Course Description

Speaking at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin in June 2013, President Obama recalled John F. Kennedy’s “ich bin ein Berliner” speech, delivered 50 years ago. Echoing Kennedy’s message, Obama evoked the shared “fighting spirit” of Germans and America to secure “peace with justice, beyond yourselves and ourselves to all mankind.”

Well before Kennedy was in Berlin in 1963, the German-American exchange was a feature of Western society. In the nineteenth century, nearly 10,000 Americans went to study at German universities and returned persuaded to adapt the German university model for America. In the twentieth century, the relationship was nearly reversed. American exports from washing machines and rock ‘n roll, to business organization and cultural philanthropy, became central features of German life.
Over the last two decades, transatlanticism has become a popular approach for historians seeking to assess these complex relationships. Americanists have adopted this framework to place American history in a global setting and German historians have followed suit to bring Germany into dialogue with other national histories. Drawing on analytic concepts from “soft power” to “cultural diplomacy,” these historians have challenged us to think about our fields in a transatlantic context. The goal of this course is to evaluate these new approaches to the study of the twentieth century.

As “case studies” for transatlanticism we will consider the mutual adaptation of the research university in Germany and America, the transatlantic golden age in politics as typified by Kennedy, “cultural imperialism” after World War II, and 1968 as a transatlantic cultural crisis. Mary Nolan’s *The Transatlantic Century* will provide a historical backbone for our inquiries and will be supplemented by theoretical and methodological essays as well as recent monographs in the field. Students are encouraged to draw on their own subfields in discussion and will write an assessment at the end of the course on the usefulness of this approach for their own work.

**Course Requirements**

- one short-range book review
- one long-range book review
- one lecture on the topic of the “Cultural Cold War”
- one final historiographical/analytic essay evaluating the merits of the transatlantic approach for teaching, and its applicability to research in your field
- at least one oral presentation
- on all days, active and spirited discussion

**Evaluation/grading**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation including oral presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short book review</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long book review</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Lecture assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Required Reading**

- John, Krige, American Hegemony and the Postwar Reconstruction of Science in Europe, (MIT, 2006)
Assorted articles – those marked online you are responsible for accessing; those marked with an * you can find on Blackboard.

**Course schedule**

**Unit 1: Americanization in Europe—A European or American Field?**

**Week 1: Introduction**
T, 8/20: Historical methods and goals

In class: document analysis, definitions, terminology

**Week 2**
T, 8/27: Transatlanticism for History, Historians, and Historiography

**Required Reading**


*Ute Frevert, “Europeanizing Germany’s Twentieth Century,” and David Blackbourn’s Reply. *German Historical Institute Bulletin* 36 (Spring 2005)


**Supplemental Reading:**
Marcus Gräser, “Modell Amerika” (America as a Model) in: Europäische Geschichte Online (EGO), edited by the Institut für Europäische Geschichte (IEG), Mainz European History Online (EGO), published by the Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz 2010-12-03.


Additional essays in Gienow-Hecht ed., *Culture and international history.*

**Week 3**
T, 9/3: Americanization—A First Look
**Required Reading**

Victoria de Grazia *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through Twentieth-Century Europe* (Harvard, 2006)


**Supplemental Reading**


Due: Short book review on de Grazia’s *Irresistible Empire*.

**Unit 2: The (first) American Colony in Germany**

**Week 4**

**T/9/10: The Humboldt Ideal**

**Required Reading**


**Supplemental Reading**


J.G. Fichte, *Addresses to the German Nation* (1808)

Abraham Flexner, *Universities: American, English, German* (1930)

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**Week 5**

**T, 9/17: The German University, American Style**

**Required reading**


**Supplemental Reading**


Walter Metzger, *Academic Freedom in the Age of the University* (Columbia University Press, 1961)


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**Week 6**

**T, 9/24: The First Globalization in Higher Education**

**Required Reading**

Mary Nolan, *The Transatlantic Century*, Chap 2—World War One: European Crisis and
American Opportunity.


**Supplemental Reading**

Due: Long-form Book Review on Scaff’s *Max Weber in America*

**Unit 3: Transatlanticism – Occupation or Golden Age?**

**Week 7**
T, 10/1: Americans and German Reconstruction

**Required Reading**


**Supplemental Reading**
Matthias Judt and Burghard Ciesla, *Technology Transfer out of Germany after 1945* (Amsterdam, 1996).

**Week 8**
T, 10/8: Americans as Berliners; Berliners as Americans

**Required Reading**
Andreas Daum, *Kennedy in Berlin* (Cambridge, 2007)


**Supplemental Reading**


**Week 9**

T, 10/15: NO CLASS- UNCG HOLIDAY

**Week 10**

10/22: Cultural Transfer

**Required Reading**


**Supplemental:**

James, Tent. *The Free University of Berlin: A Political History*. (Bloomington, IN, 1988)


**Due: Undergraduate Lecture on America in Germany during the Cold War.**
Unit 4: A New Cultural Imperialism?

Week 11
T, 10/29: Science and the Marshall Plan

Required Reading
Mary Nolan, The Transatlantic Century, Chap 7 on Cooperation, competition, containment.

John, Krige, American Hegemony and the Postwar Reconstruction of Science in Europe, (MIT, 2006)

*American / Allied ban on German applied sciences- see English language document of assessment of German science in 1945. (Gesetz Nr. 25 in Amstablatt des Kontrollrats in Deutschland vom 29. Oktober 1945, 41.)

Week 12
11/5: American Foundations in post-war Europe

Required Reading
Mary Nolan, The Transatlantic Century, Chap 8 on Culture wars.

Volker Berghahn, America and the Intellectual Cold Wars in Europe: Shepard Stone Between Philanthropy, Academy, and Diplomacy (Princeton, 2002).

Supplemental Reading

Week 13

Unit 5: Crises of Culture—A Shared Transatlantic Heritage?

T, 11/12: 1968 and the Global Student Movement

Required Reading
Supplemental Reading

*The Gold and the Blue: A Personal Memoir of the University of California, 1949–1967 VI, Academic Triumphs and VII, Political Turmoil.* SCAN.

Ernst Kantorowicz, *The Fundamental Issue: Documents and Marginal Notes on the University of California Loyalty Oath (June 14, 1949).* Online at: [http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/~ucalhist/archives_exhibits/loyaltyoath/symposium/kantorowicz.html](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/~ucalhist/archives_exhibits/loyaltyoath/symposium/kantorowicz.html)


Stuart J. Hilwig, “The Revolt Against the Establishment: Students Versus the Press, in West Germany and Italy,” in, 321–350.


**Week 14**

**T, 11/19: The Current Crisis of the University**

**Required Reading**


**Supplemental Reading**


Due: Prospectus for final historiographical essay with three books from your field.

Week 15

11/26: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING WEEK

Monday 12/2: Final Papers Due