

Moravian College  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES  
GERMAN 351

**Berlin: Grandeur and Decadence  
The Reinventions of a European Metropolis**

**Instructor:** Dr. Josef K. Glowa

**Office Hours:** MW 1-2 pm & F 12-1 Comenius 411

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**Course Description**

The course aims to provide students with an in-depth study of major literary works and movies with a special focus on the city culture of Berlin and this city's shaping role in the history of modern Europe. We examine the journey of Berlin from its role as the residency of the Prussian kings to the old/new capital of today's reunited Germany. We will explore the multi-faceted history of this city through literature, art, music, film and historical/political documents. Feared and admired, loved and condemned, this city was the home of world-renowned scientist, artists, and writers, as well as the powerful center of Hitler's fascist regime. During the "Roaring Twenties" Berlin was the largest industrial center on the continent and the focal point of scientific and cultural innovation. After the destruction of World War II, Berlin had to find a new identity, one that was primarily defined by the Cold War. From the Berlin airlift to the love parade, from Kennedy's visit to the fall of the wall, students will have the opportunity to undertake a fascinating and instructive exploration of one of Europe's most cosmopolitan crossroads.

Course will meet twice a week, 70 minutes each. Course material is presented using a mixture of lectures, group discussions, student presentations, media, and World Wide resources. The focal point of class meetings will be the group discussion of readings, or other media. Selected German movies relevant to the course's central theme will also be shown and discussed. Grades will be based upon four papers, the average of three oral presentations, attendance, and a midterm and final exam.

## Requirements & Grading

- 3 Papers in German: first 5 %, second 10%, third 15 % = 30 %
- 2 Oral presentations in German (each 10 - 15 min.) 15 %
- Participation 15 %
- 5 short tests 15 %
- 5 reaction papers sent by e-mail 10 %
- Final Exam 15 %

All papers must be double-spaced and use Times Font or similar one, size 12. The first paper should be 2 pages, the second 3, the third 4 pages long. All papers should be written according to the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, or *The Chicago Manual of Style : The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers*. I expect papers to address some of the key issues regarding topics and the texts read throughout the semester. The exams will include itemized and essay-type questions.

## Some Remarks on the Oral Presentations

Each oral presentation should 10-15 minutes. I will indicate the topics for these presentations. There will be a discussion after each presentation. If you have any problems with your presentation, please come and see me, so I can help you.

## How to prepare for oral presentations?

Use the works on reserve or relevant websites. The presentations should not be read but presented lively with the help of notes. Prepare handouts with important information; use the board or POWERPOINT.

## Ground Rules

**Academic Honesty:** All work that you submit for credit must be your own. I adhere to the policy on academic honesty found in the *Moravian College Catalog*. Consult the Writing Center for help with plagiarism and citations issues. Be particularly careful when using Internet sources

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at each class meeting. If you miss more than two classes without a valid, documented excuse, your final grade will be lowered by one grade degree for each absence (for example, B+ to B). *Five unexcused absences is an automatic fail for the course*. No make-up exams will be given for unexcused absences. If you must miss a class, whether for family emergency, illness, or religious holidays, please notify me in advance by phone or email. Medical excuses must be documented. You are still responsible for the material covered in class when you do not attend.

## Required Texts

- Gotthold Ephraim Lessing: *Minna von Barnhelm*
- Theodor Fontane: *Effie Briest*
- Erich Kästner: *Fabian*
- Peter Schneider: *Der Mauerspringer*
- Additional texts (handouts, www)

## Movies

- *Metropolis*
- Riefenstahl's *Olympia*
- *Cabaret*
- *Mephisto*
- *Wings of Desire*
- *The Promise*
- *One, Two, Three*
- *Run Lola Run*

Note: all movies are required components of course work and mandatory viewing.

**Note:** *I reserve the right to make appropriate changes to this syllabus whenever necessary.*