

BERLIN JOURNALISM STUDY ABROAD: May 10–May 23, 2019, Univ. of Florida

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Hotel: Transit-loft, Immanuelkirchstrasse 14A, 10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg, loft@hotel-transit.de

**** FINAL SCHEDULE as of 5/6/19 — But still subject to weather, unplanned opportunities, etc. ****

FRIDAY, May 10 – Arrival and settle in; Visit ATM if necessary; get electronics at Saturn. Hotel check-in. Don't take a nap! Stay up! Leave hotel at 7pm, take M4 and M10 trams to Eberswalderstrasse S-Bahn stop, have dinner outside (your expense, menu is in English), at "Prater;" menu is on their website: <http://www.pratergarten.de/e/biergarten.php> - This is Berlin's oldest Biergarten. Then 30-minute walk back to hotel, with possible stop for Italian ice cream; see grocery store options. Now sleep.

SATURDAY, May 11 – Leave hotel at 11am for 11:30am Fat Tire Bike Tour toward former east, four hours long; ride is about eight miles, mostly flat; paid group Mediterranean/Turkish lunch (10-euro max. per person) along the route, about 1:30pm. At end of tour (4pm?), pick out a souvenir Fat Tire T-Shirt (Prof. Freeman pays for all). – Depending on weather and energy level of the group, perhaps we'll take a picnic trip to Viktoria Park (waterfall) to watch the sunset. Leave hotel for grocery store at 6:30pm. Otherwise *FREE/WORK TIME* - If staying around hotel, front desk can help you order Joey's Pizza.

SUNDAY, May 12 – (T.A. Andrew in charge; Prof. Freeman is busy all day) -- Leave hotel at 10:30am for M4 Tram and 11am Discover Walks City Tour, seeing areas not on the Bike Tour. Visit Brandenburg Gate, Memorial to Murdered Jews of Europe, etc. We'll have one coffee/pastry/restroom stop along the way. Tour ends at Checkpoint Charlie about 2pm. LATE LUNCH is on your own. THEN, weather permitting, off to [Bernauerstrasse Memorial](http://www.slowtravelberlin.com/mauerpark-flea-market/) and Mauer Park. It's a great Sunday-only Flea Market <http://www.slowtravelberlin.com/mauerpark-flea-market/> with old East items, food and Karaoke in the amphitheater. Take the M10 to Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn Sportpark stop and follow the crazy crowds.

MONDAY, May 13 – Leave hotel at 10:45am for 11:30am meeting with Bloomberg editor-at-large David Rocks. He's been overseas many years, including a freelance stint in Prague. Afterwards, lunch on your own for one hour, or go straight to the big Protestant Berliner Dom Church (fee included in program), or do the Dom first and then lunch. *FREE/WORK TIME* afterwards and evening. Depending on group energy, perhaps group dinner at Al Dente close to M4 Huefandstrasse stop. [BLOG #1 DUE midnight](#)

TUESDAY, May 14 – [Between 10 and noon, Photo Review with Prof. Freeman or T.A. Andrew.](#) Do you have a profile idea yet? - Most of daytime is FREE/WORK TIME, but evening activity is the musical revue VIVID. Meet in hotel lobby at 5:45pm for headshots, for the website/book. "Dress up" if you want to. We must walk out of lobby by 6:10pm to take two trams to the 7:30pm performance. We'll try to arrive early so you can grab quick sandwich/pretzels near [Friedrichstadt-Palast](#). After show, *FREE TIME* or perhaps a walk past the now-closed [Tacheles](#) art-squatter building to see the ladies of the night.

WEDNESDAY, May 15 – [You should have a firm idea on a profile subject by noon today.](#) Daytime is *FREE/WORK TIME* but at 4pm (meet in hotel lobby), we'll head out to meet illustrator Christoph Niemann's studio at 5pm (be-there time). He is big-time. New Yorker magazine, New York Times, Nat'l Geographic, etc. Address: Schroederstrasse 2. Website: <http://www.christophniemann.com/portfolio/> -- Then a paid group dinner: Walk to Delores Burritos (10-euros maximum). It's like Moe's or Chipotle's. *FREE TIME/WORK TIME* afterwards. You'll be near Alexanderplatz.

THURSDAY, May 16 – *FREE/WORK TIME* most of the day, until 5pm. We'll take the M4 at 5:20pm as a group to the Schultheiss Beer Factory Tour at 6 p.m. - Tastings plus a paid group dinner. You pre-order either Schnitzel, Salad or Bockwurst. *FREE/WORK* TIME afterwards, 9pm on. [BLOG #2 due midnight](#)

FRIDAY, May 17 – *FREE/WORK TIME* in morning and afternoon. But evening activity is Riverboat Dinner Cruise (paid group dinner). We have to leave lobby at 5:30pm for the 7pm departure. Two trams and some walking. Try to keep down noise during the dinner cruise. You pre-ordered chicken, fish, or tofu. One drink included with dinner. Done about 9:30pm. *FREE/WORK TIME*

SATURDAY, May 18 – *FREE/WORK TIME* but full-day optional outing with Prof. Freeman if interested: Leave hotel at 11am. Flea Market Charlottenburg, Mercedes World showroom, long S-Bahn ride and walk to Teufelsberg NSA Spy Station (8 euros), back to Bombed Out Church before 6pm, KaDeWe. – Or maybe somewhere along the river if Teufelsberg is out of business.

SUNDAY, May 19 – Between 10 and noon, Photo Review with Prof. Freeman or T.A. Andrew. Leave hotel at 12-noon for Der Reichstag Tour. BRING YOUR PASSPORT. Our appointment time is 12:45. *FREE TIME/WORK TIME* afterwards. Possible optional outing to a lake with Prof. Freeman if weather is nice. There's a floating restaurant with good boulette (crunchy meatloaf) and potato salad.

MONDAY, May 20 – *FREE/WORK TIME* most of the day. Evening activity is the (optional) Classical Musical Night in Old Tram Repair Shop at 8pm. Fifteen of you committed to a seat. Bring 25-euros cash to pay at the entrance. We will walk out of the hotel at 6:30pm and probably have time for a cheap authentic Turkish Doner Kebab right before the show along the way. BLOG #3 due midnight

TUESDAY, May 21 – *WORK/FREE TIME* Evening is the (farewell) TV Tower Dinner one day early. Dress up if you want. We walk out of the hotel at 7:15pm. There are a few minutes up top before dinner for looking around. Let's celebrate the UF in Berlin adventure with our paid Farewell Group Dinner. <https://www.tv-turm.de/en/> * FREE TIME * afterwards, about 10 or 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, May 22 – All work is due at 3pm today: Finished Slideshow as an .mp4 or HD .mov file, 10 photos and text block. Everything goes on Prof. Freeman's class thumb drive. Rest of day is FREE/WORK TIME. ** Evening farewell group activity to be determined. **

THURSDAY, May 23 – Ya Gotta Go! You're on your own, and can find your way to the airport or wherever you are going by now. Public transportation starts running at 4 a.m. or the front desk can call a taxi for you and they'll be out front within 10 minutes. For early departures, I recommend the cab; 25-30 euros divided by how many is fairly cheap and easier than the tram/bus. "Tschuss!" (Remember: "What happens in Berlin stays in Berlin! Ich bin ein Berliner!")

IMPORTANT NOTE: At various times during the two weeks, we'll be checking with you about your singles and project shots, audio, etc. Sometimes at breakfast, sometimes in the evening. KEEP IN TOUCH and ask questions if you need help. Do not wait until the last minute and panic.

There are many activities available NOT on this schedule: If the weather is nice, sunset watching picnic in Viktoria Park, where there is a waterfall. Trip to Lake Wannsee and ferry boat. Trip to Mercedes World, KaDeWe department store and Bombed Out Church in the West. Tiergarten? Berlin Zoo? Sachenshausen concentration camp. Ritter Sport Chocolate shop (make a custom bar?). Teufelsburg abandoned NSA station, etc. – In our neighborhood, ASIA TIGER is pretty good. Even Alexanderplatz station food is OK.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

First, review previous work (2016 link below for reference). The profile project should be between 75 and 90 seconds. No longer. Everything should spotlight the person's lifestyle and not just his/her job. You'll need about 20-30 good story-telling, horizontal photographs from several locations. The person does not need to be in every picture, because some could be close-ups of what he/she is talking about. Almost every photo needs a strong center of interest with a non-distracting background behind it. Also, the size of your person should vary from close-ups (a big face, but with eyes NOT looking at the camera), to medium shots (waist-up) to wide angle (include feet and atmosphere of where they are). You need the person's name and a headline on the first photo. Most find it's best to record the main interview AFTER you know what photos you want to use, so the words match the photos better.

You also need to set up a blog and send me the link. This could be an existing one. I will have a master blog with all names linked off mine. Keep posts family friendly.

<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/people/faculty/jfreeman/Berlin2016/Splash.htm>

<http://berlinblog2016.blogspot.com/> -- You need to make three posts, evenly spaced out.

"How your grade gets calculated"

1. **PROFILE PROJECT** (60%) – Are the photos horizontal, interesting, sharp and clear? Is the show well-paced and within the time limit of 75-90 seconds? Do the words match up with the pictures we are seeing? Is the subject's voice clear? Have you also integrated ambient (natural) sound into the audio – background sounds in places? Does the person address why he or she is in Berlin, and what's special about it? Be sure to ask them.
2. **TEN RANDOM PHOTOS** (10%) – Do they capture the atmosphere and spirit of Berlin? Have you included people in most of the pictures? Does each photo look different from the others? These could be selected for the GALLERY online link, and back of the book.
3. **BLOG** (10%) – Did you make three posts? Have you included photos and do you have links set up for someone to click on to see another website with more information?
4. **TEXT** (10%) – Did you write the short text story about your subject for the book following all guidelines? Right typeface, font size? Proper number of lines and or words? (*This information will come in a separate email*).
5. **PARTICIPATION/BEHAVIOR** (10%) – Were you an active listener with the two professional speakers? Were you on time to everything? Did you cause any trouble at the hotel or somewhere along the trip? (I hope not.)

40 TIPS AND ADVICE

1. **MEDS** – Bring special prescription meds because drugs don't all go by the same name overseas. One issue from the past has been white billowy stuff in the spring air that causes allergies. So BYOB, Bring Your Own Benadryl. ROSSMAN stores are like our CVS/Walgreens.
2. **ELECTRONICS** – Anything you've forgotten can be bought in Berlin. In Alexanderplatz, there is a huge "Saturn" store – think "Best Buy" on steroids – that has adapters, memory cards, hair dryers, batteries, refrigerators, you name it.
3. **PASSPORT** – Set it out now! You don't want to go looking for it on departure day.
4. **GRAFFITI** – I am so used to it I haven't mentioned it much. Berlin is full of it. Everywhere. All around the hotel, etc. It is more like street art. We are not in Harlem! It's safe. Don't worry.
5. **STORE HOURS** – Many close at 8pm. And all day Sunday. But some fast food places on busy streets are open 24/7. You might see several places called Imbiss or Grill. They are often open all night with Doener Kabobs, French fries (Pommes, as in "Pomm Fritz"), Currywurst, roasted chicken, salad and pizza. Be sure of your order; they will try to sell you more than you want. Stick with small.
6. **GROCERIES** -- Fairly close to the tram stop is a small grocery store open until 11pm. LIDL, remind me to show you. Two blocks away is a full-service grocery store, EDEKA. Since the hotel breakfast usually lacks fruit and orange juice (except weekend) you may want to visit these places. Near the hotel is an organic store. The word "BIO" = organic. Pricier than LIDL or EDEKA, but very close. *In all stores, it's self-serve on bagging items! And bags cost money. You can bring your own and use it over and over.*
7. **RESTAURANTS** – None serve water. If you ask for water, be prepared to pay for bottled water. They refer to tap water as "hand-washing water" although it is 100% safe and good to drink. Just not the custom. Also, people in a group eat as soon as the food is served. No one waits for the whole table to get meals just to be polite. Just dig in. Food is generally hotter than in the U.S.
8. **CELL PHONES** – First, try to un-plug some on this trip. Look around and you will see Germans relating to one another -- talking and enjoying the company of those they are with. Not buried in their phones! Absolutely do not surf the web or play games in front of the two speakers I have lined up. Or at any of the events (concerts, etc.) we go to. It will carry a big grade penalty.
9. **CELL PHONES PART TWO** – If you haven't checked already, go online or call your carrier to see about setting up your phone to use in Berlin. You could buy a cheap Euro-phone and talk for 9-cents a minute on a German plan, but you have to get a different number, set up voice mail, etc., and it's not easy. Just tell folks in the USA not to call you (except Mom and Dad, once!) Also, Verizon and AT&T both have data plans that might last two weeks of normal email checking and Facebooking when not on Wi-Fi. (Germans call Wi-Fi "W-LAN"). T-Mobile is a Germany company and has the best deal going. I'm once used a \$40/month Verizon international plan with some data, but went over quickly so now I do TRAVELPASS at \$10/day and roam like home. But try to unplug some. Look around and enjoy Berlin.
10. **GYPSIES** – At the major tourist sites there are often Middle Eastern women carrying babies and they'll ask "Do you speak English?" They are panhandlers looking for money. In my 14 years of doing this course, I've seen the same women with the same kids grow from babes in arms to become toddlers in training. Just said, "Nein!" or "No!" and they will leave you alone.
11. **STREET PHOTOGRAPHY** -- For good photojournalism, you generally want people in your shots. This is true of even building photos, to get a sense of scale and because people add interest. But if someone yells at you or says "no photos," honor their wishes and walk away. At times you can make eye contact and ask, "Photo OK?" and hopefully still get a candid shot without them looking at the camera. Just use good judgment. If you photograph street musicians or performers, they expect some kind of tip. Toss a few coins in the tip jar.

12. **GROUP MEALS** – The Bike Tour lunch and Dolores Burritos dinner have a 10-euro budget per person (you order, but I pay the entire bill for each group meal). The Riverboat Cruise, the Brewery meal and the TV Tower are all pre-paid program meals. No alcohol can be rung up on the UF group meal receipts.

13. **TELEKOM WI-FI EXPLAINED** – The hotel's internet "German Hot Splotz," is a bit wonky. If it's too frustrating, you may want to investigate "Telekom." This is T-Mobile's hot-spot service. In 2018 it was 35-euros for 30 days. You need a credit card to sign up. Two people might share the cost, but only one device can be online per account at any one time. It gives you more reliable Internet on your laptop – or – Wi-Fi on your phone, but only one device at a time. Around the city, there are a several places with the Telekom Wi-Fi hot-spot signals, so you can log-in with your phone and check email, for instance.

14. **ON/OFF PUBLIC TRANSPORT** – It's essential that you QUICKLY get on and off the trams, buses and subways or doors will close on you. The drivers are efficient, not friendly. They won't wait for you.

15. **CROSSING STREETS** -- Obey the pedestrian lights and don't jaywalk. Germans follow the rules. When cars have a green light, you're just a target for them. Do NOT expect cars to stop for you. If our whole group can't cross a street because the light changes, we will wait on the other side. Drivers WILL NOT.

16. **TOUR GUIDES** -- Please make their job pleasant by listening. It's disheartening to them if you don't. We have two guided tours: biking on the first day and walking on the second. We'll go to different places and see different things. Please be interested. Respect other guest speakers. Listen. Ask questions.

17. **RESTROOMS** -- Don't pass one up, especially if it's free. Finding the next one is not always easy. Expect to leave 50-cents + on the tip plate if there is a restroom attendant. The hotel has restrooms on the reception level where we often meet before leaving for the day. ("Go! - Do not hold it!")

18. **BOTTLED WATER** -- Normal tap water is fine to drink, but never served with meals. If you buy bottled water, it is normally carbonated, fizzy mineral water. If you want plain American-style water, ask for still water (pronounced: Still-is Vah-sir, with a V). Or say "no gas" and they'll understand. *Cold drinks come without ice*. There is usually no small or large, only the designated exact amount, such as ,2 liter or ,5 liter (half a quart). Yes, they use commas, not periods.

19. **HOTEL ELEVATOR** – Don't try to stop the elevator doors from closing. There's no sensor like in the U.S. There is one down about ankle level, but don't jam the door sensor or the whole thing shuts down and you'll walk up/down five flights until they fix it.

20. **BREAKFAST DISHES** -- Be sure to "bus your own table" at breakfast -- carry dirty dishes around the corner. *Don't take excessive food and then toss it away*. Take a little and go back if you need to.

21. **HOTEL FOOD AND DRINK** – There's no restaurant at the hotel, but various vending machines have snacks. The front desk clerk is also the bartender and the counter is open 24/7. Don't be surprised to find the night clerk drinking a beer. It's Germany!

22. **HOTEL LINENS AND TOWELS** – Your sheets are changed only once during our stay, at mid-point. Towels are refreshed daily if left on the floor. Everyone gets one small bath towel and hand towel. The shower has liquid body wash. GIRLS: Four to a room will be tough; please get along and let's be on time.

23. **ROOM KEYS** -- This old hotel has one per room. You have to share it. Basically leave it at the front desk when you leave, pick it up there when you come back. If it's not at the front desk, a roommate has it and is in your room. Don't pocket the key and leave the hotel! I know this will be hard to remember, with up to four in a room, but try. *Do NOT prop your door open at night with a towel. Keep it locked*. We had an incident once year where a drunk on the wrong floor thought four UF girls had taken over his room!

24. **UMBRELLA AND UNDERWEAR (<WHAT?!)** -- I'd pack a small umbrella and have it in carry-on in case it's raining when you arrive at the airport. Also, what else would you miss if your luggage didn't arrive with you? Underwear. You can borrow many things from others but probably not underwear or a toothbrush. Pack one of each in carry-on! And carry that little umbrella with you daily.

25. **NINE HOURS ON PLANE?** -- Someone asked how to pass the time. Best bet is to sleep. Once you've eaten the evening meal, maybe watch a boring movie then try to sleep. You'll wake up for breakfast before landing and then have the whole day. So sleep on the plane, avoid a nap the first day in Berlin and re-set your body clock. We'll be leaving the hotel at 7pm on the first Friday to keep you moving a bit.

26. **BEING ON TIME** – I can't emphasize this enough. You are part of a group and not a solo traveler. We have set schedules and cannot wait for "that person" who runs late. You will be left behind.

27. **PACKING/WASHING** -- I pack light, 35-38 pounds. Then I do laundry once at mid-trip around the corner from the hotel (6 euros). If you fly over with a suitcase at exactly 50 pounds, and then add chocolate bars, a T-shirt, some souvenirs, etc., you'll pay extra for that suitcase going back to the USA. And if travelling in Europe after Berlin, many airlines have a 44-pound limit anyway (20 kilos).

28. **CASH MONEY** -- I suggest you hit the ground with 50 euros minimum. That way, if stranded solo at the airport, 30 euros will get you to the hotel in a taxi where others are and you'll have money to eat until you find everyone and/or your lost luggage arrives. During the two weeks, students tell me they spend anywhere from \$200 to \$500. Your best bet is getting Euros from an ATM ("Geld-Automat") as you need them. Be sure to notify your bank before traveling about plans to use your ATM card and credit card.

29. **AVOID BEING AN UGLY AMERICAN** -- Germans are generally tolerant and stick to themselves quietly, like on a subway and restaurants. *Avoid being a loud "Ugly American" laughing loudly and talking too much, OK? – especially in restaurants. Don't embarrass Prof. Freeman.*

30. **TRANSPORTATION PASS** -- The 7-day pass (you'll get two) is good for all public transportation within the A-B zones of Berlin (everything except far away). The U-Bahn is generally underground, the S-Bahn is on the surface, and Trams (M-streetcars) are more local. To use a bus, show the driver your ticket. For everything else, just hop on; there are no turnstiles, tokens or ticket-takers. Undercover agents will sometimes come around. No ticket? It's embarrassing; they kick you off and fine you 40 Euros. – It is essential that you hop on and off quickly. Be ready at the door for your stop and don't linger.

31. **PASSPORT PART 2** – Have either your real Passport or a copy with you at all times. It's German law that you have a government ID and show it to authorities.

32. **MUSICAL REVUE – FINALE DINNER** -- Please, no tennis shoes or shorts the night of the musical play or farewell TV Tower dinner. It's a chance to dress up a bit. Berlin is Germany's NYC.

33. **BEING FRIENDS** -- Please mingle with the group and include others in any going-out plans. Sit with someone new at breakfast. No one wants to be left out. This is a big deal with me. Avoid going out solo after dark; take someone. Buddy up with a classmate. Use common sense.

34. **TIPPING / PAYING** – Waiters are professionals and do NOT rely on big tips like in the U.S. The custom is to round up, though, if it's close. Example: Food comes to 4,70 euros, hand the waiter 5 and say "Das ist gut (goot)." *Don't leave money on the table; pay him/her directly. They make change from a wallet.* Cash is king here, NOT credit cards. For group meals, I tip 10% and they are grateful.

35. **GERMAN WORDS** – You will pick up some phrases since we're out in public a lot.

- Entschuldigen = "I'm Sorry." "Ent-should-again" - If you bump into someone. Or try "Sorry." –
- Wie viel kostest das? – "How much does that cost?" (W's and V's are both pronounced like a V.)
- Ja (say: yaah) is "yes"; Nein (nine) is "no" (in answer to questions). But "Kein" = no, as in *no* meat.
- Bitte (Bit-ta) is "please;" Danke (Dank-ka) is "thank you."

36. **PIZZA DELIVERY** – The hotel desk clerk has menus for "Joey's Pizza" and can help you order pizza to be delivered to the lobby/reception on floor #3 – not your room. Be sure to ask that the pizza be cut; it normally is not sliced. Yes, they even deliver beer. Welcome to Germany!

37. **DRINKING ALCOHOL** – The legal age for beer and wine in Germany is 16; hard liquor at 18. That’s because most young adults are generally responsible and follow rules. I figure you should be like that, too. “When in Berlin, be like the Berliners.” Don’t cause trouble and we’ll be OK. While there are no open-container laws for public places, such as parks and sidewalks, and no closing hours in Berlin, drinks are officially prohibited on the subways and trams. So follow that rule despite seeing offenders openly drinking. – By the way, don’t feel pressured to drink alcohol if you don’t want to, or your parents have told you not to. It’s your decision – there’s no peer pressure on this trip. ** Reminder: At group dinners, I cannot include alcohol on the group food bill for UF accounting. You will have to pay separately for any drinks except water and soft drinks.

38. **“Coke Light” = Diet Coke.** Many times, there are deposits on bottles, up to 25-cents. If you want to gather yours and take down to the Edeka store for a refund, fine, or you can leave them for the hotel maids to cash in. This works great in that someone is always bottle-collecting on the streets. So streets are clean except for the bottles smashed by drunks on purpose.

39. **CANON** – Using one for the first time? You’ve had time to learn it, but here’s a good tutorial for a similar T3i: <https://multimedia.journalism.berkeley.edu/tutorials/canon-rebel-t3i/>

40. **PRACTICE!** – Learn all you can about making a slide show BEFORE you get to Berlin.

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TXL AIRPORT-TO-HOTEL INSTRUCTIONS:

I suggest you print this out and keep in your carry-on in case we miss connections Friday or you arrive by yourself, or without me....or whatever. Also, your parents and/or significant others may be interested in the hotel phone number and address (first paragraph) and emergency cell phone numbers for me, in the last paragraph. Remind folks that Berlin is *six hours ahead* of east coast time, so 9 p.m. Tuesday night in Florida is 3 a.m. Wednesday morning in Berlin. Noon Tuesday in Florida is 6 p.m. Tuesday in Berlin.

Hotel information: Hotel Transit-Loft, Immanuelkirchstrasse 14a, (district: Prenzlauer Berg). Hotel is down a driveway that looks like a small tunnel. Tel: 484 937 73 – From the U.S., it’s 011-49- 30 484 937 73. In Berlin, just: 484 937 73

How to Get from Tegel Airport to Hotel via public transportation. (Taxi - 28-euro)

First, restroom info at Tegel: There are *free* small restrooms (look for “WC” signs or “D” is Damen/women; “H” is Herren/Men) almost hidden between airline gates at the airport. The restrooms by the shops and exits to the busses have pay attendants. (50-cents)

Second, if your luggage did not arrive, there is a central counter that handles all airlines. It is across from Gate 4 or 5. Fill out the forms best you can. Your suitcase will be delivered to the hotel, probably the next day, unfortunately. (See hotel address above).

In the main concourse between gates 0 and 15, where shops and restaurants are, away from regular arrival gates, you’ll see a yellow/black arrival/departure board and information counter. Back behind there is a bank window to exchange money and also an ATM. The ATM has better rates. You can select English instructions (look for the British Union Jack flag). There are no paper receipts at ATMs.

The BVG (Berlin's transportation company) bus you want is "TXL." It leaves about every 15 minutes outside the main concourse in sort of a circle drive. Passengers unload in one spot, then the bus pulls up to let new passengers on.

Buy a single ticket A.B. (say "ah-bay") from the driver. Euro-2,80; good for two hours. It will be a hassle dragging your luggage on and jamming it near a seat. Everyone has to deal with it. Say "Sorry!" if you bang into someone.

The bus ride is about 30 minutes. It'll wind through central Berlin, headed for the TV Tower / Alexanderplatz train station. Look for the tall TV Tower; that's where you are going. It will be the end of the line; "last stop."

Walk to the base of the TV Tower ("Fernsehturm"), near the large, round, covered Alexanderplatz train station. You'll see yellow streetcars going by. With the TV Tower at your back (and also TK Maxx) and the train station right in front of you, get on an **M4** tram/streetcar headed for Falkenberg or Zingsterstr. (Do not take the M5 or M6!) Your AB ticket is still good; just get on quickly. It will be traveling to your right and will slowly pass under an overpass with train tracks above. Ride the M4 about three stops, looking up at the red digital signs showing stops. You want Hufelandstrasse – (it may just say Hufelandstr) and listen for the voice to announce it: It sounds like "Hoofel-land Strass-a." Drag your stuff off the tram at this stop. Quickly get off.

You will be on a tram stop island between the streets. Walk back in the direction you just came from, and look to your right across the street. Be careful of any M4 trams going the opposite direction. There should be a BAKERY (Backshop) on that side of the street. There's an opening in the rails so you can cross the street when it is clear – but be aware: cars drive fast here and will not stop for you. They will speed up and honk. (If you find yourself in front of Al Dente restaurant, you're on the wrong side of the street).

Once you're in front of the bakery, walk to your left. You'll see the Vietnamese restaurant "Asia Tiger," a BIO-FRESH grocery store (it's green outside), a hair salon, and on the corner of the next street is Ming Quang, a Thai Bistro. Turn right onto this cobblestone street, Immanuelkirchstrasse.

Walk about 100 feet and on your left, you'll see a driveway that's been built over. Head down the driveway/tunnel and on your right, you'll see a dark-yellow brick five-story building with a glass elevator on the outside, just like this picture. Take it up to Floor 3, reception, and tell them you are with Mr. Freeman's University of Florida group. You should be assigned to a room.

Phone numbers: Until I leave from the USA on Thursday, May 9, my U.S. cell phone is xxxxxxxx. It will work in Berlin.

Don't forget that Berlin is 6 hours later than in the U.S., so 5 p.m. in Florida is 11 p.m. in Berlin.

** Be sure your significant others have the hotel number (see first page) and my cell phone numbers in case of emergency. The hotel does not have phones in your rooms.

** ANYTIME YOU BUY A TRANSPORTATION TICKET, be sure to "validate it," which means give it a time stamp from a machine. That'll start the clock as to how long it's good for. **



In order, from the M4 Hufelandstrasse tram stop:

- a. Walk toward the Backshop bakery, then turn left. (Bakery sign might be red now)
- b. Go past the Bio Company grocery store
- c. On the next corner is Ming Quang Thai Bistro; turn right up that sidewalk
- d. In about 100 feet, you'll see a covered driveway on the left with Transit-Loft sign
- e. Walk down that driveway. The hotel is not there! Head for the first glass elevator. Push 3 for hotel.
- f. Tell them you are with Professor Freeman's University of Florida group