

5. Topics for Final Research Paper

This course has offered an overview of some of the main themes and issues that eastern Germans have had to come to terms with since the reunification. For your final paper, you will write 12-15 pages that explore one of the thematic areas of this course in greater detail, or investigate another aspect of the GDR experience or the decade and a half since that we did not cover in the course. To write the paper, make use of the “Additional Reading Materials” list on Blackboard, your own class notes, and at least three new, outside sources (from academic journals or books but not the internet). On the following page are some thematic areas we did not cover or covered only very briefly in this course that you might consider for your final paper topic.

Some thematic areas to consider and explore:

1. The role and place of women in the GDR
2. The GDR's sports dynasty
3. The sports doping scandals after 1989 and what happened to former top athletes
4. Rock bands and the underground music scene in the GDR
5. Film in the GDR, DEFA
6. Journalism in the GDR
7. The Free German Youth (FDJ) in the GDR
8. The *Jugendweihe* in the GDR and since 1989
9. Gays in the GDR
10. Personal interest clubs in the GDR, i.e., worship of American Indians
11. Professional mobbing after 1989
12. The medical system in the GDR: Was it a socialist success story?

13. The educational system in the GDR: was it equitable? Was it a success story?
14. The GDR's support for the arts
15. Dissidents in the GDR
16. Christa Wolf and other GDR writers
17. Juvenile detention in the GDR
18. Attempts to escape the GDR; the Wall and its history
19. Dealing with the past today: museums, victims support groups, memorials, etc.
20. Crimes and consequences: what happened to GDR elites after reunification;
trials
21. The psychological impact of institutional (SED, *Stasi*) repression