

University of Alabama at Birmingham
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
407 Humanities Building / 900 13th Street South / 205-934-4652
www.uab.edu/cas/languages

**Culture Bound, Book Bound, Books Without Borders:
Leipzig and Berlin**

FLL 120 HON / FLL 120 SL / GN 290
Spring 2020

Section 2B T R 9:30 – 10:45 AM

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Course Description

The goal of this **cross-listed FLL 120 Honors/ GN 290** course is to encourage students to reflect upon the various ways through which cultural identities are constructed in German-speaking countries. Required readings and film screenings will be used to illustrate introductory concepts in cultural studies and twentieth- and twenty-first-century German studies. This unique cross-listing allows students to enroll either in FLL 120 Foreign Cultures Honors or in GN 290 Study Abroad, and both courses will be anchored by a common faculty-led study abroad in Leipzig and Berlin, Germany, during our Spring Break. In the second week of classes, when all students' schedules are set, we will work together to find a common time for GN 290 students to meet for German-language discussion outside of our assigned section time (2B), and the attendance requirement for GN 290 students in the assigned section will be adjusted accordingly. March 12 – 20, 2020, FLL 120 HON and GN 290 students will attend the *Leipziger Buchmesse* ([Leipzig Buch Fair](#)) with the instructor, and required readings and screenings and the related written assignments students complete at UAB will be complemented by additional tours in Berlin. Walking tours of each city will be conducted in English for FLL 120 HON and GN 290 students together; site-specific tours will be conducted in English for FLL 120 students and in German for GN 290 students. *Students enrolling in FLL 120 HON and GN 290 must participate in the trip abroad; it is not possible to complete the course without traveling to Leipzig and Berlin over Spring Break.*

NB This section of **FLL 120 Honors** will be offered as **FLL 120 SL / FLL 120 Honors**. Ten seats will be reserved for Honors Students, and the remaining seats will be open to all students. Those students who enroll in FLL 120 SL are not required to participate in the trip abroad. In place of a Study Abroad Portfolio, FLL 120 SL students will complete a Service and Experiential Learning Portfolio based on service hours completed with a community partner and cultural events attended on campus and in our Birmingham community.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, **FLL 120** and **GN 290** students will:

- Develop an understanding of how cultures in German-speaking countries are constructed in specific economic, geo-political, historical, and social contexts.
- Think critically about the production and reception of the cultures of German-speaking countries.
- Apply knowledge from multiple disciplines to different cultural contexts.
- Discuss the arts of twentieth-century Germany within and beyond the borders of the German nation-state.
- Become more engaged in an international community through experiential learning and the attendance of cultural events abroad.
- Develop an awareness of the reverse cultural gaze; i.e., how others regard the dominant American culture / visitor when one studies abroad.

By the end of the semester, **GN 290** students will:

- **Discuss in German, orally and in writing**, a selection of German-language short films, cultural topics, and excerpts from representative German-language authors.

Required Texts (Students will be given purchasing instructions on the first day of class.)

Haushofer, Marlen. *The Wall*. Translated by Shaun Whiteside, Cleis Press, 2013.
Keun, Irmgard. *The Artificial Silk Girl*. Translated by Kathie von Ankum, Other Press, 2011.

GN 290, additional excerpts from
Haushofer, Marlen. *Die Wand*. 1963. Verlag Ullstein, 2004.
Keun, Irmgard. *Das kunstseidene Mädchen*. 1932. List, 2013.

Required Screenings (Students will be given viewing instructions on the first day of class.)

“Episode 1.” *Babylon Berlin*, season 1 episode 1, Netflix, 30 January 2018.
“Quantum Jump.” *Deutschland 83*, season 1 episode 1, Sundance TV, 17 June 2015.
Das Leben der Anderen. Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, Bayerischer Rundfunk Arte, Sony Pictures Classics, 2006.

Additional, shorter texts provided as handouts in class.

Grades

- Attendance: 20%
 - Classroom Attendance: 10%
 - FLL 120 Honors and GN 290: Full Participation in Tours and Excursions: 10%
 - FLL 120 SL: Completion of Service Learning Hours (10): 10%
- Reaction Paper to Text or Film: 20% (First draft 10%; Final draft 10%)
 - Written and presented in class at UAB
 - FLL 120 in English; GN 290 in German
- Midterm Exam: 20%
 - FLL 120 in English; GN 290 in German

- Final Portfolio: 40%
 - FLL 120 Honors and GN 290: Study Abroad Portfolio
 - FLL 120 SL: Service Learning Portfolio
 - FLL 120 in English; GN 290 in German
 - Students will receive more detailed information regarding required elements after cohorts have been set and community partners have been identified.

Grading Scale

90-100 = A // 89.9-80 = B // 79.9-70 = C // 69.9-60 = D // 59.9 and below = F

Attendance Policy

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures complies with the official UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs and therefore allows, with anticipated proper official documentation, absences due to jury or military duty as well as absences due to participation in specific university-sponsored activities.

Regular attendance is necessary to build a successful collaborative learning atmosphere. Repeated absences and tardiness will be reflected in your course grade. In addition to simply being physically present in our classroom and on tours, attendance will be graded based on being alert, well-prepared, and respectful of the instructor and fellow students and making *positive* contributions to the class.

Other Class Policies

Please silence your cell phone when in class and on tours and put it in your bag. Digital devices may be used as resources inside of class only with the permission of the instructor.

UAB Honor Code UAB expects all members of its academic community to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Unacceptable behaviors such as abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation are serious violations of the UAB Academic Honor Code and are punishable by a range of penalties. Any form of plagiarism or cheating in this class will result in serious consequences for your grade. For more information, please visit the [UAB web page regarding progress toward your degree](#).

DSS Accessibility Statement UAB is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and you require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services for information on accommodations, registration and procedures. Requests for reasonable accommodations involve an interactive process and consist of a collaborative effort among the student, DSS, faculty and staff. If you are registered with Disability Support Services, please contact DSS to discuss accommodations that may be necessary in this course. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call **934-4205** or visit <http://www.uab.edu/dss> or Hill Student Center Suite 409.

Title IX Statement The University of Alabama at Birmingham is committed to providing an environment that is free from sexual misconduct, which includes gender-based assault, harassment,

exploitation, dating and domestic violence, stalking, as well as discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. If you have experienced any of the aforementioned conduct we encourage you to report the incident. UAB provides several avenues for reporting. For more information about Title IX, policy, reporting, protections, resources and supports, please visit <http://www.uab.edu/titleix> for UAB’s Title IX Policy, UAB’s Equal Opportunity, Anti-Harassment Policy and Duty to Report and Non-Retaliation Policy.

Early Alert System (EAS) EAS is designed to help students be more successful academically at UAB. If you receive an email with EAS in the title, please open it, read it and take advantage of the support that UAB offers to all students. UAB is committed to ensuring that students receive academic support and are aware of the resources available that will help assist them in successfully completing their degree program.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 Januar 13 – 17	Course Introduction Summary of the origin, evolution, and meaning of the word “culture” Brief Introduction to German and Austrian History, 1871 - 1949 Excerpts from Mark Twain’s <i>The Awful German Language</i>
Week 2 January 20 – 24	„Entartete Kunst“ / “Degenerate Art” (Brücke Museum, Berlin) <i>Babylon Berlin</i> (Season 1, Episode 1)
Week 3 January 27 – 31	FLL 120 and GN 290: <i>The Artificial Silk Girl</i> GN 290: <i>Das kunstseidene Mädchen</i> (Auszüge)
Week 4 February 3 – 7	FLL 120 and GN 290: <i>The Artificial Silk Girl</i> ; Thesis Statement(s) GN 290: <i>Das kunstseidene Mädchen</i> (Auszüge) Homework: First Draft of Reaction Paper Due Tuesday, February 11
Week 5 February 10 – 14	FLL 120 and GN 290: Reaction Paper Due Brief Introduction to German and Austrian History, 1950 - 1990 FLL 120 and GN 290: <i>The Wall</i> GN 290: <i>Die Wand</i> (Auszüge)
Week 6 February 17 – 21	FLL 120 and GN 290: <i>The Wall</i> GN 290: <i>Die Wand</i> (Auszüge)
Week 7 February 24 - 28	Final Drafts of Reaction Papers Due Tuesday, February 25 “ <i>Freedom Without Walls</i> ” (Documentary)
Week 8 March 2 – 6	<i>Deutschland 83</i> , “Quantum Leap” <i>Das Leben der Anderen</i> (<i>The Lives of Others</i>) (Stasi Museum, Berlin)

	Midterm Exam Thursday March 5
Week 9 March 9 - 13	Tuesday, March 10: Pre-Departure Meeting Thursday, March 12: Depart for Leipzig FLL 120 SL: No class meetings this week. Continue to meet with community partners.
Spring Break March 16 – 20	Travel dates: March 12 – 20 Leipziger Buchmesse March 12 – 15, 2020 (We will attend March 13 – 15) March 16 – 20: Berlin
Week 10 March 23 - 27	Excerpts from Wladimir Kaminer, <i>Russian Disco</i> GN 290: Auszüge von Wladimir Kaminer, <i>Russendisko</i>
Week 11 March 30 – April 3	Excerpts from Rafik Schami, <i>Eine deutsche Leidenschaft namens Nudelsalat</i> <i>Fremdwahrnehmung</i> , Awareness of Others GN 290 students will present summaries and translations of excerpts to FLL 120 students.
Week 12 April 6 – 10	Final Group Work on Portfolios
Week 13 April 13 - 17	Service and Experiential Learning Portfolio Presentations <i>Attendance of all students required.</i>
Week 14 April 20 – 24	Study Abroad Portfolio Presentations <i>Attendance of all students required.</i>

Day-by-day Itinerary for Faculty-led Spring Break

Date	Location	Group Activity
Thursday, March 12	Birmingham, AL	Depart for Leipzig, Germany
Friday, March 13	Leipzig, Germany	Morning Arrival Afternoon City Tour, Orientation
Saturday, March 14	Leipzig	Attend Leipziger Buchmesse , 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; Students are free in the evenings.
Sunday, March 15	Leipzig	Attend Leipziger Buchmesse , 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; Students are free in the evenings.
Monday, March 16	Leipzig to Berlin	Midday Arrival Afternoon City Tour, Orientation

Tuesday, March 17	Berlin	Stasi Museum Public guided tours available at no extra charge, in German at 1:00 pm and in English at 3:00 pm; students' free time will be scheduled accordingly.
Wednesday, March 18	Berlin	Brücke Museum („ <i>Entartete Kunst</i> “ / “ <i>Degenerate Art</i> ”)
Thursday, March 19	Berlin	Student-selected cultural event, based on pre-departure meetings.
Friday, March 20	Berlin to Birmingham, AL	Return