

Building the Berlin Wall – Germany after World War II

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Course Description

At the end of World War II, Germany was militarily and morally defeated, its cities lay in ruins, the country was divided, and occupied by foreign troops. Prior to 1945, Germany had been the primary instigator of two world wars and the perpetrator of a horrific genocide in the heart of Europe. However, by the early 1950s its western part was one of the Western alliance's most reliable allies, and its eastern part an important link in the security buffer Stalin had created for the Soviet Union. West Germany was a "bastion of democracy" buffering capitalist western from communist eastern Europe, while East Germany was a laboratory experiment in "real existing socialism" under the constraints of Cold War competition. What made this turnaround possible? How did it play over time? How did people experience from both sides of the Berlin Wall, erected in 1961? How did it end? What human costs did it have? These and many more questions will be the focus of this course.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation in class discussion. Students will be expected to read the assigned texts before the class (by date indicated on the syllabus). Each class session will have a discussion component to it, so it is crucial that you come prepared.
2. A review of a film or a novel from the period, 3-4 pages, due November 27th by midnight
3. Take Home Midterm, 6-7 pages (typed and double-spaced), due October 23rd by midnight.
4. Take Home Final Exam, 6-7 pages (typed and double-spaced), due TBD.

Grading:

In-class participation: 20%

Film/Novel Review: 20%

Take Home Midterm Exam: 30%

Take Home Final Exam: 30%

Grade scale is as follows:

A: 90 points and higher

B+: 87-89.99

B: 80-86.99

C+: 77-79.99

C: 70-76.99

D: 60-69.99

F: 59.99 and lower

Required Books:

- Mary Fulbrook, *The Divided Nation, A History of Germany 1918-2014*, Wiley Blackwell, 4th Edition, 2015
- Heinrich Böll, *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*
- Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*

- The books are available at the University Book Store, and also from online retailers.
- Other readings will be available through Blackboard or through the Rutgers Library Website

Attendance policy:

Attendance is required. If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from B+ to B, for example). If you have more than more than six unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by one full grade (B+ to C+, for example). Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the class.

If you plan to be excused for any religious holidays during the semester, please talk to me before the end of September so I can mark it in the roster in advance.

Late papers and exams:

Exams are due on the dates announced in class or indicated below. Unless discussed with me IN ADVANCE, late assignments will have their grades lowered. Excused lateness for the take-home exams will only be granted for students who can document medical or family emergency. Students who feel a personal emergency is sufficiently grave to warrant an excused absence must speak with me the week BEFORE the exam is due. Students who are unclear about the course's requirements should speak to me early in the semester.

Disabilities:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus' disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219, by phone at [973-353-5375](tel:973-353-5375) or by email at odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu.

Policy on Academic Integrity (Cheating and Plagiarism):

Rutgers University treats cheating and plagiarism as serious offenses. Cheating is both a moral and an ethical offense. It violates both your own integrity and the ethics of group commitment: when you cut corners and cheat, you undermine those students who took the time to work on the assignment honestly. The standard minimum penalties for students who cheat or plagiarize include failure of the course, disciplinary probation, and a formal warning that further cheating will be grounds for expulsion from the University.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. **To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment.**

Resist the urge to cut and paste, either literally or figuratively by using other people's ideas. If I find that you have used other people's ideas (ex: Wikipedia, Amazon reviews, book jacket descriptions, etc.), I will not accept the assignment because I will not be able to consider it your own work. You will get a failing grade (0 points) for that assignment and will not be able to make it up.

Course Website

From time to time, I will also post additional materials (images that we discuss in class, texts that I discuss in lectures which are not in the textbooks, etc.) If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will announce these in class and then post them on the website. I will also use the electronic roster to send e-mails to all students, if there are announcements to be made.

Topics and Schedule of Readings

Week 1

1. Tues. 9/4: Introduction

2. Thurs. 9/6: Fall of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 15-56

Week 2

3. Tues. 9/11: The Rise of the Nazis and World War II

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 57-109

4. Thurs. 9/13: 1945 as Stunde Null – Political Division

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 113-122

Week 3

5. Tues. 9/18: View from the Ruins

Readings: Stig Dagerman. *German Autumn*, 5-18 (Library Online)

Heineman: “The Hour of the Woman” (BB)

6. Thurs. 9/20: Reeducation and Democracy

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 122-129

Ernst von Salomon, *Der Fragebogen* (The Questionnaire), 15-39 (BB)

Week 4

7. Tues. 9/25: What to do With Germany?: Economic Strategies from the Soviet Perspective

Readings: Norman Naimark, *The Russians in Germany*, “Reparations, Removals and Economic Transformations of the Zone”, 141-204 (Library Online)

8. Thurs. 9/27: What to do With Germany?: Economic Strategies from the U.S. Perspective

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 129-141

Werner Abelshauser, “American Aid and West German Economic Recovery” (BB)

Week 5

9. Tues. 10/2: Blind Spots I: Jews and the Nazi Past in East Germany

Readings: Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory*, 69-105 (106-161 optional) (Library Online)

10. Thurs. 10/4: Blind Spots II: Jews and the Nazi Past in West Germany

Readings: Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory*, 201-266 (Library Online)

Robert Moeller: "Remembering the War in a Nation of Victims" (BB)

Week 6

11. Tues. 10/9: Youth Culture and U.S. Influence

Readings: Uta Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels*, 31-105 (Library Online)

12. Thurs. 10/11: The Politics of Consumption in East and West

Readings: Uta Poiger, *Jazz, Rock, and Rebels*, 106--136 (Library Online)

FILM: Berlin, Ecke Schönhauser (dir. Gerhard Klein, 1957)

Week 7

13. Tues. 10/16: Building the Wall: Perspectives from the East

Readings: Joel Agee, *Twelve Years*, (Excerpt) (BB)

14. Thurs. 10/18: Building the Wall: Perspectives from the West

Readings: Willy Brandt, *My Life in Politics*, (Excerpt) (BB)

Week 8

15. Tues. 10/23: The 1960s in the East

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 165-172

Ewa Maleck-Lewy and Bernhard Maleck, "The Women's Movement in East and West Germany" (BB)

16. Thurs. 10/25: Changing Sexual Mores in the West

Readings: Dagmar Herzog, "Between Coitus and Commodification" (BB)

Week 9

17. Tues. 10/30: Ostpolitik and the relaxing of relations

Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 172-174

Willy Brandt, *My Life in Politics*, (Excerpt) (BB)

18. Thurs. 11/1: The Rise of Student Radicalism

Readings: Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 217-227
Bommi Baumann, *Terror or Love*, (Excerpt) (BB)

Week 10

19. Tues. 11/6: The Red Army Faction and the Terrorism in the West
Ulrike Meinhof, *Selected Columns*, (BB)

20. Thurs. 11/8: The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum
Readings: Heinroch Böll, *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*

Week 11

21. Tues. 11/13: The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum
Film Screening

22. Thurs. 11/15: Guest workers, multicultural West Germany
Readings: Ulrich Herbert and Karen Hunn, "Guest Workers and Policy on Guest Workers in the Federal Republic" (BB)
Germany in Transit, (Excerpts) (BB)

Week 12

23. Tues. 11/20: East German Dissent in the 1980s
Readings: Fulbrook, *Divided Nation*, 217-227
John Torpey, *Intellectuals, Socialism, and Dissent* (Excerpt) (BB)

Thurs. 11/22: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Week 13

24. Tues. 11/27: The Wall Jumper, part I
Readings: Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*, chapters 1-2.
Film/Novel Review is due

25. Thurs. 11/29: The Wall Jumper, part II
Readings: Peter Schneider, *The Wall Jumper*, chapters 3-4.

Week 14

26. Tues. 12/4: The Fall of the Wall
Readings: Charles Maier, *Dissolution, The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany* (Excerpt) (BB)

27. Thurs. 12/6: The Gauck Authority

Timothy Garton Ash: *The File* (Excerpt) (BB)

Week 15

28. Tues. 12/11: Ostalgie, nostalgia for the East

Readings: Jana Hensel, *After the Wall*, (Excerpt) (BB)

Take-Home Final: Due date TBD