



Berlin café scene

## The Program

During fall semester of 2008 students can experience the excitement of living and learning in Berlin, the capital of reunited Germany. No prior knowledge of German is required. Berlin is the cultural and commercial center of central Europe. Its 3.5 million people represent a diversity of cultures, and the benefits and values of a semester in this thriving, vital city are tremendous: the opportunity to learn German; to attend concerts, theater and museums; to relax in its cafes and nightclubs, and to enjoy its many parks, forests, rivers and lakes, as Berlin is one of the greenest cities in the world. In sum, students have an opportunity to experience a truly European lifestyle.

The program begins in late August with a three-week intensive language course at the Goethe Institut in Freiburg. Students enroll at the level best suiting their language ability — beginners are welcome — and live in Goethe Institut housing. A classically beautiful and ancient university town, Freiburg is in the Black Forest at the edge of the Alps and offers great opportunities for outdoor recreation. It is also very close to the borders with France and Switzerland, and daytrips to these countries are possible.

In mid-September the program moves to Berlin where students live in the homes of Berliners, continue their language instruction through the Institute for the International Education of Students at Humboldt University, and begin the two courses taught by Bates faculty. An October break provides opportunity for independent travel in Europe; further independent travel for those interested is possible after the program ends in December.

## The Courses

### *Before and after the Wars: German Literature, Art and Films of the 20th Century*

*Gerda Neu-Sokol*

Two world wars and the Holocaust left their tragic imprint on the 20th century throughout the entire world, but also very specifically on Germany. Through literature, film and art we explore historical, intellectual, artistic and political developments within German culture — their origins, complexities and contradictions. Beginning with the years before World War I, students study German imperial society and Expressionism; the effects of the war on the young generation; the women's movement; "outsiders" in German-speaking countries; German-Jewish relations; the divided nation; and memory and remembrance in contemporary Germany. Writers include Theodor Fontane, Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, Heinrich Böll, Christa Wolf, Günter Grass, and Ingeborg Bachman. With its many cultural offerings, Berlin is an ideal place to study and encounter the tremendous impact the wars had on both Germany and the world.



Lessingbrücke Berlin, Hans Brass

### *Who Shall Live? Bioethics and Society*

*Thomas Tracy*

Modern medicine sometimes requires that we make life and death decisions, whether we do so standing at the bedside of a family member or voting for social policies that determine access to health care. The approach to these issues in Germany presents fascinating contrasts with the way they are handled in the U.S. When is it acceptable to turn off a respirator or withdraw a feeding tube? Is it morally permissible to assist a terminally ill person in hastening death? Should we use our knowledge of genetics to produce "enhanced"

human beings? Contemporary discussions of these questions in Germany and the U.S. are shaped by the traumatic memory of the Nazi era. We will consider Nazi eugenics and extermination programs, and we will think through the bearing of these moral failures on the contemporary discussion of right and wrong in medicine. The course will include opportunities to talk with medical staff in Germany about making decisions in patient care and about the German health care system.



Kathryn Clark '06 visits Mauerpark (Wall Park)

## Language Courses

Students earn two course credits for study of the German language. Courses at all levels of language instruction are taught by native speakers in small classes. All courses aim to improve rapidly the skills of comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. The program also includes pedagogical and cultural projects both inside and outside the classroom.

## The Faculty

*Gerda Neu-Sokol* is a lecturer in German with a special interest in poetry, 20th-century German literature, and women writers. She is also a translator. She grew up in Germany and studied there and in the U.S. She has returned to Germany for many extended visits and as guest lecturer at German universities. She co-directed three previous Fall Semester Abroad programs in Berlin.

*Thomas Tracy* is a professor of religion who specializes in philosophy of religion and has written on the problems posed for religious thought by human evil, including the Nazi program of genocide. His teaching includes discussions of biomedical ethics, and he serves on hospital ethics committees that are called upon to make recommendations in difficult cases.



# Bates Semester in Berlin, Germany

## Fall 2008



### Travel

Excursions within Germany and to bordering countries are an essential part of the program:

- From Freiburg, we will travel to the beautiful Alsace region to visit the medieval cities of Strassbourg and Colmar. Individual day trips are possible to the Black Forest, the Alps and the Swiss cities of Basel, Bern or Zürich.
- From Berlin, we will visit Weimar, Buchenwald and Leipzig. Weimar was the capital of the Weimarer Republik, Germany's first republic, and it is the town of Goethe and Schiller, the German literary giants. Buchenwald was the site of a Nazi concentration camp, and from 1945 to 1950 it was used as an internment camp by the Soviet occupation administration. Leipzig has been a commercial center since the 12th century and is the city of Bach.
- We will also take a major trip to Dresden and Prague. Dresden was known as Florence on the Elbe before it was destroyed almost entirely by Allied firebombing near the end of World War II. Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic. Before the war it was a multicultural city with a large and vital Jewish community. A most picturesque place, it is the birthplace of Franz Kafka.

### Credit

This program is an integral part of the Bates curriculum. Completion of the Fall Semester Abroad affords four Bates credits — three in German and

one in philosophy or religion. Students must take all four courses, and grades count towards the students' cumulative averages.

All expenses, including travel to and from Germany, housing, meals and course-related trips, are covered by regular Bates fees. Students will need spending money for laundry, entertainment, shopping and vacation expenses.

### More Program Information

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For general questions on study abroad:  
Stephen Sawyer, Associate Dean of Students and  
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Applications are available from the program faculty or the Off-Campus Study Office, Lane Hall. Enrolled students may apply early to the Off-Campus Study Office by Dec. 3, 2007, for notification in mid-January or by Feb. 15, 2008, for notification in mid-March. Students in the Class of 2012 should contact the faculty organizers as early as possible and submit their applications no later than May 15, 2008.

### Travel Information

Information on safety, security and crime in Germany: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)  
Information on health issues and recommended immunizations: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel>  
Students and families are urged to review the information on both sites.

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Die Neue Synagoge, Berlin