



LSU/Honors Spring Break in Berlin

LSU | Roger Hadfield
Ogden Honors College

Spring Break Excursion
March 20-28, 2020

German Surveillance States: Nazi Germany & East Germany in Film and Literature

HNRS 2013.02 • Spring 2020 • Mondays & Wednesdays 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Dr. Michael Dettinger, Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literatures

As part of the LSU/Honors Spring Break in Berlin program, this course will introduce students to the surveillance states of Germany during the National Socialist period as well as during the years of former East Germany. Students will more closely examine the concept of these totalitarian (“Big Brother”) societies as they are portrayed in the films *The Lives of Others* (von Donnersmarck, 2007) and *Triumph of the Will* (Riefenstahl, 1935). Moreover, students will also analyze multiple scholarly writings on each topic as well as the text *1984* by George Orwell, which represents a fictional interpretation of these surveillance/“Big Brother” states.

Students learn about Germany’s history during the Nazi and East German periods, through scholarly articles, texts, and films. After studying the role of totalitarian control and surveillance in Germany, the class will visit Berlin during spring break to gain first hand experiences with the ways the German government implemented total control, as well as how citizens reacted and, in some cases, resisted. Site visits will include: Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, Hohenschönhausen Prison Memorial, the German Historical Museum and DDR Museum, the Topography of Terror, the Berlin Wall, and more. The spring break excursion will provide experiences that deepen students’ understanding of the historical and cultural contexts studied in the course.

Notes

- Enrollment in this course requires participation in a spring break excursion to Berlin, Germany on **March 20-28, 2020**.
- The program fee for the excursion is **\$2,300**, which covers round-trip airfare from New Orleans, LA to Berlin; ground transportation throughout Berlin; housing; all meals; course-related fieldtrips and excursions; and health insurance.
- The program fee will be charged to student’s fee bill in the spring 2020 semester.
- This course is open to all LSU students, regardless of enrollment in Ogden Honors College. If the program fills up, priority will be given to Honors College students, students with at least two semesters of German, and students with prior coursework related to German history and culture.

For more information about Spring Break in Berlin and HNRS 2013, please contact Dr. Michael Dettinger at mbdett1@lsu.edu.