



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

May Intensive 2020

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Spring Office Hours: MTh 8:00-10:00, 12:30-2:00 and by appointment.



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 at least two new and different **perspectives**, and purposefully facilitates the development of international travel **skills** and critical thinking **skills** through 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 \$3695 and includes airfare, transfers, hotel (3-4 stars, central city locations), all breakfasts, nine group meals, cultural programs, and entrance fees/tickets for all group events. After the \$500 deposit, the balance of \$3195 will be billed directly to your Bentley account as summer tuition.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

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

REQUIRED ARTICLES (others will be added as the course approaches)

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.

Bauer, Karin, and J.R. Hosek (eds). 2017. *Cultural Topographies of the New Berlin*. New York: Berghahn. (selected chapters)

Deichmann, Joel I., and Brittani Murphy. 2018. A Survey Investigation of International Tourist Motivations and Impediments in the Republic of Croatia. *e-Review of Tourism Research*. <https://ertr.tamu.edu/>, 15 (6). 512-539.

Ellger, Christof, and Kai Richter. 1998. The New Berlin: Towards the Sustainable Capital? Chapter 16 in Hedegaard and Lindström's *The NEBI Yearbook 1998*. Berlin: Springer.

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.

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.

Nijman, J., P. Muller, and H. J. DeBlj. 2017. "The European Realm" in *Regions* (17th edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons. Pp 144-193.

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.

Till, K. 2005. *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (selected chapters)

Travel in Berlin (10-16 May) and Prague (16-22 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 (Prof. C. Ellger)
- Alexanderplatz, central square of communist East Berlin, and surroundings
- Potsdam palaces and gardens (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Group museum visits: Holocaust Monument, Checkpoint Charlie
- Team visit to your choice of over 150 other museums in Berlin
- Show at Friedrichstadtpalast Europe's largest dance revue
- Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp near Oranienburg, suburb of Berlin
- Spectacular scenery on our train from Berlin → Prague
- Prague's Medieval streets and squares, Vltava river meal cruise
- Urban geography and geography lectures at Charles University—Europe's oldest
- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty headquarters visit and meeting
- CzechInvest- Czech government investment agency
- Cesky Krumlov, (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Company visit to Budvar in České Budějovice

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 2020.

- 100 points - Short Quizzes. Language, countries and capitals, and readings.
- 100 points - Daily Journal in Europe.
- 100 points- Short Assignments: Film reviews (2), paper proposal (pre-departure), museum report.
- 100 points – Term Paper
- 100 points - Participation in Europe (see expectations below)

Short Quizzes

The first 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; for example, elementary vocabulary, important reading content, basic facts about locations on our itinerary, and so on.

Daily Journal Assignment

Everyone must maintain a travel journal on a daily basis. First, write your expectations for the trip prior to departure and email them to the professor to show that you've gotten started. What to write about? It's up to you, but one suggestion is cross-cultural differences. Document your experiences each day while traveling, then summarize the entire trip upon returning home. Feel free to append photos or other visuals. This journal should be kept as something you can look back upon years from now. Each entry should be at least two pages long (standard margins, double-spaced, size 12). You should not simply re-hash our daily activities, but rather elaborate upon your thoughts and impressions. For example, why are there more 19th 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. You must email your completed journal to the professor within 72 hours of our departure from Prague.

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

Homework for next class:

- 1.) Read "The European Realm" (handout). Prepare for map quiz next class (all countries and capitals).
- 2.) Discussion of individual film screening (choose one for each country): **Germany** (*The Tunnel* OR *Goodbye Lenin!*); **Czechia** (*Pupendo* OR *Anthropoid*). One page reaction paper, and be prepared to share your impressions.

Session II: Defining Europe, Overview of Physical and Human Geography. Map Quiz: Countries and Capitals (including micro-states). A few words in German.

Session III: Modern History of Central Europe; Paper topics due! Quiz on "Europe" Chapter and Introductory German Vocabulary. Title IX and safety issues, getting around, and other travel questions.

Short Assignments

You will be required to complete a total of four assignments: First, 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 second pre-session. Depending upon the film, you may be able to rent from Netflix, Amazon, or borrow from the Solomon Baker Library. Second, you are required to submit a one-page formal paper proposal/bibliography at our second meeting. Finally, you are required to visit one museum of your choice during our travels. Berlin and Prague together have hundreds of museums, and you will be given time to choose one and informally present your report back to the class. Choose carefully and take this assignment seriously. For example, the "Museum of Communism" is a good choice; the "Sex Machine Museum" and "the Museum of Broken Relationships" are not. If you have any questions about your selection, please ask Professor Deichmann.

Individual Term Paper

Prior to travel, you will write your term paper. Your paper should cover a contemporary issue facing Germany and/or Czechia. 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, Turks in Berlin, Effects of Recession, or the Refugee Crisis. Paper length is 8-10 pages, APA format (double-spaced, typed in a standard 12 point font with one inch margins all around). Illustrations (maps, graphs, photographs) should be added to these page guidelines and either embedded in the text or referenced in the text ("As shown in Figure 3...").

Additional Parameters

1. Term Papers are due before we travel; your topic should be discussed at each pre-departure meeting.
2. Structural and mechanics matter, as do citations and references. The paper should include a bibliography that features at least five recent items (since 2018), and at least two of these should be two journal articles. Wikipedia is not a scholarly source of information, and should not be used in your references.

Expectations in the Field

We will immerse ourselves in the two host cities, and enjoy considerable contact with local residents and other visitors. We should consider ourselves ambassadors for Bentley and for our home countries, and responsible adult behavior is expected at all times. Germans and Czechs both emphasize punctuality and

discipline, so we need to dress appropriately and arrive on time for each activity. Students should behave respectfully toward our hosts, one another, and the leaders. At the end of each day, students should confirm the time for the next day's first meeting, because sometimes our program will change. In addition, please consult the Survival Tips appended to this document. Students are bound by Title IX requirements and the local laws of the country. Any blatant recklessness will result in an "F" and a premature return at your own expense. Participation grades are based upon your preparation for each event and the initiative you demonstrate in interactions with our local hosts.

Trailboss for the Day

Each student will serve as "trail boss" for one day. The trail boss is responsible for assisting with logistics, communicating between members of our group, and helping to secure tables for meetings at breakfast, and in some cases weighing in on itinerary decisions. For example, the first trail bosses will set up a *WhatsApp* group and assist the professors during our flights.

Other Items:

- Title IX applies fully to this course. "What happens in Europe does (not) stay in Europe". Familiarize yourself with these 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.
- Please be aware that faculty-led international courses are not typical classroom experiences, and are expected to participate in activities that may be physically strenuous. Typically these include considerable walking. Students are expected to participate unless they require modification and/or reasonable accommodation due to a disability. In such cases, documentation from the Office of Disability Services will be required.
- For group meals, individuals will generally order from the standard menu. Please be considerate of our group expenses when you order. The beverage policy is two drinks per meal; hard alcohol and large (one-liter) beers cannot be included in the Bentley tab.

About the Professors

Prof. Deichmann has taught full-time at Bentley since earning his Ph.D. in Economic Geography (University at Buffalo) in 1999. His other Bentley courses include GLS 110: *Global Regions* and GLS 325: *Global Tourism*. He has led 18 travel study courses to countries including Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, 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 non-fiction travel book entitled *Passion for Place: Embracing Global Wanderlust* was published in 2015. His wife Karen is a Senior HR Manager and certified life coach, and

they have three kids: Charlie (22), Isabela (20), and James (18), and two dogs: Larry Mullen, Jr. the Anatolian Shepherd and Fajita the Chihuahua. Interests include travel, music, movies, hiking, and jogging.

Our assisting professor Prof. Malgwi is Senior Lecturer in Bentley's Accountancy Department, holding a PhD from the Reading University in the United Kingdom. He is also a certified fraud examiner. His teaching interests include financial accounting, managerial accounting, international accounting, fraud and forensic accounting. Originally from Nigeria, he has co-led many Bentley short term programs, especially to Ghana in West Africa. He and Prof. Deichmann have taught together and collaborated on two peer-reviewed journal publications.

About the Local Experts

Vojta and Marketa are full-time university students and residents of Prague, and recently graduated from university. They both spent one year in Waltham, MA while their father Prof. Tomas Cahlik was teaching in Bentley's Economics Department. Both have excellent English skills and have traveled extensively in Europe and North America. Their role is to accompany our group through much of our trip, assisting with logistical, translation, and any issues that arise. We will be accompanied by several other faculty and students at different points throughout our travels, including Bentley alumni.

A Few Survival Tips and Best Practices for International Travel

Version 17.1 (2020)

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 group. 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 your ATM or credit cards.
- ✚ Purchase a money belt and don’t put anything of value in open pockets. Pickpockets can be common!
- ✚ Non-Bentley guests are not permitted in the hotel rooms.
- ✚ Use the buddy-system, and preferably walk with more than one buddy. Avoid going out alone at night.

Packing

- ✚ Pack your essentials in your carry-on. These include medications, vitamins, contact lens items, and a change of clothing. Sometimes luggage misses the flight connection or gets lost.
- ✚ If you choose to bring your laptop or phone, take greater care than on campus. Use the safes in your rooms.
- ✚ Full-sized note pad with paper and pen for meetings and classes.
- ✚ Jacket and sun lotion; we’ll be spending a lot of time outdoors.
- ✚ Understand your international calling plan and don’t forget your chargers.
- ✚ European (220) converter/adaptor if you bring your own hair dryer or razor. Some hotels have hair dryers.
- ✚ “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 with 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: normally mild by can also be unpredictable.
- ✚ Parliament and places of worship won’t let you enter 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.

Take Cues from Locals

- ✚ Don’t be ugly (as in “Ugly American”): Consider clothing, behavior, 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”
- ✚ Do not jaywalk, especially in Germany. You will be fined!
- ✚ Never board public transportation without a valid ticket. You will be caught and fined!
- ✚ On the bus or train, interact, look out the window, and talk to people! ☺
- ✚ Be respectful of everyone you meet- you represent Bentley and the USA!

