N.U.in Germany Course Descriptions

The Global Experience
This course is an introduction to living and learning abroad. The main aim of this course is to help students prepare for, gain from, and reflect upon their term abroad as a profound global experience. Through workshops, seminars, course readings, discussions, and local civic engagement, the course will challenge students to become global citizens and ambassadors by actively participating in their own learning, local team and community, as well as the greater study abroad community, Northeastern, and beyond. Ongoing, online reflection will help students to articulate their own experiences, respond to others’ experiences and ultimately make connections between global experiences around the world.

Berlin: Capital of the 20th Century
Berlin was the stage upon which the drama of the turbulent 20th century played out. In the 1920s, Berlin defined what it meant to be modern: it was the intellectual fulcrum of a liberal republic and a glamorous café society. But that republic was unstable, and soon a fascist government destroyed this atmosphere of tolerance and many of the great works of art and literature created by its talented freethinkers. After 1945, the bombed out city became a frontline of the Cold War, but with the fall of the Wall in 1989, Berlin began a new era as a center of creativity. Berlin’s fascinating and turbulent past makes it the perfect place to study what 20th century modernity means, and what the future of modernity might hold. This course combines contemporary works of fiction, non-fiction, films and excursions to study the cultural and historical meaning and legacy of the 20th century, using Berlin as a case study.

College Writing
This course develops writing skills by teaching students the process and protocols associated with producing quality, college-level essays. The course also aims to foster a degree of literacy around an issue of significant public debate. Students work on four "projects" in response to texts on a theme. These projects are collated into a portfolio of work that includes drafts and finished essays, shorter assigned writing assignments, completed homework assignments, peer reviews and self-reflections.

Gender, Race, Sexuality in Pop Culture
Through this course, students will apply a critical lens to representations of gender, race, and sexuality in contemporary popular culture in both Germany and the United States. The course combines key concepts and theoretical frameworks in cultural studies, anthropology, gender studies, and media studies with the analysis of mass media products, including magazine advertisements and television programs. We will apply both quantitative and qualitative methods and discuss media representations in terms of the ways in which they reproduce or challenge traditional concepts and stereotypes of gender, race, and sexuality.

Holocaust Studies
This course is designed to introduce students to the history and study of the Holocaust. The first part of the course will focus on the historical context, planning and execution of the Holocaust. The second part of the course will introduce students to the evolution of Holocaust studies beginning in the immediate postwar environment (Nuremburg Trials) and continuing through the latest trends in Holocaust scholarship. The third part of the course will focus on the writings of Holocaust survivors. The course will end with an analysis of film treatments of the Holocaust from the 1950s until the present day. Because this course takes place in Berlin, special attention will be given to Berlin and German-specific issues in Holocaust studies, namely questions of Holocaust memorialization, Holocaust and German national self-understanding, and more broadly the concept of "coming to terms with the past."

Politics of the EU
This course provides an overview of the process of European integration from the post-World War II era to the present. Students study the functions and power distributions of the EU legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Students also analyze the politics of policy making in different arenas such as the single market, the Euro, and external trade policy. Non-economic policy areas such as foreign and security policies are also addressed. Current dissensions and dysfunctions within the EU are examined and debated from the perspectives of democratic theory and collective action theory. Classroom content is supplemented and enhanced by debate meetings with EU representatives and other EU experts in Berlin, as well as a field trip to the European Parliament in Strasbourg and/or the European Commission in Brussels.