

Objectives:

Students will explore significant historical events, places and objects of Germany in order to understand some of the reasons for the current political and cultural attitudes of Germany in a European context.

Objective 1: Where is Germany? & Imagining Germany

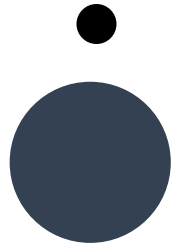
European history and political events: From Napoleon's arrival at the Brandenburg Gate to the construction of the Berlin Wall, Germany has been at the heart of a divided Europe. Cities and regions which were for centuries German now lie firmly outside its borders. What does this mean for European Germans and how in such a diverse society did its philosophers, artists and storytellers imagine a German national identity?

Objective 2: The Persistent Past & Made in Germany

Politically Germany had been a loose association of political units of different dialects and laws held together under the Holy Roman Empire. Economically the Hanseatic League operated a loose, free market structure. What modern day legacy of these structures is reflected in today's Europe? Germans have long been good at making complex things and precision engineering. Why does technical training and craft skills have a greater presence in Germany than elsewhere?

Objective 3: The Descent & Living with History

After 1871 Germany took on the previous French role of being the difficult European neighbour: too big for its borders. The next seventy five years saw it inflict catastrophe and suffer catastrophe on an unprecedented scale. How has Germany rebuilt itself economically, physically and morally? What role is Germany playing in the European Union and what are the difficulties it faces today?

**Contents:**

- Introduction
- Political history of the Holy Roman Empire
- Lost capitals
- Art, philosophy and food
- The Hansa and the Iron Nation
- Marx, The Flag, and the Printing Press
- Masters of metal and the Bauhaus
- Money in Crisis
- The Buchenwald Gate – purging the ‘degenerate’
- Germans expelled
- Out of the Rubble
- A nation re-born – The Bundestag

Study trips:

In the spring semester only and depending on student numbers, a study trip to Berlin is an obligatory part of the course.

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated on their weekly researched presentations; a presentation of their study trip* (*Summer semester Berlin, Winter semester self-directed Konstanz); and a questionnaire of the institutions of the EU.

Grading:

Researched Presentations 70%. Tour Report 20%. EU Institutions 10%.