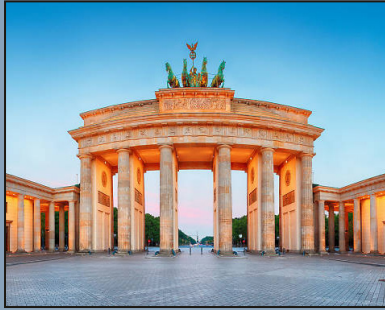




Berlin Study Abroad

The Legality of Totalitarianism



**Winter
Break
2020-21**

Study Abroad Office

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Program Description

One of the most frequently studied periods of history is the era surrounding and involving the Second World War. It retains a fascination that has never fully waned, seen in countless documentaries, historical monographs, movies, novels, comic books and even video games. The term Nazi has become interchangeable with villain and almost anyone can identify the aesthetic and iconography of the Nazi regime. Additionally, this era has left the world with questions that are still being grappled with. How did the Nazis manage to rise to power? Was a global conflict inevitable? How could an event as horrific as the Holocaust come about? Those, among countless other questions, continue to hold the attention not just of academics, but of vast swaths of the population.

Among those questions, the issue of what beliefs the Nazi regime actually stood for and how it convinced Germans – as well as citizens abroad – to support those ideas, remains central. And vital to that question is the issue of how the Nazis were able to systematically capture, subvert and dismantle the culture, society, and legal apparatus of Germany, from beer halls to the halls of government, which frequently endorsed and supported Nazi actions that would have been considered illegal or inconceivable scant years or even months earlier. This intersection of law and lawlessness is a fascinating one and a question that has taken on more relevance today than at any point since the guns of war fell silent.

Central to all of these issues is the German capital of Berlin, the seat of the government the Nazis took control of and the capital of their proposed thousand-year empire. During Fall 2020 we will look deeper into the questions surrounding fascism and Nazism on campus, and then in Winter Break 2021 we will look closer at how German history, culture and jurisprudence interacted with the Nazi regime on site in Berlin. This abroad will look deeply at that intersection of law and lawlessness and ask questions that are relevant not only to understanding the world that the Nazis inhabited, but our modern world as well. Far-right political movements have gained more influence today than they have in years and the lessons of Weimar Germany and the Nazi era seem both closer and more distant than ever before.

Program Staff

This program will be directed by Dr. Peter van Lidth de Jeude. In addition to serving as Assistant Professor of History at Principia College and having extensive experience teaching both German history broadly and the history of fascism and Nazism specifically, Dr. van Lidth de Jeude grew up in Germany and received his pre-collegiate education in German schools, leaving him incredibly familiar with both German culture and language. He also did his research for his dissertation in Berlin, living there for just under a year and thus having extensive familiarity with both the city and its people – not to mention its bakeries. Dr. van Lidth de Jeude has a BA from Principia College, an MA from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, and a PhD from Pennsylvania State University, all in History.

Will Buchanan will be supporting the program as drop-in faculty, both during the fall semester preceding the abroad and the three weeks in country. Mr. Buchanan previously led a successful International Field Experience to Berlin connected to a course on Jurisprudence, providing him with both experience and contacts to connect to this specific topic. He has a BA from Principia College and a JD from the University of Michigan Law School.

The Resident Counselor attached to the abroad will be announced at a later date.

Academics

A total of 7 semester hours of credit will be earned with this program: 3 SH during Fall 2020, 3 SH during Winter Break 2021, and 1 SH during Spring 2021. Final grades for all courses will be determined by the program director.

Fall 2020

HIST 350: Fascism and Nazism

Semester Hours: 3 Attribute: GEH

This class explores both fascism as an ideology as well as its historical impact through a primary focus on Germany during the Nazi regime. Additionally, students will grapple with the legacy of fascism and Nazism today and the lessons that can and should be learned from this troubling and contentious history.

Winter Break 2021

PHIL 402: Advanced Topics in Philosophy: Jurisprudence

Semester Hours: 1 Attribute: None

This topics course will explore the evolution of German jurisprudence in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Students will read selected excerpts from leading German jurists and philosophers. Students will meet and visit with German academics and entrepreneurs and will travel throughout Berlin and visit museums, memorials, art galleries, and other political and cultural spaces connected to jurisprudence topics.

SPST 285: Country Studies: Germany

Semester Hours: 2 Attribute: None

Offered only in association with Principia abroad programs, this course provides an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues in the destination country or countries. These issues may include geography, cultural history, politics, economics, religion, foreign relations, environment, the arts, etc. May be taken more than once if associated with a different location.

Spring 2021

SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: Berlin

Semester Hours: 1 Attribute: None

The reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study abroad for field program experience. Students share their growth and experiences through reflection, writing assignments, and the creation of a documentary presentation for the community.

Itinerary

In addition to the coursework during the fall semester, the abroad will travel to Berlin for three weeks in winter of 2021. The itinerary will roughly be split into three segments while in country:

- **Week 1: German history pre-World War I.** Students will visit the German Heritage Museum, the historic city of Potsdam, Frederick the Great's palace Sans Souci, Humboldt University, the Bauhaus museum, etc. Students will understand Germany's leading place in the world before the Nazi takeover, at the forefront of art, science, culture, and law.
- **Week 2: World War I, World War II and the Rise and Fall of the Nazis.** Students will visit the stunning Kollwitz museum, the Reichstag, the Berlin Jewish museum, the Topography of Terror museum, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the site of the Wannsee Conference, etc. Students will relate these visits to material learned in HIST 350: Fascism and Nazism.
- **Week 3: German History Cold War-Present.** Students will visit Checkpoint Charlie, the DDR museum, the memorials to the Berlin Wall, etc., to show the history of West vs. East Berlin and the larger effects of Communism on Germany. Students will examine the Basic Law and consider its 70-year history. Students will consider how Germany today continues to grapple with its history.

Applications

Applications are available online at: <http://www.principiacollege.edu/abroads/upcoming-abroads>.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, February 19, 2020**.

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Selection

Selection will take place during spring semester 2020. Each applicant will be interviewed by Peter, Will, and potentially the resident counselor. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date.

The fundamental criteria for final selection include evidenced commitment to Christian Science; an expression of qualities that will represent Principia and its spiritual, moral, and intellectual values; good scholastic average; evidenced understanding of, and well-motivated interest in, the goals and objectives of the program; evidenced emotional maturity and ability to adapt to new and unexpected circumstances, and evidenced ability to get along with fellow students and with program staff members.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of week seven, spring semester 2020, regarding the decision on his/her application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program may be denied to any accepted student on academic probation. Academic transcripts may be reviewed during the selection process. Students must also be in good standing regarding the Principia College Community Commitment.

Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 3 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board (\$900 for this break program), airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the "Financial Aid and Responsibility" section to the right to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

Eligibility and Prerequisites

The program director seeks students who have a sincere interest in issues related to history and law and are self-motivated learners who can adapt successfully to different learning environments.

Preference will also be given to students with a 2.0 GPA or higher. Student must meet the Study Abroad Student Selection Criteria (see [website](#)) to apply for and remain on this program. This program is open to all enrolled students in good academic and social standing. This program is open to all majors.

Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2020-2021 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward **tuition only**. Your PrinBill will also include room and board (\$900) and the Study Abroad fee (\$150), but **no financial aid will be applied toward these costs**.

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, April 22, 2020**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant's Principia account, and payment will be due by **December 26, 2020**.