

## **MEMORY AND IDENTITY: DRESDEN, WEIMAR, BERLIN**

ECH core course, 1 credit

**Spring 2009**

### **Course Description**

The overarching theme is memory and identity as we will investigate how history and culture have shaped the current concept of identity in the respective cities. The aim is to be an active traveller and examine the destinations within the conceptual framework provided. The themes of memory and identity serve to “open” these cities so that it becomes possible to “see” deeper aspects of these cities.

Both Dresden and Weimar were once important cultural centers and bear witness to the beauty and great intellectual achievements of German culture in contrast with the developments which would later come. In Dresden its long history as a capital and royal residence for the kings of Saxony, as manifested in its baroque monuments, will be discussed. The study of Weimar will, amongst other things, focus on significant achievements of romantic culture.

Berlin will provide a case study of how the radical developments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have left traces and how from the ruins of totalitarian history a thriving contemporary capital emerged.

### **Objectives**

- Gain knowledge of the historical development of the cities with a focus on the “memory of history”
- Enable students to understand how certain architectural monuments, art works, literature and music have shaped German identity
- Experience and critically evaluate contemporary social life and culture through a comparative lens and first-hand observation

### **Meeting Times and Location**

Thursdays: 8:30-9:50 (time block A1) in room 7-31

### **Course structure**

The course is a half semester class and we will meet nine times in total: eight sessions before the study tour and once after the tour. Classes will be a mixture of lectures, discussions, and guest lecturers (both in Copenhagen and on tour). Each student is strongly encouraged to participate actively. One meeting is reserved for the preparation of the short program tour to Denmark.

## Course Instructors

**Jakob Due Lorentzen**, Cand. Mag. Philosophy (U of Copenhagen, 2004). MA Philosophy (Stony Brook U, 2002). Editorial staff, P1 Debat, Danmarks Radio, 2005. Program Director, European Culture & History. With DIS since 2006.

Email: jlo@dis.dk

**Andrea Homann**, Dipl.-Ing. (Apparel Engineering/Fashion Design, Fachhochschule Mönchengladbach, 1989). 1989-1990 Designer, Westfalenstoffe, Münster, Germany. 1990-1993, Educator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Since 1994, Educator at the Danish National Gallery (Statens Museum for Kunst). With DIS since 1997.

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## DIS Contact

Nicholas Parkinson, ECH Program Assistant: np@dis.dk

## Course Assignments

Students can choose to complete either a **topic paper** or a **pictorial assignment**. Both have a pre-tour draft due **March 12** and a final version due **April 23**.

The **topic paper** is an academic research paper, reflecting aspects, themes or places connected to the course and should be 6-8 pages in length. The pre-tour draft should be at least 4 pages in length.

The **pictorial assignment** is detailed slide show with a researched 5-page commentary analyzing and reflecting the images chosen. The pre-tour draft should be at least 3 pages in length.

The resulting product should discuss/analyze items, themes, debates, or events, that (for reasons the student must explain) relate to the course destinations. Suggestions will be offered in class.

Students will be giving a short presentation on their project to the rest of the class during the concluding seminar on April 23.

Note: This will be one of your first papers of the semester, so start researching your topic early on.

**Grades**

Pre-tour assignment 30%

Post-tour assignment 40%

Student presentation 10%

Class participation 10%

Tour participation 10%

## READINGS

1. Benjamin, Walter: Berlin Childhood Around 1900. London, Belknap Press, 2006, pp.37-47, 53-57, 63-66, 69-71.
2. Chu, Petra ten-Doesschate: Caspar David Friedrich, in: *Nineteenth Century European Art*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006. p.175-79. ISBN 0-13-188643-6, 560p.
3. Celant, Germano: The Destiny of Art: Anselm Kiefer. Milano, Edizioni Charta, 1997. pp.13-19. ISBN 88-8158-130-2, 424p.
4. Clayton, Anthony: Dresden, 1206-1918, in Anthony Clayton and Alan Russell (eds.): Dresden a City Reborn. Oxford, Berg, 2001.pp.9-26. ISBN 1-859734413, 243p.
5. Cranston, Maurice: The Romantic Movement. Oxford, Blackwell Publisher, 1994. pp.21-47
6. Grass, Günther: The Günther Grass Reader. Orlando, FL, Harcourt, 2004.pp.88-90, 11-14, 215-17, 229-45, 282-87, 296-301.
7. Goethe, The Sorrows of Werther
8. Kulish, Nicholas: Germany confronts the Holocaust Legacy Anew. 29 Jan 2008, The New York Times.
9. Landler, Mark: In Berlin Every Cheer Casts an Echo. 8 Dec 2005. The New York Times.
10. Lebow, Richard Ned, Wulf Kansteiner, Claudio Fogu (eds.): The Memory of Politics in Postwar Europe. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2006.pp.1-39. ISBN 978-0-8223-3817-8. 366p.
11. McLachan, Gordon: The Historical Framework, The Rough Guide to Germany. London: Rough Guide, 2001. pp.1069-84.
12. Vonnegut, Kurt: Armageddon in Retrospect. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008.pp 32-45, 144-53.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### 1. Thursday, January 29

#### **Introduction**

How is individual and collective memory shaped?  
 What signifies cultural identity?  
 Why do we travel?

#### Readings:

Lebow, Richard Ned, Wulf Kansteiner, Claudio Fogu (eds.): *The Memory of Politics in Postwar Europe*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2006. pp.1-39. ISBN 978-0-8223-3817-8. 366p.

*\*\*\*Election of two class representatives\*\*\**

### 2. Monday, February 2

#### **Memory and Identity: Denmark**

Meeting with short study tour leaders and preparation for the upcoming study tour to Western Denmark

## SHORT PROGRAM STUDY TOURS

### 3. Thursday, February 12

#### **A Historical Overview**

What events and personalities have shaped the nation?  
 What impact did the 20<sup>th</sup> century have on national identity?

#### Readings:

McLachan, Gordon: *The Historical Framework, The Rough Guide to Germany*. London: Rough Guide, 2001. pp.1069-84.  
 Grass, Günther: *The Günther Grass Reader*. Orlando, FL, Harcourt, 2004. pp.88-90, 11-14, 215-17, 229-45, 282-87, 296-301.

### 4. Thursday, February 19

#### **Berlin: The Memory of Architecture**

How do memorials visualize historic events (and trauma)?  
 How can we use architectural structures to read a city?

#### Readings:

Landler, Mark: *In Berlin Every Cheer Casts an Echo*. 8 Dec 2005. *The New York Times*.

Kulish, Nicholas: Germany confronts the Holocaust Legacy Anew. 29 Jan 2008, The New York Times.

Benjamin, Walter: Berlin Childhood Around 1900. London, Belknap Press, 2006, pp.37-47, 53-57, 63-66, 69-71.

## 5. Thursday, February 26

### **Weimar: Goethe's Universe**

How did Goethe's Werther become a fundamental part of national identity?

Readings:

Goethe, The Sorrows of Werther

Cranston, Maurice: The Romantic Movement. Oxford, Blackwell Publisher, 1994. pp.21-47

## 6. Thursday, March 5

### **Artistic Visions of the Spiritual in Nature**

Which artistic expressions have become fundamental parts of German culture?

What contexts have impacted these artists?

Readings:

Chu, Petra ten-Doesschate: Caspar David Friedrich, in: *Nineteenth Century European Art*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006. p.175-79. ISBN 0-13-188643-6, 560p.

Celant, Germano: The Destiny of Art: Anselm Kiefer. Milano, Edizioni Charta, 1997. pp.13-19. ISBN 88-8158-130-2, 424p.

## 7. Thursday, March 12

### **The Ornamental Splendor of Dresden**

Why was the city named "Florence of the Elbe"?

### **Pre-tour assignment due**

Readings:

Clayton, Anthony: Dresden, 1206-1918, in Anthony Clayton and Alan Russell (eds.): *Dresden a City Reborn*. Oxford, Berg, 2001. pp.9-26. ISBN 1-859734413, 243p.

Vonnegut, Kurt: *Armageddon in Retrospect*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2008. pp 32-45, 144-53. [www.bauhaus.de](http://www.bauhaus.de)

## 8. Thursday, March 19

### **Study tour Prep**

## **Week 13: STUDY TOUR TO DRESDEN, WEIMAR, BERLIN**

**9. Thursday, April 23, 18:00-21:00**

**Concluding Seminar and Student Presentations**

**Post-tour assignment due**

## PRELIMINARY STUDY TOUR ITINERARY

Saturday 21, March	Departure from Copenhagen
Sunday 22, March	Dresden
Monday 23, March	Weimar
Tuesday, 24 March	Berlin
Wednesday, 25 March	Berlin
Thursday, 26 March	Berlin
Friday, 27 March	Berlin

### **Official end of study tour: Friday, 27 March at 14:00**

All students check out of Berlin hostel on Friday morning. Students are free to make their own travel arrangements after Friday at 14:00 (the official end of the study tour). The rest of the group will travel back to Copenhagen by bus Friday at 14:00.