

**Germany 30 years after reunification: Revisit the Past,
Experience the Present, Imagine the Future**

**Dr. Daniel Stockemer
Summer, 2022**

COURSE OUTLINE

Course schedule: (see Timeline below)

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OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Science Field Research Class (in Germany)

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989 nobody could imagine that - not even a year later - Germany would be a unified country. The separation was too long; the political, economic and personal differences that resulted from that division seemed too big to overcome. Yet, things have changed quite a bit since then, not only in terms of city landscapes, but also in terms of cultural and political landscapes. The process of unification was also an enormous economical undertaking. Nobody could be certain if it would/could work. But once the decision was made, there was no going back.

Through a two week long intensive field research course our aim will be to discover and live Germany's and Berlin's vivid recent history from 1945 to today. We will understand and decode the processes that led to the division of Germany in the late 1940s, as well as the dynamics that allowed the country to become reunited 40 years later. We will also extensively discuss the cultural, economic and social life before and after reunification, as well as the challenges citizens of East and West Germany have faced after reunification. The course is embedded in the Summer Academy Reunification conjointly organized by the University of Rostock, Ehwa University in Seoul and the University of Ottawa. The course will be taught in a very practical way: we will visit and discover the innumerable layers of memory that remain present and alive in the Berlin's and East Germany's landscape. To help students connect the

themes, which we will elaborate in the seminar, there will be several practical exercises that help students connect with Germany's past and present. To underline the international character of the summer school, there will also be plenty of opportunities to connect with students from Rostock and South Korea.

Location: Rostock

After some general classes in Ottawa, we will participate in the Summer Academy Reunification organized by the University of Rostock, Ehwa University and the University of Ottawa and paid for by the German government. Most likely, we will be staying at the Hotel Stadtperle.

For more information on the summer school, please regularly check out: <https://www.uni-rostock.de/internationales/rostock-international-house/sommerschulen/saru/saru-2021/>

Target group:

The target group are Masters students and 4th year Bachelors' student

REQUIREMENTS

I expect that participants want to immerse themselves into Germany's historical and contemporary life. The seminar will consist of a mixture of seminar sessions and virtual visits/ excursions, which will normally cover the morning and part of the afternoon. In addition, there will be some guest speakers that will talk about their personal experiences in the divided country from different perspectives. The course will be student focused. The course will be held in English and active knowledge of the English language is required.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Components of Final Mark

Evaluation format	Weight
Assignments during the summer school	30%
Book Review: Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth (to be completed before the start of the summer school)	30%
Group work during the summer school	20%
Participation	20%

Assignments during the summer school:

Students will get several short assignments to be completed during the summer school.

Book Review:

As a preparation for the course, I will ask you to write a 5 page (single-spaced) book review of the Berlin 1961: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth, which is a masterpiece of investigative history. This book review should also familiarize students with the Cold War situation of the divided Germany.

Group work during the summer school:

During the first day of the summer school, we will distribute a group project to an international group of students of the three participating countries (i.e. Germany, South Korea, and Canada). The topic of the group work will be related to the German Reunification and its broader ramifications.

Participation:

I expect active participation of all participants. This involves active involvement in the summer school

Pre-summer school meetings:

DATE	Schedule
Early May	Preparation meeting, logistics,
June (date and time to be determined)	Lecture: Germany after the 2 nd World War (1940-1950)
June (date and time to be determined)	Lecture: The divided Germany in the 1960s, and the construction of the Berlin Wall
June (date and time to be determined)	Lecture: The divided Germany in the 1970s and 1980s,

Preliminary Schedule: summer school

DATE	Schedule
Saturday, June 25 th	Departure for Rostock (please note that the departure might also be on Friday, June 24 th)
Sunday, June 26 th	Arrival in Rostock
Monday, June 27 th	Morning: Introduction to the summer school, presentation of participants, distribution of group work Afternoon: Guided city tour through Rostock Evening: Get together
Tuesday, June 28 th	Morning: International dimensions of German reunification (lecture) Afternoon: Economic aspects of German reunification (lecture) Evening: Boat trip in Warnemuende.
Wednesday, June 29 th	Morning: The secret police of East Germany and its role in the Peaceful Revolution of 1989/1990 (lecture) Afternoon: Introduction of a contemporary witness; Experience at a StaSi prison Evening: Group work
Thursday, June 30 th	Morning: History, memory and politics in the German Democratic Republic (lecture) Afternoon: City rally finding traces of history and memory in Rostock Evening: Movie night
Friday July 1 st	Morning: German politics after unification and regional implications (lecture) Afternoon: German reunification and the EU eastward expansion Evening: Group work
Saturday, July 2 nd	Excursion to Schwerin, the regional capital of Mecklenburg Vorpommern
Sunday, July 3 rd	Excursion to Bad Doberan and visit of a former border tower
Monday, July 4 th	Morning: The legal shaping of German reunification (lecture) Afternoon: Politics in contemporary Germany (lecture) Evening: Traditional East German music and dances
Tuesday, July 5 th	Morning: Gender relations in Germany before and after reunification. Afternoon: Presentation of group work

Wednesday, July 6th	Morning: Departure to Berlin Afternoon: City tour: Sites of Cold War History in the Capital Evening: Free time
Thursday, July 7th	Morning: Visit of Allied Museum Afternoon: Visit of the Berlin Wall Memorial Evening: Free time
Friday, July 8th	Morning: Guided tour at the Reichstag building and visit of the plenary hall of the German Bundestag Afternoon: Visit of the StaSi Museum Evening: Fare-well barbecue
Saturday, July 9th	Departure of participants