



KIIS Berlin Program, Summer 2023

FILM 399, HON 300: Topics--Berlin in Film

Instructor: Dr. Sylvia Henneberg

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This course centers on the portrayal of Germany, and specifically Berlin, in German and American cinema. We will examine how the city and its history have captured the imagination of international filmmakers and what tools they have employed to convey the capital's spirit of place from the interwar period to today. Students are expected to view most films in advance; class in Berlin will focus on selected clips, readings, and excursions to the sites that are central to the films, for example [Glienicke Bridge](#) (→*Bridge of Spies*), Bornholmer Strasse (→*Bornholmer Strasse*), Hitler's bunker (→*Downfall*), and the Stasi prison in Hohenschönhausen (→*The Lives of Others*), among others.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate:

- knowledge of artists' aesthetic and psychological engagement with Berlin in various moments of time;
- knowledge of generic conventions of film;
- the ability to engage in authentic field experiences in collaboration with their peers.

4. Requirements and Readings and Materials:

Students should not take this class unless they are willing to view the following films before departure. (We will not have time to view them on site, and they may not be available for purchase or streaming in Germany.)

1. Siodmak & Edgar G. Ulmer, [People on Sunday](#), 1930
2. Henk Handloegten, Achim von Borries, and Tom Tykwer, *Babylon Berlin*, 2017 (Netflix)
3. Either
 - Robert Wiene, [The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari](#), 1920 **or**
 - F.W. Murnau [Nosferatu](#), 1922 **or**
 - Fritz Lang, [Metropolis](#), 1927
4. Bob Fosse, *Cabaret*, 1972 (Prime)
5. Christian Schowchow, [Bornholmer Strasse](#), 2014
6. David Leitch, *Atomic Blonde*, 2017 (Prime)
7. Either
 - Wolfgang Becker, *Good Bye, Lenin!* 2003 (Tubi) **or**
 - David Dietl, *Berlin Bouncer*, 2019 (Prime) **or**

Honors Students:

- Giles Whittell, *Bridge of Spies* (ISBN: 978-0767931083—purchase or borrow & bring) **or**
- Antony Johnston, *The Coldest City* (ISBN: 978-1620103814—purchase or borrow & bring) **or**
- June 5, 3-7 pm: Place-as-Text Excursion through Berlin Led by Honors Students, based on one or several films

5. Graded Assignments:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Oral Participation; Active Participation in Mandatory Excursions: | 10% |
| • Presentation: | 20% |
| • Quizzes* (4 x 10%;): | 40% |
| • Final Examination: | 30% |

Additional Assignment for Honors Students:

- Option #1: Honors students must prepare a guided 4-hour tour through Berlin. The tour must help bring to life elements of the films we have studied or will study
- Option #2: Honors students must prepare 7-10-page pass/fail written reflection comparing the representation of Berlin and German culture in literature and film focusing on Giles Whittell's *Bridge of Spies* / Steven Spielberg's *Bridge of Spies* or Antony Johnston's *The Coldest City* / David Leitch's *Atomic Blonde*.

*1st quiz will test knowledge of all films that are to be viewed in advance.

6. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

7. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

8. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

9. Schedule:

May 29, 4-5 pm (lobby): Overview of Course

⇒ Homework to be completed in advance of this session:

- View and summarize Robert Siodmak & Edgar G. Ulmer, [People on Sunday](#), 1930 (view in advance in the US)
- View season 1, episodes 1 & 2 of Henk Handloegten, Achim von Borries, and Tom Tykwer, *Babylon Berlin*, 2017 (Netflix; view in advance in the US)
- Read: "[The Weimar Republik](#)"

⇒ In Class:

- Discussion of interwar Germany and film.

May 30, 11am-1 pm (basement): German Film vs. Germany in Film

⇒ Homework to be completed in advance of this session:

- View in advance in the US and be able to summarize either:
 - Robert Wiene, [The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari](#), 1920 **or**
 - F.W. Murnau [Nosferatu](#), 1922 **or**
 - Fritz Lang, [Metropolis](#), 1927
- Read [German Expressionism](#)
- View all of Bob Fosse, *Cabaret*, 1972 (Prime; view in advance in the US)
- Read: [Film Review of Cabaret](#)

⇒ In class:

- Quiz #1.
- [German Expressionism in Film](#)
- Excerpts from *Cabaret*:
 - "[Cabaret](#)"
 - "[Tomorrow Belongs to Me](#)"
 - "[If You Could See Her](#)"
- *Babylon Berlin*
 - [Overview](#)
 - "[Zu Asche zu Staub](#)"

May 31, 8-10 am (basement): The Rise and Fall of Nazi Germany in Film

⇒ Homework to be completed in advance of this session:

- Read [Leni Riefenstahl](#)
- View either of the commentaries on Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will*, 1935:

- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 1/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 2/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 3/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 4/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 5/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 6/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 7/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 8/9 with historical commentary](#) or
- [Triumph of the Will full movie part 9/9 with historical commentary](#)

⇒ In Class:

- Quiz #2.
- [Nazi Propaganda: Historical Film Footage](#)
- Harlan Veit, [Jud Süß](#), 1940 (excerpts)
- Anti-Jewish Propaganda: Franz Hippler, [The Eternal Jew](#), 1940 (excerpt)

May 31, 8-10 pm (basement): Screening of Oliver Hirschbiegel, *Downfall*, 2004

June 1, 10 am-12 pm (basement): Film in Germany/Berlin during WW2

⇒ Homework to be completed in advance of this session:

- Listen to NPR, [The Making of 'Downfall'](#)
- Listen to NPR, [German Film 'Downfall' Mulls Hitler's Last Days](#)

⇒ In Class:

- Presentations on film in Germany/Berlin during WW2

June 2, 4-6 pm (basement): The Cold War in Film

⇒ Homework to be completed in advance of this session:

- View Christian Schowchow, [Bornholmer Strasse](#), 2014 (view in advance in the US)
- View David Leitch, *Atomic Blonde*, 2017 (Prime/Hulu, view in advance in the US)

⇒ In Class:

- Quiz #3.
- Real Spies vs. Movie Spies
- *The Lives of Others* (background)
- Glienecker Brücke (background)

June 2, 6-8 pm (basement): Screening of Steven Spielberg, *Bridge of Spies*, 2015

June 3, 11 am-? Stasi Prison-Hohenschönhausen (meet in lobby)

June 4, 11 am-? Berlin Wall Memorial (meet in lobby)

June 4, 7-9 pm: Screening of Florian Henckel von Donnersmark, *The Lives of Others*, 2006

June 5, 3-7 pm: Place-as-Text Excursion Led by Honors Students

June 6, 10 am-? Concentration Camp Sachsenhausen (meet in lobby)

June 7, 3-5 pm: Berlin after the Fall of the Wall

⇒ Homework to be completed in advance of this session:

- View:
 - Wolfgang Becker, *Good Bye, Lenin!* 2003 (Tubi, view in advance in the US) **or**
 - David Dietl, *Berlin Bouncer*, 2019 (Prime, view in advance in the US) **or**
- Listen to NPR, "[The Surprising History behind Berlin's Techno Club Scene](#)"
- Read Jon Pareles, "[In Berlin, Still Partying in the Ruins](#)"
- View [Sebastian Schipper and Laia Costa on Victoria](#)

⇒ In Class:

- Quiz #4.
- Trailer, [Good Bye, Lenin!](#)
- Excerpt, [Good Bye, Lenin!](#)
- Jon Pareles, "[In Berlin, Still Partying in the Ruins](#)"
- "East-West Divide"

June 7, 5-7 pm: Tour of Reichstag (meet in lobby)

June 11, 11 am-1 pm: Final Exam