Program Narrative: Berlin Culture and Society and Study of German language

Study Abroad Program: Berlin, Germany
Dr. Evelyn Trotter and Dr. Prisca Augustyn and Dr. Andrea DeCapua

The Program:

Berlin: Culture and Society offers students an ultimate firsthand learning experience in Berlin, the capital of Germany and an exciting and vibrant multi-cultural European metropolis. With its old-world beauty and hip, modern scenes, Berlin is an exciting city of contrasts. Forever evolving, Berlin provides visitors with dazzling achievements of the 21st century against the backdrop of its past: Prussian and pre-WWII architecture stand back-to-back with chic, modern buildings and innovative uses of space, both old and new. A perfect balance of urban landscape and green space, Berlin offers opportunities to enjoy fast-paced city life while finding time to relax in parks, stroll along the banks of the river intersecting the heart of the city, and partake in the café experience. University students mingle with German Hausfrauen, businessmen, trendsetters, and tourists from around the world. Berlin’s renowned climate of tolerance, openness and experimentation gives Berlin a vibrant cultural richness that is accessible to all visitors. Berlin is a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly city and has excellent public transportation.

A cultural hub of Europe, where East and West Europe come together, Berlin is renowned for its architecture, literature, music, art, theater, and nightclubs. Centrally located in Europe, Berlin has also been a crossroads of history. Students participate in exciting day excursions, led by experienced native speakers of German, that allow them to personally visit and experience cultural and historical phenomena explored in the course Berlin is not only Germany largest but also its most multi-cultural town

German Language courses

The course duration is based on a combination of online teaching and a 4 weeks stay in Berlin for the duration of a summer term.

The course runs parallel to two language courses that are simultaneously offered:

1. An intensive Language course (4 credits) for beginning students of German that fulfills the FAU language requirement. The course is taught by the experienced and highly qualified Professor of linguistics, Dr. Prisca Augustyn. This course is also taught online and a 4 weeks stay in Berlin.

and

2. a German conversation course (4 credit units) for intermediate and advanced speakers taught by the highly qualified Professor of Socio-Linguistics, Dr. Andrea DeCapua); the course is cross-listed with Berlin: Culture and society and also scheduled Online and a 4 weeks stay in Berlin from July 1 to July 31.
Contact hours for all three courses are equivalent to a summer term contact hours but need to remain flexible depending on excursions but will include fixed meetings M-R within the time from 11 AM -8 PM.

All students must enroll in Berlin: Culture and society and in one of the two offered language courses, totaling 7 credits total maximum. Students will all participate in daily excursions that are built in the course requirements. Some Fridays and weekends are reserved for excursions outside of Berlin as integrated course requirement.

The program is organized by FAU faculty Dr. Evelyn Trotter in conjunction with FAU’s Office of International Programs.

Course language is English and German and English (language courses) All three courses are open to Undergraduate and graduate students.

Excursions:
1. Overnight Dresden: Visit of the old city
2. M-R excursions and some Friday excursions also include a mandatory visit to Potsdam and voluntary day excursions include the former concentration camp Sachsenhausen, Frankfurt/Oder, the site of the Kleist Museum and the only existing European university in German, ecologically and culturally unique Spreewald, Goerlitz at the Polish border, and other TBA sites of cultural value and interest.

Suggested over night excursions are organized by program leaders but EXCLUDED from pre-paid course payments and may include overnight weekend excursions to Cuxhaven, Hamburg, Nuremberg; and not organized but suggested excursions that student may want to take on their own are: Munich Frankfurt, and outside Germany: Paris, Prague, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, and German cities by choice;

Program fee: due to change

INCLUDES

4 weeks housing in double occupancy apartments with kitchen and private bath in prime Berlin location, entire public local transportation with U and S Bahn and busses, and one over night excursion to Dresden; at least two group meals, online text material and partial book expenses for courses.

EXCLUDES

Air fare, most meals and tuition and some suggested excursions

After completing the program students will

• Students will gain a thorough understanding of Berlin culture, past and present.
• Students will be introduced to German literary trends
• Students will develop an appreciation for the intersection of German beliefs, ideas, and modes of expression across various cultural areas
• Students will be able to apply the course content to their own personal experience

Student Life

Students will live in large studio apartments with private bath and a kitchen. Grocery stores including, outside markets, bakeries, restaurants, university cafeteria, fast food stand are within walking distance. The apartments are in a safe guarded building in a prime location of Berlin (Stadtmitte) within minutes to a U-Bahn subway station. Transportation costs for sub and underground transportation is covered by course fee.

The days M-R will include TBA course meetings of 2 to hours from 11AM-8 PM, 2-3 weekly mandatory excursions to sites of interest in the city. The mandatory excursions will take place M-R and normally begin at 10 AM, ending dependent on excursion. Days for which no courses or excursions are planned as well time before and after courses and mandatory excursions are over, including most weekends from Friday to Monday are free and students are on their own.

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