
Intermediate German language weekend: DIE BERLINER MAUER – DDR UND WIEDERVEREINIGUNG

Start date	15 April 2016	End date	17 April 2016
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Paul A. Hoegger	Course code	1516NRX137

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator
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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Paul A. Hoegger is teacher and coordinator for German at the Language Centre of the University of Cambridge. Originally from Bern in Switzerland, Paul moved to Germany in his late teens. After a career as a ballet dancer and later as a newsreader for the German World Service (Deutsche Welle) in Cologne he moved to Cambridge to study Modern and Medieval Languages at King's College Cambridge. He holds a BA in French and German and an MPhil in European Literature from the University of Cambridge and has been researching eighteenth-century German drama for his PhD project at the German department of Cambridge University. Since 2004 Paul has been working as a language supervisor for German at several colleges of Cambridge University. Since 2009 he has been setter and principal examiner for the German *Pre-U* paper at University of Cambridge International Examinations and for the last three years examiner for the *Text and Culture* paper of the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos at Cambridge University.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 **Introduction to the course and contemporary German topic**

After a short introduction to the course and a 'setting of the scene' in which we playfully acquaint ourselves with the topic of the 'GDR', we will share and discuss newspaper or magazine articles or other stories which have caught your eye and which deal with any aspect of German speaking culture.

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 **The German Democratic Republic – a democratic state?**

We will remind ourselves of the historical events which led to the creation of the GDR, and explore the most important phases of the republic through official documents and proclamations as well as contemporary newspaper articles etc. We will also examine the political and economic systems of the GDR – the aspirations of its leadership and its realities.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 **Everyday life in the GDR**

We will explore different aspects of daily life in the GDR, such as propaganda and slogans, education and work, women and childcare, food and leisure, spying and denunciation. We will see short video clips to illustrate some of these aspects and we will compare East and West Germany and ask whether everything was really so much better in the West.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

- 16:30 – 18:00 **Visual arts and literature in the GDR**
- In this session we will be reading and discussing short extracts from Christoph Hein’s novella *Drachenblut / Der fremde Freund* (1982). We will also explore the East German art scene and examine the impact state censorship had in particular on paintings and sculptures of the period. We will look at the role of the arts in the ‘liberation’ of the GDR and see what has become of some of the artists post unification.
- 18:00 – 18:30 Free
- 18:30 Dinner
- 20:00 – 21:30 (22.00) **Viewing of Christian Schwochow’s film *Westen* (2013)**
- Westen* is based on the German novel *Lagerfeuer* by Julia Franck. The viewing (in German) will be followed by a short discussion of the film. *Please note:* the duration of this session will be extended to accommodate the full length of the film (1 h 42 mins). The end of the session will therefore be around 22.00h.
- 21:30 (22.00) Terrace bar open for informal discussion
- Sunday**
- 07:30 Breakfast
- 09:00 – 10:30 **Re-unification: euphoria and reality**
- We will begin the session by briefly re-visiting Christian Schwochow’s film *Westen* and by comparing the work with other films on the GDR you might have seen. We will remind ourselves of the sequence of events which led to the opening of the borders on 9th November 1989 and to the brief period of euphoria which gripped Germany that winter. We will also explore the difficult reality the East German population had to face following the re-unification, as well as how these events were reflected in the arts in Germany.
- 10:30 Coffee
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Conclusion**
- In this our final session we will concentrate on the legacy of the GDR. We will look at the generation of ‘Wendekinder’ and examine phenomena such as ‘Ostalgie’ and its lesser discussed cousin ‘Westalgie’, as well as the rise of right-wing extremism in East Germany. We will take stock of how far East and West Germany have managed to grow back together more than a quarter century after the events and we will also risk a glance towards the future.

12:45

Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To develop students' political and cultural understanding of the GDR, as well as an awareness of German culture and current affairs in general.
- To extend students' vocabulary and grammar of the target language.
- To increase students' confidence when expressing themselves in the target language.

Content:

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in German language, history and culture. The language spoken is German throughout, though some exchanges on issues of grammar and vocabulary might be dealt with in English.

Newspaper articles on subjects of current interest as well as audio-visual materials will be provided to practise comprehension and speaking skills. For the first session on Friday students are encouraged to bring along and to present a short news item relating to any German topic of their choice.

Saturday will be devoted to various aspects of the GDR, its creation, daily life under the regime, its literature and visual arts. For the evening session there will be a viewing of Christian Schwochow's film *Westen* (2013) which will be discussed in the first session on Sunday morning.

Otherwise the two Sunday sessions will be devoted to the re-unified Germany, its teething problems and the fallout of the GDR for the people who grew up in the GDR and became adults in a re-unified Germany. We will discuss how successful the re-unification has proved to be so far and discuss what developments we might expect in the future.

Presentation of the course:

The main objective of this course is to give students ample opportunity to practise their speaking and reading skills, so the emphasis will be on discussing a range of short written texts and audio-visual material presented during the course. Some work will be done in pairs or small groups to make the best use of the time available.

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- develop a deeper understanding of the GDR, its politics and culture.
- formulate questions and express opinions in German about any of the issues treated during the course.
- contribute to the discussion of other course material in the target language.
- broaden their range of vocabulary and of grammatical structures in the target language.
- increase their fluency in the target language.

Information correct as of: 11 April 2016