

## ***The New Berlin: Exploring its political, social, and (multi-)cultural life***

**Arts and Sciences 137, Freshman Seminar  
Winter 2011, 1 Credit (Letter Grade)  
Thursdays, 3:30-4:18 (or Mondays, 2:30-3:18)**

**Instructor:** Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm

**Office:** 425 Hagerty Hall

**Email:** taleghani-nikazm.1@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

In this seminar we will explore Berlin, the capital city of Germany, as it is today. Class discussions will focus on recent changes in Berlin's political, social and cultural life with its diversity, richness and complexities. We will pay special attention to Berlin's multi-ethnic society and learn about the old and new migrant communities in Berlin. We will read a collection of texts that have used different research approaches to examine the city's social diversity and the problems and possibilities that arise in such a cosmopolitan environment.

### **The Seminar Objectives**

- To gain knowledge of a very distinctive, exciting city and its richness in history, society, culture and politics
- To understand and appreciate the range of diversity found in the German population
- To acquire some insights into what it means to live in a society that is becoming more and more diverse

### **Texts**

There is no textbook for this class. All class materials including links to various websites are available on the seminar's course site/Carmen.

### **Course Evaluation**

Attendance and participation in class discussions	40%
Completion of discussion and reaction questions	30%
Short research paper (700-800 words)	30%

### **Course Expectations**

You are expected to attend every class session prepared to discuss the ideas presented in readings and lectures. Attendance and participation are essential for success in this course. More than one unexcused absence will lower your grade by 2% of your final grade.

For each class, I will give you a number of discussion and reaction questions to guide your reading and to help you organize the new information and make connections. The answers are to be completed before class and submitted to Carmen. You will receive credit for the quality of your answers.

For the short research paper, you will choose a topic related to our discussions about Berlin as a multi-cultural city. Your paper can, for example, discuss a particular part of the city such as *Kreuzberg*, or a street, a school, a city-organized activity, etc. I will provide more guidelines in class. There will be no final exam.

PAPER IS DUE ON THE LAST DAY OF CLASS.

### Grading

This seminar will use a Letter Grade. Following is the grading scale I will use:

A 93-100	B+ 88-89	B- 80-82	C 73-77	D+ 68-69	E 64-0
A- 90-92	B 83-87	C+ 78-79	C- 70-72	D 65-67	

### Short-term study abroad (Spring Break 2011)

This freshman seminar may culminate in an optional short-term study abroad component in Berlin, in which students explore various multicultural communities (*Kreuzberg*, *Neukölln*, *Wedding*, and the new Berlin *Prenzlauer Berg*) and participate in a special program at the *Institute for Cultural Diplomacy*. During your stay in Berlin you will develop a blog, where you post your travel journals. I will provide more details later in the seminar.

### Academic Integrity

For all the assignments for this course, the Code of Student Conduct of The Ohio State University is in effect. Academic misconduct is defined as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university, or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus or other information provided to the student; violation of program regulations as established by departmental committees and made available to students;
2. Submitting plagiarized work for an academic requirement. Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas;
3. Submitting substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for one course that has been submitted in satisfaction of requirements for another course, without permission of the instructor of the course for which the work is being submitted;
4. For an extended version of these examples please refer to [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)

To avoid plagiarism, students must make sure that they:

1. Always cite their sources (following the MLA format)
2. Read the guidelines for written assignments more than once
3. If in doubt consult with your professor.

### Students with Disabilities

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Or visit the internet address of this office at <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu> for more information.



### Weekly Schedule

#### Week 1

- Introduction to the course: Myself and my research, course objectives, assignments, readings, and online web resources
- Introduction to the subject: "The new Berlin", geography and facts about Germany and Berlin

#### Assignment for next class:

Research these websites and complete the worksheet with the study questions. You may also consult the sites listed on Carmen.

#### Political, geographical, historical, and cultural facts about Germany:

<http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/home1.html> (in English)

#### Chronicle of the fall of the Berlin-Wall:

<http://www.chronik-der-mauer.de/index.php/de/Start/Index/id/651862> (in English)

#### Social, cultural and political history of Berlin:

<http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/geschichte/index.en.html> (in English)

**Week 2**

Contemporary Berlin: a Capital, global and multi-cultural city, a symbol of German national unity

Assignment for next class:

Read about Berlin and its different city parts and complete the worksheet with the study questions.

Social, cultural and political history of Berlin:

<http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/geschichte/index.en.html> (in English)

**Week 3**

Berlin Mitte: "Mega-projects"

- New government center (Bundestag)
- The multinational corporate headquarters of Potsdamer Platz
- Mega shopping arcades of Friedrichstrasse

Discussions and virtual tour of some of these places.

Assignment for next class:

Read and complete the study questions:

Hilary Silver: *Social Integration in the "New" Berlin* (Read pages: 1-23) (German Politics and Society, Issue 81, Vol. 24)

**Week 4**

Continue discussions of the "New" Berlin and its socio-cultural and political transformation.

Assignment for next class:

Read and complete the worksheet with the study questions:

Hilary Silver: *Social Integration in the "New" Berlin* (Read pages: 23-40) (German Politics and Society, Issue 81, Vol. 24, Winter 2006)

Paul V. Kroskrity: *Identity* (pages: 106-109). In Duranti, A. (Ed.) *Key Terms in Language and Culture*. Blackwell.

**Week 5***Socio-cultural Approach*

Berlin: A multicultural metropolis and its social diversity and migrant communities

- An introduction to *Kreuzberg*, *Neukölln*, and *Wedding*, three parts of Berlin that are highly populated by migrants. For example, *Kreuzberg* is known as the legendary island of the foreign where Turkish "guestworkers" settled in the late 50s and early 60s.

Assignment for next class:

Wolfgang Kil and Hilary Silver: *From Kreuzberg to Marzahn: New Migrant Communities in Berlin*. (Pages: 95-115). (German Politics and Society, Issue 81, Vol. 24, Winter 2006)

**Week 6**

Virtual trip to Kreuzberg (one of Berlin's signature multicultural neighborhoods). Our tour will include stops at:

- Ethnic restaurants
- Shops
- X-berg museum
- Theater
- Music scene
- Housing

Assignment for next class:

*Workshop of cultures: Why a Carnival of Cultures in Berlin?* (3 pages)

*Heimat Art: New Urban Cultures.* (2 pages).

*The First Years of the House of World Cultures* (2 pages).

*Multikulti-Or what?* (2 pages)

*Where are the Turkish Teachers and Doctors?* (3 pages)

Translated articles published in German newspapers and magazines. In Göktürk, D., Gramling, D. and Kaes, A. (2007). *Germany in Transit: Nation and Migration, 1995-2005.*

**Week 7**

Promoting diversity: Local effort in integrating migrants into the community:

- Non-profit organizations (for example, multi-cultural women organization),
- Neighborhood tours conducted by local youths (for example: Arab girls on tour in Berlin-Wedding)
- Carnival of cultures
- Local Authors and artists

DUE: TOPIC FOR YOUR RESEACH PAPERAssignment for next class:

Alessandro Duranti: *Ethnographic methods.* Read pages: 85-91 (*What is an ethnography?*). Cambridge University Press.

Glick-Schiller, Nina; Nieswand, Boris; Schlee, Günther; Darieva, Tsypylma; Yalcin-Heckman, LaleFoszio, Laszio: Pathways of Migrant Incorporation in Germany. *Tansit, 1 (1), 2005* (Pages 2-19)

**Week 8***Ethnographical Approach*

Berlin: a "workshop of integration"?

Discussion of Glick-Schiller et. al and how migrants become connected through social linkages and various forms of identity to Germany as an example of social scientific approach to investigating social diversity and integration.

Assignment for next class:

*Good reception: Radio Multikulti Berlin* (pages 256-257). First published as "Gut angekommen" in *Frankfurter Rundschau* (September 24, 1996). Translated by David Gramling. In Göktürk, D., Gramling, D. and Kaes, A. (2007). *Germany in Transit: Nation and Migration, 1995-2005*.

Kira Kosnick: *Migrant Media*. Chapter 3 (Pages 52-79): *Foreign Voices--Migrant Representation on Radio Multikulti*.

**Week 9**

Radio Multikulti Berlin: An example of ethnographical study of migration and multiculturalism

- Berlin the first city outside of Turkey to have its own twenty-four-hour Turkish radio station
- Migrants engaged in media production themselves, addressing not just fellow migrants but also wider audiences
- Discussion of the chapter.

Assignment for next class:

J. Androutsopoulos: *From the Streets to the Screens and Back Again: On the Mediated Diffusion of Ethnolectal Patterns in Contemporary German*. (23 pages). LAUD, Linguistic Agency, 2001.

**Week 10**

Linguistic anthropological approach

- Linguistic variations
- Ethnolect/multi-ethnolect
- *Kiezdeutsch*--a contact-induced, multi-ethnic youth language

**Bio of the professor:**

Prof. Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm is an Associate Professor in the department of Germanic languages and literatures. Her research area includes conversation analysis, multiculturalism and second language interaction. She has published articles on socio-pragmatic development of learners and politeness in second language interaction. She has written a book on the intersection of grammar, interaction and social context (Benjamins, 2006). One of her current research projects is the investigation of how non-native speakers of German show affiliation, i.e. an orientation to one another's culture in conversations with German native speakers. Prof. Taleghani-Nikazm teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. She has taught undergraduate courses on *Germany post-1945* (a survey of history, society and politics of Germany), and *German language yesterday and today*.