

COURSE DETAIL

BERLIN'S EMIGRE LITERATURE: BETWEEN MEMORY AND MIGRATION

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

German English Comparative Literature

UCEAP Course Number

128

UCEAP Course Suffix

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UCEAP Official Title

BERLIN'S EMIGRE LITERATURE: BETWEEN MEMORY AND MIGRATION

UCEAP Transcript Title

BERLINS EMIGRE LIT

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course explores Berlin through the lens of émigré and exile literature, examining works by writers who either left Berlin or found refuge within it. Through close readings of texts spanning from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to contemporary works, students analyze how experiences of exile, migration, and displacement shape literary imagination and cultural identity. The course moves through Berlin's key historical moments—from the Russian émigré communities of the 1920s, through the forced exile of Jewish writers, to post-war Turkish-German literature and contemporary refugee narratives. By pairing literary texts with theoretical frameworks and conducting original ethnographic research, students investigate how different waves of migration have transformed both Berlin's physical spaces and its literary landscape. Special attention is paid to how writers represent specific Berlin neighborhoods and how various communities have shaped the city's cultural geography. Through engagement with memoir, fiction, poetry, and first-hand accounts, students explore themes of memory, nostalgia, linguistic displacement, cultural adaptation, and the evolving relationship between place and identity in émigré writing.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

42600089

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/lupo/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&publ...>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Berlin Perspectives

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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