



## Global Studies 270: Contemporary Europe Short Term Program in Berlin and Prague

May Intensive 2018

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Course Web Site: <http://blackboard.bentley.edu>

Office Hours: TTh 1:00-3:00 and by appointment.



Cost: \$3675 Travel Dates: 13-25 May 2018

Pre-departure meetings: Activity Periods 20 Feb, 20 Mar, and 10 April (+6:30-9:00!)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the human landscapes of contemporary Prague and Berlin, with reference to the ways in which these cities have been shaped by history. The thematic approach of the course examines Central Europe's complex physical, cultural, economic, and political landscapes. Our travel program provides a first-hand view of two of Europe's most important, yet dramatically different cities, and examines them within the context of Czech and German cultures and the broader European Union. In pre-travel sessions and while traveling, we will examine how these cities were shaped by Nazi Germany, World War II, the Communist period, and the European Union. We will also consider contemporary issues including the aftermath of Europe's recession, the immigrant crisis, security, and ongoing environmental concerns. The ultimate objective of the course is to foster a basic understanding of European landscapes and contemporary concerns by using two of the continent's most exciting cities as our classroom.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course challenges students to view the world from two new and different **perspectives**. Experiential learning in Europe facilitates the development of international travel **skills** and critical thinking **skills**, supported by reflection and discussion. The course also helps the students build **knowledge** of Central Europe as follows:

### Specifically...

- to get to know two of Europe's leading cities through first-hand immersion.
- to discover the fundamental characteristics of German and Czech culture and to embrace the challenges of flourishing as a guest within these cultures.
- to recognize the important role of Germany and the Czech Republic within Europe and to understand their ongoing social and economic issues.
- to understand contemporary Berlin and Prague as reflected through their built environments.

## Academic Credit and Cost

This course represents 3.0 credit hours and counts as Global Studies, Arts & Science, or unrestricted elective. The cost of travel expenses is \$3675, and includes airfare, transfers, hotel (3-4 stars, central city locations), all breakfasts, one daily group meal, cultural programs, and entrance fees/tickets for all group events. After the \$500 deposit, the balance of \$31750 will be billed directly to your Bentley account as summer tuition.

## REQUIRED RESOURCES

Maps: Brown, Michael (any edition). *Streetwise Berlin*. *Streetwise Prague*.

## ARTICLES

Ahlfeldt, G.M., Redding, S.J., Sturm, D.M. and Wolf, N., 2015. The economics of density: Evidence from the Berlin Wall. *Econometrica*, 83 (6), pp.2127-2189.

Gabriel M. Ahlfeldt, Wolfgang Maennig, and Felix J. Richter. 2017. Urban renewal after the Berlin Wall: a place-based policy evaluation. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 17. 129-156.

Deichmann, Joel I. 2007. International Tourism from the Perspective of Czech Hospitality Professionals: A Pilot Study for Exploring Origin-Specific Stereotypes. *E-Review of Tourism Research*, vol. 5, no. a, 2007.

Deichmann, Joel I., Eshghi, Abdolreza, Haughton, Dominique, and Li, Mingfei. 2017. Socio-Economic Convergence in Europe One Decade after the EU Enlargement of 2004: Application of Self-Organizing Maps. *Eastern European Economics*. 3, 236-260. DOI:10.1080/00128775.2017.1287547.

Ellger, Christof (Guest lecturer). 1992. Berlin: Legacies of Division and Problems of Unification. *The Geographical Journal*. 158 (40-46).

Holmes, S.M. and Castaneda, H., 2016. Representing the “European refugee crisis” in Germany and beyond: Deservingness and difference, life and death. *American Ethnologist*, 43 (1), pp.12-24.

Ouředníček, M., 2016. The relevance of “Western” theoretical concepts for investigations of the margins of post-socialist cities: the case of Prague. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, pp.1-20.

Schäffler, J., Hecht, V. and Moritz, M., 2016. Regional determinants of German FDI in the Czech Republic: new evidence on the role of border regions. *Regional Studies*, pp.1-13.

*Additional readings will be added according to current events in 2017-18.*

### **Travel in Berlin (13-20 May) and Prague (21-25 May):**

Site Visits- appropriate attire required (most importantly, comfortable shoes!).

- Guided German Parliament (Bundestag) visit
- “Living lecture” at Potsdamer Platz, ultramodern epicenter of new Berlin (Christof Ellger, Freie Universität Berlin)
- Alexanderplatz, central square of communist East Berlin, and surroundings
- Potsdam palaces and gardens (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Group museum visits: Hitler’s Bunker, Holocaust Monument, Checkpoint Charlie
- Team visit to your choice of over 200 other museums in Berlin or Prague
- Show at Friedrichstadtpalast, Europe’s largest dance revue
- Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp in Oranienburg, suburb of Berlin
- Train from Berlin→ Prague with stop in historic Dresden
- Prague’s Medieval streets and squares, Vltava river dinner cruise
- Urban geography and geography lectures at Charles University—Europe’s oldest
- Radio Free Europe headquarters
- CzechInvest- Czech government investment agency
- Excursion to Plzen with General Patton Museum and company visit at Plsner Urquell

## **Grading Policy**

Your grade for this course is calculated from the earned percentage of 500 possible points. Pass/fail options are not allowed for STPs, and no incomplete grades will be given without a written petition, including an explanation of how and when the requirements will be completed. Grades will be submitted by 1 June 2018.

- 100 points - Short Quizzes. Language, locations, and some reading topics as announced.
- 100 points - Daily Journal in Europe.
- 100 points- Short Assignments: Film Reviews (2), Paper Proposal (pre-departure), Museum Reports.
- 100 points – Group Term Paper
- 100 points - Participation in Europe, including Trailboss for one day (see expectations below)

## **Short Quizzes**

A mixed format quiz will be given during our second pre-session. Further vocabulary quizzes will be given during morning sessions in Berlin and Prague. Topics will be announced beforehand; you will be told exactly what to prepare (for example, elementary vocabulary, basic facts about locations on our itinerary).

## **Daily Journal Assignment**

This is a journal for YOU! But of course, I will check in to make sure that you complete it! ☺ Everyone will be provided with an empty journal. Write your expectations before departure, report your experiences every day while traveling, then summarize the experience upon your return. This journal should be kept as something you can look back upon years from now to remember your experience. Therefore, you need to provide some context that might otherwise be taken for granted. For example, why are there more 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in Prague than in Berlin? Why is so much Turkish food available in Berlin? Set aside time each evening to reflect upon the day's activities and jot down your notes. Each entry should be at least two pages long, and should not simply re-hash our daily activities, but rather include your thoughts and impressions.

**Session I:** Course introduction and requirements, expectations. Introduction to Germany, Czechia, and their cultures.

**Session II:** Defining Europe, Overview of Physical and Human Geography. Review materials for First Quiz

**Session III:** Modern History and Contemporary Issues of Central Europe

Contemporary Issues in our host countries, getting around, and travel safety.

**Seminar meetings continue with Daily Q&A/Study Sessions (usually 8 am, hotel common space, TBA)**

## **Short Assignments**

You will be required to view two films on your own time (with classmates, if you wish) during the spring semester. Each person must write a one-page reaction to each film and be prepared to discuss it at the following pre-session. I have DVDs of several of these films, but you're also welcome to borrow them from Netflix, Amazon, or the Solomon Baker Library. In addition, you will be required to submit a one-page proposal for your thematic paper before we leave Boston. Together, Berlin and Prague offer more than 200 museums, so you will be given free time to visit two museums of your choice and informally present your report back to the class.

### **Group Term Paper**

Prior to travel, groups will be assigned to write a paper covering a contemporary issue in the Czech Republic or Germany that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of material covered in the course. This intensive class offers a wealth of opportunities for comparative papers, and you are encouraged to gather primary data while traveling. Some possible topics might relate to the following: Prospects for the European Union, Trump's America in the eyes of Europe, Artifacts of the Cold War, Turkish Residents in Berlin, Effects of Recession, or the Refugee Crisis. Paper length must be 10-15 pages, and further details will be provided at our first class meeting.

### **Additional Parameters**

1. Students are encouraged to discuss their projects with the professor throughout the course, and especially during travel.
2. Structural and mechanics matter, as do citations and references. The paper should include a bibliography that includes at least five recent items, and at least two of these should be two journal articles. The articles must be dated since 2012. Please use APA format. Wikipedia is not a scholarly source of information, and should not be used in your references.
3. The paper is due at noon on Friday, 1 June 2018. You may submit your paper in hard copy or by email.

### **Teaching Philosophy and Expectations in the Field**

Have fun learning! Every group member will enjoy considerable freedom while traveling. Of course, responsible adult behavior is expected at all times. In Europe, we are ambassadors for Bentley and for our home countries. Both Germans and Czechs emphasize timeliness and discipline, so we need to dress appropriately and arrive punctually for each activity. Students should behave respectfully toward our hosts, one another, and the leaders. Each student will serve as "Trailboss for One Day", assisting the professor and the local coordinator with logistics and sometimes helping with decision-making. Because the program is subject to change, at dismissal time, students should confirm the time of the next day's first meeting. In

addition, please consult the Survival Tips appended to this document. Any blatant recklessness will result in an “F” and a premature return at your own expense.

**In addition:**

- Familiarize yourself with the Office of International Education’s guidelines. If you act outside of these or the expectations outlined above, you may be sent home at any time at the discretion of the instructor and at your own expense. If you are sent home, you will fail the course.
- The group will travel together from Boston and return there unless the professor is notified before the application deadline. Deviation from the group, if possible, requires students to sign a waiver of responsibility and pay any difference in airfare.

**Physical Activity During Faculty-Led International Courses**

Please be aware that faculty-led international courses are not typical classroom experiences, and students will be expected to participate in physical activities, some of which may seem quite strenuous. While in Europe, our group will do a lot of walking, and we will rely mainly on public transportation for most of our urban excursions. We may also rent bicycles in Berlin or Potsdam, as these are flat, expansive cities. Students are expected to participate in all activities unless they require program modification and/or reasonable accommodation due to a disability. Documentation from the Office of Disability Services will be required in such cases.

**About the Professor**

Prof. Deichmann has taught full-time at Bentley since earning his Ph.D. (University at Buffalo) in 1999. His other Bentley courses include GLS 110: *Global Regions*, GLS 325: *Global Tourism*, and GLS 276 *Transition Economies of Europe*, as well as Social Context in the Bentley MBA program. He has led 16 travel study courses to countries including Germany, Poland, Czechia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Ghana, and he assisted with programs in South Africa, Chile, Turkey, and China. His research is on foreign direct investment, international tourism, and economic convergence with a regional specialty of Central and Eastern Europe. Prof. Deichmann’s travel book entitled *Passion for Place: Embracing Global Wanderlust* was published in 2015. His wife Karen is a Senior Manager of Human Resources at Comcast, and they have three kids: Charlie (20), Isabela (18), and James (16). Interests include travel, music, movies, hiking, and running “tenth-marathons”. In 2014, he finished his 20-year quest to visit all 3143 counties in the USA.

# A Few Survival Tips and Best Practices for International Travel

## Version 17.1 (2018)

### Overarching Guidelines

- ✚ Expect the unexpected. Keep an open mind, be prepared for surprises, and react calmly!
- ✚ Be flexible: our daily program will change as necessary and as opportunities arise. Each night before you are dismissed, it is your responsibility to know where and when we will meet to start the next day.
- ✚ When traveling with a large group, scheduling demands or safety concerns beyond our control sometimes supersede individual convenience. If you miss a meal, pack a candy bar and water bottle.
- ✚ Arrive punctually for every event, and stay with The Pack. If you “miss the boat”, you are responsible for finding/catching up with the group at your own expense; habitual lateness will impact your grade.

### Money and Safety

- ✚ Before leaving the US, call your bank to let them know you’re traveling with ATM or credit cards.
- ✚ Purchase a money belt and don’t put anything of value in open pockets. Pickpockets thrive in Europe!
- ✚ Non-Bentley guests are not permitted in the hotel rooms.
- ✚ Use the buddy-system, and preferably more than one buddy. Avoid going out alone at night.

### Packing

- ✚ Pack your essentials in your carry-on. Sometimes luggage misses the flight connection or gets lost.
- ✚ I suggest that you leave your laptop computer at home. Bring a notepad and pen instead—these are easier to carry and less likely to get stolen!
- ✚ “Don’t bring the House”: one medium-sized suitcase and a day pack should be sufficient.
  - We will be traveling with public transportation- trains, trams, and buses. You must be able to handle what you bring.
  - Carry a daypack for water, snacks, and an umbrella or rain jacket.
  - Leave space in the “outbound” suitcase for “inbound” souvenirs!

### Clothing

- ✚ Central Europe’s weather is normally similar to Boston’s, so it can also be unpredictable.
- ✚ Parliament and places of worship won’t let you in with bare legs or shoulders.
- ✚ Jeans or khakis are normally ideal to wear, especially with a button-down shirt and dress shoes.
- ✚ Comfortable, water-resistant shoes are ideal; don’t plan on “working in” new shoes on the trip.

### Other Supplies

- ✚ Alarm clock, watch, and sun lotion! We’ll be up early and spending a lot of time outdoors.
- ✚ Any required medications plus cough drops and vitamins (in your carry-on bag).
- ✚ Extra batteries and memory cards for your camera (to avoid a goose chase and inflated prices).
- ✚ International currency adaptor if you bring your own hair dryer or razor. Some hotels have hair dryers.
- ✚ A lock for your luggage is advisable within Europe. Do not lock your luggage on international flights.

### Take Cues from Locals

- ✚ Don’t be ugly (as in “Ugly American”): consider dress, behavior, and speech volume.
- ✚ Keep the language clean (many “naughty” words are international, as is resentment of their use!). In Europe, you can be fined for “flipping the bird”.
- ✚ Please, no ear buds when with the group or when professor or guide speaks. Plan to interact, look out the window, ask questions, and listen to answers.
- ✚ Be respectful of everyone you meet- you represent Bentley and the USA!

