

Berlin Program Orientation – Spring 2023

Program Leaders: Nikolaus Loening and Martin McLean

Meetings: Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30 pm in Miller 104

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Office Hours: T 10:30am–12pm; W 3–3:45pm & F 2–3:30pm (or by appointment)

Google Classroom Site: <https://classroom.google.com/u/0/c/NDk2NzAzNDk3MDUz>

Goals for the orientation and how they will be achieved:

We have three major aims for the orientation program:

1. **To get to know each other.**
2. **To prepare for the academic component of the experience.**
3. **To get ready to travel and live in Berlin.**

Expectations:

- Attendance at all meetings
- Full participation in all activities
- Completing reading/listening assignments

Texts:

- Berlin City Guide (Lonely Planet, 2022). Recently updated and now in its 12th edition. I will assign various sections of it, but you are welcome to read the entire thing from cover-to-cover. This will be a good resource to have with you when we get to Berlin.
- Germany: Memories of a Nation (available for free to download from the BBC, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and a few other places). We are only listening to about half of the episodes, which I have tried to group thematically as assignments for three of our meetings. However, the entire series is excellent, so if you enjoy the assigned podcasts feel free to go ahead and listen to the other ones as well. And if you would rather read something than listen to it, there is a book version of the podcast.

Apps:

If you have an iPhone, you may find the following apps useful for getting around/navigating in Berlin. Equivalent apps can be found for Android phones.

- BVG Fahrinfo (Free): The BVG is the organization that operates public transport in Berlin. This free app lets you plan trips, check departure times, and even purchase tickets for immediate travel.
- VBB Bus & Bahn (Free): VBB is the umbrella organization that coordinates public transport for Berlin and the surrounding state of Brandenburg. This free app lets you plan trips, check departure times, and purchase tickets for immediate travel.
- Pocket Earth (Free to try, in-app purchase to download maps): A highly useful map application that allows you to save map data from OpenStreetMap (along with Wikipedia entries) to your phone. Very useful not only for finding your way around but also for finding information about local monuments, all without needing mobile internet access.

Berlin Orientation Schedule Spring 2023

Date	Activity
<p>Tuesday, Jan. 24</p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Introduction and a History of Berlin</u></p> <p>From “Berlin City Guide”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 37 – 43 (Play Your Trip: The Berlin Wall) • Pages 254 – 270 (Understand Berlin: History) <p>From “Germany: Memories of a Nation”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The View from the Gate • 1848: the People’s Flag and Karl Marx • Bismark the Blacksmith • Notgeld • Out of the Rubble • Divided Heaven
<p>Tuesday, Feb. 21</p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Cultural Values and Expectations</u></p> <p>From “Berlin City Guide”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 32 – 34 (Play Your Trip: Like a Local) • Pages 284 – 286 (Understand Berlin: Painting and Visual Arts) • Pages 287 – 290 (Understand Berlin: Literature and Film) • Pages 291 – 294 (Understand Berlin: Music) <p>From “Germany: Memories of a Nation”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gutenberg: In the Beginning was the Printer • Luther and a language for all Germans • One Nation under Goethe • One People, Many Sausages • Bauhaus: Cradle of the Modern
<p>Tuesday, March 14</p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Program Updates and Academic Expectations</u></p> <p>From “Berlin City Guide”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 86 – 87 (Explore Berlin: Reichstag) • Pages 271 – 283 (Understand Berlin: Architecture) <p>From “Germany: Memories of a Nation”</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Käthe Kollwitz: suffering witness • Buchenwald • The Germans expelled • The new German Jews • Reichstag
<p>Tuesday, April 11</p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 pm</p>	<p><u>Practical Issues: Packing, Appearance & Decorum, Money, etc.</u></p> <p>From “Berlin City Guide”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pages 18 – 19 (Plan Your Trip: Need to Know) • Pages 20 – 21 (Plan Your Trip: First Time Berlin) • Pages 54 – 59 (Plan Your Trip: Eating) • Pages 296 – 301 (Survival Guide: Transport) • Pages 302 – 306 (Survival Guide: Directory A-Z)
<p>Sunday, April 23</p>	<p>Group Excursion/Lunch</p>