

Spring Quarter 2021

BERLIN

Washington State Community College
Consortium for Study Abroad





Depart U.S.:
Thursday, March 25, 2021

Arrive Berlin:
Friday, March 26, 2021

Depart Berlin:
Friday, June 4, 2021

Berlin is one of the most vibrant and exciting European capitals. The East and West sides of the city have retained their own identity since reunification and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Thanks to the rebuilding process Berlin has become a focus for modern architecture and remains a major center of art and international business. The city, with its many famous parks and lakes, becomes especially full of life in the spring and summer when the locals are out on foot, bicycles and skates, populating the many beer gardens.

INCLUDED

- Student housing in fully furnished studio apartments, with access to a shared, fully-equipped kitchen.
- On-site orientation with AIFS staff covering topics such as safety and security, a local area walking tour, and a welcome dinner.
- Travel pass for unlimited use of the Berlin public transportation system.
- German Life and Culture course.
- Half-day sightseeing tour of Berlin by private bus.
- Weekly program of cultural activities such as a boat cruise, opera tickets, a sporting event, museum visits, a street art workshop and walking tour.
- Guided tour of the Reichstag.
- Daytrip to Potsdam including round-trip transportation, a private bus for city sightseeing, entrances and guided tours of Cecilienhof Palace and to Sanssouci Palace.
- Half-day excursion to the Memorial and Museum of Sachsenhausen including round-trip transportation, entrance, and audio guides.
- Access to the AIFS Student Center and Student Services staff for information, personal advising/counseling and 24-hour emergency contact service.
- Student medical and program fee refund insurance policies.

OPTIONAL TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE

On a space-available basis, students may purchase the optional transportation package consisting of round-trip airfare between Seattle and Berlin and round-trip airport transfers between the accommodations and airport in Berlin for an additional \$TBC plus mandatory U.S. government and airline-imposed departure taxes, fees and fuel surcharges of \$TBC (subject to change) for which students will be billed separately. *A minimum of 10 students must purchase the flight for it to be offered.*

OPTIONAL PRAGUE EXCURSION

An optional 3-day, 2-night excursion to Prague is available, including round-trip train tickets, accommodation in a centrally-located hotel in multi-bedded rooms with daily breakfast, guided walking tour of Prague's historical center and Jewish Quarter, traditional Czech group dinner, and a travel pass for unlimited use on city buses, trams, subways, and funicular, for \$495. *A minimum of 10 students must participate for the excursion to be offered.*

FEES

Based on an enrollment of 15 or more participants, the fee per person is \$7,595.

This fee excludes airfare, optional insurance upgrades, passport or visa fees, meals other than those listed, personal expenses, any WCCSA home campus tuition or administrative fees, textbooks, additional field trips or excursions required by the WCCSA faculty and anything not specified.

These fees are guaranteed not to change as a result of fluctuations in the \$ exchange rate

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Students registering on or before Friday, October 30, 2020, will receive a \$100 reduction off of the program fee.

FINANCIAL AID

Many students are eligible to apply for financial aid, grants and loans to assist with the costs of the Berlin program. Early application is essential. Contact your home institution's financial aid office promptly if you are interested in this possibility. Be sure to identify yourself as a potential Berlin program participant.

FACULTY

BEN KOHN, WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ben Kohn's scholarly training and personal enthusiasms have resulted in his applying an interdisciplinary approach to all of his courses. Ben pursued his graduate studies at the University of Washington in the field of Comparative Literature, with an emphasis in German, American, Russian, and Danish Literature, as well as literary and critical theory. He also studied the classical violin for over 20 years, receiving training at The Vancouver Academy of Music, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, and Det Fynske Musikkonservatorium, Odense, Denmark. He is currently a professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts and the Department of World Languages at Whatcom Community College. His most recent research interests include human evolution and the origins of symbolic representation, German Expressionist everything, the art of propaganda, cultural notions of dissonance in music, global Street Art, and perfecting his version of Bienenstich cake. Ben has previously taught for WCCCSA in Florence, Italy, and Berlin, Germany.

COURSES

Students will enroll for 15 credits to include the mandatory German Life and Culture course and two courses taught by WCCCSA faculty.

See your campus coordinator for course numbering.

GERMAN LIFE AND CULTURE (5 CREDITS)

German Faculty

Taught by a qualified local German adjunct lecturer, this course focuses on the historical, political, economic, and cultural aspects of contemporary Germany. Some beginner German language instruction is also included.

FILM 101: INTRODUCTION TO FILM (5 CREDITS)

Next to Hollywood, Germany has been home to one of the most influential and important film industries in the world. Indeed, during the 1920s and early 1930s, it was the undisputed center of cinematic creativity and quality. At the center of this center was Berlin, or more specifically, a studio on the outskirts of Berlin in Babelsberg. Babelsberg was a government-supported studio complex that was designed to advance German filmmaking before and during WWII and East German filmmaking after the war. While German filmmakers developed numerous technical innovations here, their most essential achievement was the development of cinema as an art, transcending its role as a provider of novelty and entertainment. As we will be examining film as art, we can easily use German films and film clips almost exclusively to illustrate in detail the technical elements of film (form, narrative structure, mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound), as well as investigate how films can make us see, then feel and think differently.

MUSIC 105: MUSIC APPRECIATION (5 CREDITS)

This course will explore the extremely varied and rich history of Western art or composed music, popularly and somewhat inaccurately (our first discussion) referred to as the “Western Classical Tradition.” Because we are lucky enough to be situated in Berlin, we will focus most intensely on the musical contributions of the composers and performers of this region. Actually, this would probably be the case if you were to take an introductory musicology course anywhere in the world, especially if you were discussing the music of the 19th, 20th or 21st centuries. As genre boundaries are constantly being blurred in this contemporary music, we will necessarily undertake some Jazz and World Music studies, as well as investigate several Electronica styles. I will arrange for the class to attend numerous concerts of music throughout the quarter. All of these concerts will be preceded by scholarly preparation and will require the writing of musical reviews after the performance. Therefore, while the course will be much more about music as a socio-cultural phenomenon throughout history than a course on music theory, you will be required to become familiar with some critical vocabulary and basic elements of this music for the purposes of analysis.

SECOND FACULTY (WHEN ENROLLMENT REACHES 22 PARTICIPANTS)

VERO BARRERA-KOLB, SEATTLE CENTRAL COLLEGE

As a Latin American diaspora and partnered with an Austrian, traveling abroad has become an intimate part of her life. In her late teens Vero spent over two years traveling in the Southern cone and became intrigued with how gender production and presentation is shaped by the cultural, economic, and social context of place. The questions she asked then continue to shape her research, filmmaking, teaching, and activist life.

Vero earned her Bachelor of Arts from The Evergreen State College where she found her passion for interdisciplinary studies and film-making. She received her MA in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College where she produced her first documentary film on Latin-x immigrants in higher education. She then earned a Masters in Communication from the University of Washington in the Native Voices Documentary Film Program and did Doctoral work in Feminist Studies in the Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies Department. While pursuing her PhD she traveled to Chile to conduct research with human rights activists and produced a documentary film about memory, gender and human rights. She is currently a tenured instructor at Seattle Central College in the Humanities Department.

COURSES

HUM 105: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS (5 CREDITS)

The history of Germany is troubled and can shape the relationship between communication and cultural practice in ways we are unable to see without some skill and analysis. Speaking to each other across cultural practice, shaped by social dynamics and histories is the focus of our class. Using an interdisciplinary lens, we will look at the social, cultural and economic issues that surround the intricate relationship between communication and cultural practice in order to see how race, class and gender interact with cultural forms of communication in the context of our changing world, particularly globalization, new technologies, and global economic crisis. We will use Berlin as a backdrop to explore the ways the histories of the Holocaust and its aftermath shape the ways we perceive the city and examine the cultural and social context of memory and reckoning of the German people.

WMN 200: INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES (5 CREDITS)

Does gender get presented and produced differently in Berlin, Germany than in the US? Of course it does, but how do we interpret it and use it to analyze and reflect on our gender, sex and sexuality? How we see and live our lives is fundamentally shaped and organize along gender lines. We are rarely made aware of that shaping and less so the way it arranges our daily life. Yet, many of us begin our day by “doing gender” and move about our day repeating those gendered acts and practices; shaving your legs or your face, putting cologne or perfume, eating nonfat foods or a protein shake, wearing skirts or pants, etc.

This class will introduce you to gender, women and sexuality studies, an interdisciplinary academic field, and its respective theories, methods and frameworks. The way we analysis gender, women, and sexuality emerges from many disciplines working together that allows for a multidimensional view of human experience. We will start our work with the understanding that there is no genetic nor universal category of woman or man. Rather, that knowledge, history, policies and norms are produced, shaped, mediated and governed to construct gender in particular ways. We will also explore the ways gender and sexuality are tied up with and inseparable from other social locations, such as race, disability, age, ethnicity, citizenship and class.

AIFS REFUND POLICY

All notification of withdrawal must be made in writing via fax or certified mail to: Registrar, Customized, Faculty-led Programs, AIFS Study Abroad, 1 High Ridge Park, Stamford, CT 06905. The fax number is 203.399.5597. Postmark date or date of fax transmission is considered date of withdrawal. All withdrawal statements must be signed by the applicant, or they will not be processed.

If a student withdraws on or before Friday, January 8, 2021, a full refund will be made less \$150 plus any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

If a student withdraws after Friday, January 8, 2021, but on or before Friday, January 29, 2022, for any reason except medical covered by the AIFS Fees Refund and Medical Insurance Policy, the \$450 deposit fee is forfeited, along with any non-refundable deposits paid either by the student or by AIFS on the student's behalf.

If a student is forced to withdraw from the program because of covered medical reasons after final fees have been paid but before departure, a refund will be made through the Fees Refund and Medical Insurance Policy, less a \$150 processing fee and the \$210 insurance premium. The policy requires written proof of medical reasons provided by your physician.

Students withdrawing voluntarily for any reason after Friday, January 29, 2021, including withdrawals because of medical reasons not covered under the medical refund policy, receive no refund of fees paid unless they are able to provide a qualified replacement. In this case, they receive a full refund of all payments made less the \$150 processing and cancellation fee and any non-refundable deposits.

Replacement students must pay in full at the time of application. Flights cannot be arranged for replacement students applying after Friday, January 8, 2021. Once the program has started, students withdrawing receive no refund under any circumstances. This refund policy is necessary because the booking of facilities in Berlin requires substantial non-refundable payments and commitments by AIFS in advance.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

AIFS provides each student with a group insurance policy issued by the Ace American Insurance Company. Please see https://www.aifscustomized.com/pdf/insurance_semaster.pdf for full details of the insurance coverage, including the optional medical insurance upgrade and personal effects coverage.



DEADLINES TO APPLY

Friday, October 30, 2020

(students applying by this date will receive the \$100 early bird discount)

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

(for students wishing to purchase the group flight)

Friday, January 8, 2021

(for students wishing to purchase own flight)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY:

Go to www.wccsa.com, and make an appointment with the study abroad coordinator on your campus:

Bellevue College

Li Liu
li.liu@bellevuecollege.edu
425.564.2646

Cascadia College

Lisa Lyman
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Clark College

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360.992.2390

Edmonds Community College

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425.640.1618

Green River College

Megan Swanson
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253.833.9111, ext. 4892

Lower Columbia College

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Olympic College

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Peninsula College

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Pierce College

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Seattle Colleges (Central, North, South)

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Skagit Valley College

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Whatcom Community College

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offered in
partnership with



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