

# PT320 Social Change and the German Public Sphere (in German)

Seminar Leader: Dr. Ulrike Wagner

Fall Term 2018

Course Times: Monday and Wednesday: 14:00 – 15:30

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Office hours: tba

## Course Description

Continuing the German Public Sphere course from Spring 2018, this course examines the interconnections between today's most pressing concerns in the German public discourse with organizations and institutions dedicated to actively intervening in and shaping social issues. We combine investigations of the crisis of democracy debates in German media and current research with visits to sites of civil society activism and community organizations as they have developed in past and present East and West Germany. And we engage with the topic of cultural pluralism in light of recent social, political, and religious tensions related to migration, not only in the seminar room but also through visits to local groups invested in contributing to resolving these tensions through various initiatives. Navigating a wide range of platforms for news and discussion, we look at how modern social media promotes civil movements from the political left and right, and ask what this pluralization of forms of communication means for Germany's established public-media services. In addition to the study of current public debates and forms of civic engagement, the purpose of this course is to refine and advance your ability to articulate yourself verbally and in writing through constant vocabulary building. Students taking the class should have a C1 proficiency level.

## Course Goals

- You will get to know **key themes dominating current public debates** in German media and **visit Berlin-based initiatives focused activism and generating ideas for social and political change.**
- By working with partners, in groups, through class **discussions**, by **writing assignments** in and outside of class, and by building up your **vocabulary**, you will refine and advance your ability to articulate your verbal and written contributions to current debates more confidently and concisely. You will improve your general German language abilities in the areas of writing, reading, listening, and speaking.

## Required Texts

All texts are on **Google Team Drive**. Please note that you **must** have a hard copy of the text with you in every class meeting.

## Participation

Your active and prepared participation is absolutely crucial and constitutes one quarter of your grade. You are expected to contribute actively in class discussions and group work, and you need to be prepared to answer and turn in small assignments or short reading comprehension quizzes. The purpose of these smaller assignments is to help you test your reading, speaking and listening comprehension skills on a regular basis.

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all seminars. Please note the following regulations: You will be allowed no more than two absences during the semester. Repeated lateness also counts as an absence. Each additional absence will lower your final grade by half a point (i.e. if your final grade is a B, and you have missed three classes and/or been late repeatedly you will be downgraded to a B-).

In case you have any medical issues or other concerns that could impact your compliance with the regulations above, please make sure to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester.

Please be punctual and considerate. Also, please keep bathroom breaks to a minimum. Interruptions are bad for everybody's concentration and impolite.

## Use of Laptops, Tablets, iPhones

Recent research has conclusively shown that use of laptops, tablets, and iPhones during class negatively effects learning, both for those using them and those sitting near those using them ([https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html?_r=0))

So no electronic devices are allowed during class time, for any reason.

## Vocabulary Diary

To further develop and refine your language skills at this level, it is very important that you work on constantly building up your vocabulary. You will therefore keep a vocabulary diary.

## Resources

In preparing for class, you are strongly encouraged to make use of the different German dictionaries listed on the Bard College Foreign Languages, Cultures, and Literatures website: <http://flcl.bard.edu/resources/german/>

## Writing

You will be asked to explore the ideas and texts discussed in class in several writing assignments in and outside of class (see syllabus for dates). For writing assignments outside of class, please bring a hard-copy of your double-spaced text with margins of ca. 3cm to class on the assignments' due dates. Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be lowered one full

grade (from B+ to C+, for example). I am not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late.

For all essay assignments to be complete, you must hand in **two versions**. Based on the comments you receive on your first version, you will need to revise and resubmit your correction along with the first version. You will receive a grade for the corrected second version of your essay, based on its content, grammar, and structure. You can receive a maximum of 12 points for your essay (4 points for each category).

Example:

Content: 4

Structure of Argument: 3.5

Grammar: 2

Overall: 9.5 Points (B-)

### Presentation

You will be asked to present on a topic of your choosing from the syllabus. Two days before your presentation, you are expected to send out a set of questions to the class. The purpose of your questions is to steer your “Kommilitonen” to what you consider important in the assigned readings and to help animate and direct our discussion in class. Your presentation will be evaluated on the quality of your questions, your ability to communicate and your skills to engage the class in a conversation about your topic.

### Academic Honesty

In the written work you do for this course, you are expected to adhere to the rules of academic honesty stated under the paragraph on **plagiarism** in the Student Handbook: The most serious violation of academic integrity is the attempt to pass off the work of others as one’s own. Plagiarism means presenting the exact words of others as one’s own, or seeking to disguise borrowings from other sources through paraphrase and/or through the failure to use appropriate means of attribution and citation. Plagiarism also includes the re-use of one’s own work for another assignment, whether in the same course or in a different course. If a student is in any uncertainty about what constitutes plagiarism, he or she should consult academic advisors or course instructors.

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/for-students/student-handbook/academics/#c2599>

### Grade Breakdown:

Participation:	25%
Presentation:	25%
Homework / Quizzes:	25%
Written assignments:	25%


## SYLLABUS

Mo 3. September Einführung


## Digitalisierung, Medien &amp; Gesellschaft

<p>Mi 5. September</p> 	<p><b>Video: POP</b> (power of people) re:publica 2018 in Berlin Der digitalisierte Mensch - Live von der re:publica aus Berlin Doku (2018) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJmoMdr_CSc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJmoMdr_CSc</a></p>
<p>Mo 10. September</p>	<p>Steffen Mau, <i>Das metrische Wir: Über die Quantifizierung des Sozialen</i> (Suhrkamp, 2017), Buchausschnitte</p> <p>Vortrag von S. Mau zum Thema auf der CIVIS Medienkonferenz 2018: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiupA7qpiVU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiupA7qpiVU</a></p>
<p>Mi 12. September</p>	<p>Steffen Mau, <i>Das metrische Wir: Über die Quantifizierung des Sozialen</i> (Suhrkamp, 2017), Buchausschnitte</p> <p>Optional: „Zuckerbergs Zweifel“, <i>Der Spiegel</i> (April 2017) „Perfekt gefälschte Videos: Hier spricht nicht Obama“, <i>Der Spiegel</i> (Juni 2018)</p>
<p>Mo 17. September</p>	<p>Alexander Sänglerlaub, „Feuerwehr ohne Wasser? Möglichkeiten und Grenzen des Fact-Checkings als Mittel gegen Desinformation“, <i>Stiftung Neue Verantwortung</i> (Juli 2018)</p>
<p>Mi 19. September</p>	<p>Off-campus: Besuch von Tactical Technology Collective (date to be confirmed) <a href="https://tacticaltech.org/">https://tacticaltech.org/</a></p>
<p>Mo 24. September</p>	<p>Gastseminar: Alexander Sänglerlaub, <i>Stiftung Neue Verantwortung</i></p>
<p>Mi 26. September</p>	<p><i>Aufsatz Nr. 1</i>: 90 min. in-class writing assignment</p>
<p>Mo 1. Oktober</p>	<p><i>Aufsatz Nr. 1</i>: in-class peer-review</p>
<p>Mi 3. Oktober</p>	<p><i>Tag der deutschen Einheit – kein Seminar</i></p>

## Deutschland und Europa

<p>Mo 8. Oktober</p> 	<p>„Deutschland in der EU: Guckt euch doch mal an“, <i>Die Zeit</i> (Juni 2018)</p> <p>Navid Kermani, „Europa müssen Flügel wachsen“ (Juni 2018)</p>
<p>Mi 10. Oktober</p>	<p>Ulrike Guérot, <i>Warum Europa eine Republik werden muss!: Eine politische Utopie</i> (2016), Textausschnitte</p> <p>Keynote: Warum Europa eine Republik werden muss <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U979-GxJNCw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U979-GxJNCw</a></p>
<p>Mo 15. Oktober</p>	<p>Ulrike Guérot, <i>Warum Europa eine Republik werden muss!: Eine politische Utopie</i> (2016), Textausschnitte</p>
<p>Mi 17. Oktober</p>	<p>Gastseminar zur Arbeit des <i>European Democracy Lab</i> <a href="https://europeandemocracylab.org/en/">https://europeandemocracylab.org/en/</a></p>
<p>Mo 22. Oktober</p>	<p>Kampf um Europa Dokumentarfilm Deutschland 2016 - Thema: Europa, was nun?   arte <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73DmLlhdCdg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73DmLlhdCdg</a></p>
<p>Mi 24. Oktober</p>	<p>Deutschland-Korrespondentin der <i>Libération</i> (to be confirmed)</p> <p><i>Aufsatz Nr. 2 fällig</i></p>
	<p><i>Fall Break</i></p>

## Kippa, Kreuz und Kopftuch

<p>Mo 5. November</p> 	<p>„Krach im Kiez“, <i>Der Spiegel</i>, 28.04.2018</p> <p>Wladimir Kaminer, <i>Ausgerechnet Deutschland: Geschichten unserer neuen Nachbarn</i> (2018), Ausschnitte</p>
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Mi 7. November	Maram Stern, „Auf einem Vulkan gebaut?“ (April 2018)  „So viel Judenhass wie noch nie im Netz“, <i>Der Spiegel</i> (Juli 2018)
Mo 12. November	Antisemitismus an Schulen: "Da hatte es sich herumgesprochen, dass ich Jude bin", <i>Der Spiegel</i> (Juli 2018)
Mi 14. November	Gastseminar, TBA
Mo 19. November	Constantin Schreiber, <i>Inside Islam: Was in Deutschlands Moscheen gepredigt wird</i> (2017), Ausschnitte
Mi 21. November	Moscheebesuch (TBA)  Projekt: House of One: <a href="https://house-of-one.org/en">https://house-of-one.org/en</a>
Mo 26. November	Joachim Wagner, <i>Die Macht der Moschee: Scheitert die Integration am Islam?</i> (2018), Ausschnitte

### Identität & Sport

Mi 28. November	Film: <i>Deutschland – Ein Sommermärchen</i> (2006)
Mo 3. Dezember	Sven Ismer, <i>Wie der Fußball Deutsche macht: Die Fußballweltmeisterschaft 2006 in der Fernsehberichterstattung</i> (2016), Ausschnitte
Mi 5. Dezember	„Schland unter in Politik, Wirtschaft und Sport. Es war einmal ein starkes Land“, <i>Der Spiegel</i> (Juni 2018)  „Cool Germany“, <i>The Economist</i> (April 2018)
Mo 10. Dezember	Schreibwerkstatt & Peer-Review
Mi 12. Dezember	Zusammenfassung & Ausblick <i>Abschlussarbeiten fällig!</i>