

# GERM 381: Berlin Metropolis

“Berlin is neither the oldest nor the most beautiful German city. But its liveliness cannot be matched.”

Spring 2016

Tu Th 12:30pm – 01:45pm

Dr. Priscilla Layne

Dey 401



Founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Berlin may have started out as a swampy, provincial settlement, but it quickly became a hub of modernity and continues to draw people from all over the world. Almost no other metropolis has experienced such frequent, radical change transforming the face of the city. Although Berlin saw steady growth in its importance, dazzling epochs alternated with darker eras. Nevertheless, the formerly divided city has succeeded in becoming a vibrant metropolis in the heart of Europe. This course attempts to capture the spirit of the city by engaging students with several texts from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that are representative of Berlin’s literary and cultural history – from Theodore Fontane’s middle-class in Mitte to the Turkish community of Kreuzberg. We will not only read literary texts, but also watch films, listen to music and discuss art and architecture representative of the city.

*All materials and discussions in German.*

*Approach: Visual and Performing Arts*

*Connection: North Atlantic World*



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