# BERLIN:

CREATIVE CAPITAL —

GERMAN THEATER AND CONTEMPORARY INNOVATION

# 

Summer 2015 — MAY 24 to JUNE 14

*Romanticism, Modernism*

*and the Post-Dramatic in Performance*

**PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER CARTMILL**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

# Contemporary Berlin is the hyper-current mecca of contemporary Western arts and culture. Creative and international, this city is where our 21st century future is being rehearsed. BERLIN: CREATIVE CAPITAL — GERMAN THEATER AND CONTEMPORARY INNOVATION is a unique and immersive exploration of one of the world’s important centers for the performing arts. This is a three-credit, three-week program taught on-site by faculty from the Rutgers Theatre Department. You will learn about the rich history of German theatre and its influence on global drama. We will look at three important periods of significant theatrical flowering — the late-eighteenth century and early-nineteenth century Romantic era of Goethe and Schiller; the pre-World War II years of Toller, Brecht, Reinhardt and Weill and current art and performance scene that is at the center of 21st century inventiveness. Through our study of the history, literature, theaters and museums of Berlin, we will explore the influence of this important cultural metropolis. Attendance at performances, with faculty and theatre professionals, will introduce German drama and aspects of the theatrical profession in Berlin to the students. The city (its theatres, museums and cafés) will be our classroom.

**General**

Classes meet 5 days a week, Class will generally begin around 9:30am and end by 1pm for lunch. Excursions outside of the city will be all day. No classes are held on weekends. Bring a notebook or clipboard with paper or electronic device that allows you to take notes, to class each day/.

**Course requirements**

* 30% Daily mandatory attendance! Punctuality, staying with the group, attentiveness, and participation.
* 15% Being prepared to discuss assigned readings.
* 15% 6 Reaction Papers.
* 10% One 10-minute oral presentation
* 20% Written version of oral presentation

SCHEDULE:

**DAY ONE:** BERLIN orientation and Welcome Dinner

**WEEK ONE: STURM UND DRANG AND ROMANTIC PERFORMANCE**

**Romanticism and Weimar Classicism**

*Politics and Passion* by Schiller

*Faust: Part One* by Goethe

*The Prince of Homburg* by von Kleist

*Woyzeck* by Büchner

Poetry by Herder, Weiland and Hôlderlin

*Possible visits and performances:*

**Deutsches Theater**

**Volksbühne**

**Altes Museum**

**Pergamon Museum**

**Neues Museum**

**WEEK TWO: EXPRESSIONISM, ALIENATION AND MODERNISM**

**Toller, Brecht, Reinhardt and the Weimar Republic**

*The Good Person of Szechuan* by Brecht

*Three Penny Opera* by Brecht & Weill

*Masses Men* by Toller

*Hoppla! We’re Alive* by Toller

*The Prince of Rogues* by Zuckmayer

*Possible visits and performances:*

**The Berliner Ensemble**

**Schaubühne**

**Bauhaus Archives – Museum of Design**

**Jewish Museum**

**Brecht House**

**WEEK THREE: THE CURRENT BERLIN SCENE**

**Intersections of art, politics, globalization and performance in contemporary Berlin**

*The Post-Dramatic Theatre* by Hans-Theis Lehman

*The Golden Dragon* by Roland Schimmelpfennig

*The Final Fire* by Dea Loher

*Time and the Room* by Botho Strauß

*Possible visits and performances:*

**Sophiensaele**

**Hebbel am Ufer**

**Theaterdiscounter**

**Theater unterm Dach**

**Dock 11**