to consult me prior to starting to write in order to discuss the expected outcome of your paper.  
Please note that there are strict formal requirements for your essay:  
font size: 12 pt, double spacing; **cover page**, incl. name, student ID, home university, address, email, title of the essay, etc.; each page indicates name and student ID, **page number** (preferably in a foot- or headline)

- Plagiarism Policy:** The presentation of another person’s words, thoughts, ideas, judgements, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. This includes groupwork: The final essay is an individual assignment. Joint submissions or group-work will not be accepted. The penalty for plagiarism (intentionally or not) is failure of the course. Note that digital copies of your assignments are plagiarism checked using specialized software. In order to prevent plagiarism you need to identify and mark your sources in the body of your writing beyond doubt. Every fact and issue needs to be traceable, meaning, you need to show where you got your knowledge from. To comply with this condition of academic writing you have to use references in the text. As one of the most common referencing styles it is suggested to use Harvard, MLA, or similar referencing styles.
- Grades:** The final grade is composed of partial percentages for each of the different individual activities. The percentages are

	Essay	Paper	Present.	Activity	Overall	Final Grade
%	50	20	30	+/-		
<b>Example</b>	2	2	3	+	2.3	Good

**Grading scale**

- 1.0, 1.3 – very good
- 1.7, 2.0, 2.3 – good
- 2.7, 3.0, 3.3 – satisfactory
- 3.7, 4.0 – sufficient
- 5.0 – fail

The activity “+” contributes towards a better grade if the overall percentages add up to “1.5; 2.5; 3.5; 4.5”. All students will be awarded 5 ECTS if they pass the course. Due to international regulations it is not possible to grant more than 5 ECTS.

**Language requirements:**

The course will be taught in English. An adequate level of academic spoken and written English is required for participation and reading (at least B2). Basic German is recommended as we will encounter sources that are available in German only.

**Reading requirements:**

All material, presentations and readings can be found on the moodle archive, once the seminar has started. It is expected that every participant is prepared for each session and has read the texts provided.

## Timetable:

- I      **Introduction**  
Berlin after WWII, political and economic conditions, conflicts, challenges / Admin: Course Plan, Moodle introduction, field trips
- II     **Berlin, the Cold War and the conflict of systems**  
Berlin Blockade, Berlin Airlift, Marshall Plan, SMAD
- III    **Plans and visions**  
Collective, Cooperative, “Mietskaserne” and the criticism of Berlin's historic patterns, ideal city, utopia,
- IV    **Prototypes for the New Germany**  
Stalinallee, Ernst-Reuter-Speech, Berlin division, FRG – GDR
- V     **The East/West – competition in urban planning**  
Hansaviertel, Interbau, Stalinallee
- VI    *Field trip*
- VII   **After Stalin, Modern East Berlin vs The West exclave**  
Alexanderplatz, Ernst-Reuter.-Platz, “Showcase of the West”
- VIII  **The modern city’s urban politics**  
Keywords: Urban renewal, Berlin West and the FRG, Klausenerplatz, redevelopment, urban activism, Block 118, Block 270, Block perimeter design
- IX    **“Careful Urban Renewal”**  
IBA, International Building Exhibition 1987, Kreuzberg, squatters, alternative housing models, alternative economic strategies
- X     **Re-invent the city (WEST)**  
“Critical Reconstruction”, International Building Exhibition 1987
- XI    **Re-invent the city (EAST)**  
Urban Renewal as urban historiography, Problems of wide range redevelopment, WBS 70, Arnimplatz, Nicolai Quarter
- XII   *Field trip*
- XIII  **Berlin Wonderland**  
post-unification urban development, Berlin castle, heritage politics
- XIV  **Final session**  
Concluding remarks, discussion

## **Preparatory literature:**

Bennett, Lowell: Berlin bastion: the epic of post-war Berlin. Frankfurt/M. 1951.

Bernt, Matthias; Grell, Britta; Holm, Andrej (Ed.): The Berlin Reader: a compendium on urban change and activism. Berlin 2013.

Clelland, Doug (Ed.): Berlin post-war. Berlin 1982.

Haspel, Jörg; Flierl, Thomas (Ed.): Karl-Marx-Allee und Interbau 1957: Konfrontation, Konkurrenz und Koevolution der Moderne in Berlin. (Beiträge zur Denkmalpflege in Berlin) English and German. Berlin 2017.

Herold, Stephanie; Stefanovska, Biljana (Ed.): 45+: Post-War Modern Architecture in Europe. Berlin 2012

Kossel, Elmar: Hermann Henselmann und die Moderne. Eine Studie zur Modernerezeption in der Architektur der DDR. Königstein 2013.

Miller Lane, Barbara: "The Berlin Congress Hall 1955 – 1957". In: Perspectives in American History – New Series, Vol. 1, 1984.

Neubauer, Barbara (Ed.): A redevelopment area in Prenzlauer Berg Teutoburger Platz : the results of 18 years of redevelopment. Berlin 2013.

Schlusche, Günter; Pfeiffer-Kloss, Verena; Dolff-Bonekämper, Gabi; Klausmeier, Axel (Ed.): Stadtentwicklung im doppelten Berlin – Zeitgenossenschaften und Erinnerungsorte. Berlin 2014.

Urban, Florian: Neo-historical East Berlin. Architecture and Urban Design in the German Democratic Republic 1970-1990. Surrey, 2009.