

Exploring Berlin Museums WS 2017-18

Instructor: Dr. Victoria Bishop Kendzia

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Short Description

This anthropologically inflected course is interdisciplinary in nature. The aim of the course is to explore and critically analyze certain aspects of Berlin's museological landscape using anthropological methods. This will be realized during the various field trips to relevant sites. The focus is on two particularly visible and conflict-ridden aspects of this landscape, namely the Jewish narrative and the topic of migration. Although this course is based in social/cultural anthropology, it does engage with other disciplines and might be of interest to students of history, theology, art history, not to mention the more theme-based programs of Urban Studies, Ethics, and Museum Studies. **English B2 Required.**

All the lectures will be in English. German is not required for this course, but a would be an asset as it would allow for indepth exploration of a number of German texts and museums.

ECTS Points: 5

Location: Hausvogteiplatz 5-7,10117 Berlin

Public transportation: U2 or U6 Hausvogteiplatz/Stadtmitte

Tuesdays 14:00-18:00 ct. Room 0323 or on site as indicated below

Language of Course: English B2 Required. German B1 an asset, but not required.

NB: As this is a BA-level course, MA-level students who wish to take this course are asked to contact with instructor in advance of registration by e-mail to discuss if this course is suitable for them.

A reader will be made available for purchase at Sprintout (Georgenstrasse beside the Grimm Zentrum library) for this course with all the required readings.

Detailed Course Outline

There will be 8 sessions in total, each 4 hours long, in order to accommodate the museum visits. Note the actual dates!

17.10.2017 - Class 1: In class session

Introduction to the course, lecture on the Jewish Narrative, and post WWII migration to Germany, introduction to the "conversation walk" method.

24.10.2017 - Class 2: Field Trip to the Jewish Museum Berlin

We meet there at **14:15** in or near the Glass Court.

Address: Lindenstrasse 9-14, 10969 Berlin

Transit connection: Hallesches Tor U1/U6

Focus on using the conversation walk method. And discussion of readings. (Ostow 2007, Purin 2008). We will discuss the visit and the texts in class on Oct. 31. You should e-mail your discussion questions (2 per text) to me by **6 pm, Oct. 30th**.

31.10.2017 - Class 3: In class seminar.

Discussion of JMB impressions. Presentation of your conversation walks.
Discussion of Readings (Ostow 2007; Purin 2008) based on your submitted questions.
Outlining of expectations for group presentations and individual research reports.

07.11.2017 - Class 4: Field Trip (location to be announced).

Museum visit focussing on German history (may be the German Historical Museum: Unter den Linden 2, 10117 Berlin).

14.11.2017 - Class 5: Field Trip (location to be announced)

Museum visit and workshop focussing on migration. (may be Jugendmuseum Schöneberg, Hauptstrasse 40, 10827 Berlin)

21.11.2017 - Class 6: In class seminar

Discussion of field trips and the following readings (the latter based on your submitted questions): Yurdakul/Bodemann 2006; Rothberg/Yildiz 2011, Bunzl 2005; and Shooman/Spielhaus 2010. Be sure to send me 2 discussion questions per text by e-mail by **6 pm, Nov. 17th**.
Fixing of group presentation dates and topics.

Note: There is no class on 28.11.2017!

05.12.2017 - Class 7: In-class session – Student Presentations

Up to three can fit in the class time. We will have feedback and discussion on these.

12.12.2017 - Class 8: In-class session – Student presentations.

Up to three can fit in the class time. We will have feedback and discussion on these.

Course requirements: All the following must be completed in order to pass the course. Each requirement is weighted equally.

- i. Active attendance and participation in class discussions and field trips.
- ii. Doing the readings and preparing two discussion/content questions **on each reading in advance of the class, as assigned.**
- iii. Participation in a group presentation about a field site/topic of your choice relevant to the course. Topic should be checked with the instructor in advance. Time allowing, site visits are encouraged.
- iv. A research report with bibliography (8-10 pages, not including bibliography or photos), double-spaced, Times New Roman. This can be based on your presentation topic and should incorporate the readings and discussions we covered during the course, where applicable.

Please send me your report by e-mail by **January 7th, 2018**. You may write in English, German, Spanish or French. Late papers will lose 2% of a grade per day late.

Attendance Policy

You may not miss more than one session, as these are double sessions. *If you do know that you have to miss a session in advance, let me know beforehand and we can arrange a make-up task, if necessary.* In case of illness or other emergency, let me know as soon as possible and provide proof of the problem. I can be flexible with make-up tasks, provided I am kept informed. Do become familiar with the public transport system in Berlin. *Transport difficulties are not an excuse for an absence. It is the students' responsibility to get to the sites on time.*

Plagiarism Policy

The presentation of another person's words, thoughts, ideas, judgments, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism. The penalty for this is failure of the course.

Bibliography – Exploring Berlin Museums

Required Reading:

- Robin Ostow (2007). "From Displaying 'Jewish' Art to (Re) Building German-Jewish History." In *Interrogating Race and Racism*, edited by Vijay Agnew, 298–320. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Bernhard Purin. (2008). "Building a Jewish Museum in Germany in the Twenty-First Century." In *ReVisualizing National History. Museums and National Identities in Europe in the New Millennium*, edited by Robin Ostow, 139–56. Toronto: University of Toronto Press
- Gökçe Yurdakul and Y. Michal Bodemann. 2006. "'We Don't Want to Be the Jews of Tomorrow' Jews and Turks in Germany after 9/11." *German Politics and Society* 79 (24) 2: 44–67.
- Michael Rothberg and Yasemin Yildiz. (2011). "Memory Citizenship: Migrant Archives of Holocaust Remembrance in Contemporary Germany." *Parallax (Special Issue on Transcultural Memory)* 17.4, 32-48.
- Matti Bunzl (2005) "Between Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Some Thoughts on the New Europe." *American Ethnologist* 32.4. 499-508.
- Shooman, Yasemin and Riem Speilhaus (2010). "The concept of the Muslim enemy in the public discourse" In Jocelyn Cesari (ed.) *Muslims in the West after 9/11. Religion, politics, and law*. Routledge: London and New York. 198-228.

Supplemental reading:

- Y. Michal Bodemann (1996). *Gedächtnistheater. Die jüdische Gemeinschaft und ihre deutsche Erfindung*. Hamburg: Rotbusch.
- Wolfgang Kaschuba (2006). *Einführung in die Europäische Ethnologie*. München: C.H. Beck. (Specific sections on methods: Wahrnehmungsspaziergang, Teilnehmende Beobachtung, Interviewmethodik).
- Anja Peleikis und Jackie Feldman (2012). „Der Shop als Spiegel des Museums. Ausstellungsobjekte, Souvenirs und Identitätspraktiken im Jüdischen Museum Berlin und im Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.“ In *Kultur all inclusive: Identität, Tradition, und Kulturerbe im Zeitalter der Massentourismus*, Burkhard Schnepel, Felix Girke, Eva-Maria Knoll (Hg.), Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag.
- Wolfgang Benz (2011) *Antisemitismus und „Islamkritik“: Bilanz und Perspektive*. Berlin: Metropol.
- Damani Partridge (2016) “Refugees, Pity, and Moral Superiority — The German Case” In *Cultural Anthropology* (Hot Spots), Mayanthi Fernando and Cristiana Giordano, eds.
- Richard Sandell. (2007). *Museums, Prejudice and the Reframing Difference*. London: Routledge.