

# Berlin



An Investigation of Pop Culture and Taboos

For a three month period, I was immersed in the chaotic yet laid back atmosphere of Berlin. While I was engaged in an architecture study program, I found myself taken with the culture of the city. Additionally, I became starkly aware of some key differences between life in the States and life abroad. I used my blog platform to document my engagements and reflect on the role of taboos in various cultures.

As a philosophy minor, I have spent a good deal of time studying discourse regarding culture differences. Most modern philosophers will assert that no culture has 'right' or 'wrong' practices. Rather, each culture is unique and ought to be examined critically, though with an open mind.

I express my theme in my poster with my photographic evidence of Berlin's edgy energy. A general 'grunge' attitude spreads across a great deal of the younger generations in the city. The attitude does not belong strictly to the people - the graffiti that coats the architecture of Berlin also provides the grunge vibe. The following excerpt from my blog recounts my primary interaction with the city.

“...Graffiti is everywhere, as if the primary colored buildings weren't striking enough. While I cannot read the spray painted messages - partially due to the scrawling form of the letters, and partially due to my intermediate understanding of Deutsch - I can appreciate the time and energy that went into them. Messages overlay messages, and it's as if the walls themselves are time capsules of the people who frequent and inhabit Kreuzberg.”