



Berlin Histories
Professor Rosenberg

History 399
Winter 2025
Tues/Thurs 10-11:20

Berlin today is one of the most vibrant cities in the world, a thriving mixture of cultures and ideas. At the same time, it is a city haunted by a brutal authoritarian past. Through its social and cultural topography, we examine Berlin's origins as a provincial garrison town, its development into the industrial and political heart of modern Germany, and its emergence as home to diverse ethnic and cultural communities. The course explores the artistic and intellectual ferment of the interwar period, the atrocities of fascist rule in the 1930s and 40s, the divided city of the Cold War, and finally the diverse, multicultural city after reunification, where historical memory and contemporary identity intersect. Readings in the course are both historical and theoretical, examining how different communities have shaped and continue to shape Berlin's urban fabric. The course is interdisciplinary, posing questions in the histories of culture, politics, art, literature, film, architecture, planning, and environment. This course satisfies the European field requirement.