



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM 200
Made in Germany
Fall 2017
Lectures: TR 11:00-12:15
Room: SA 017

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Jan Süselbeck, PhD, PD Dr.

OFFICE LOCATION: CHC 118

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

TELEPHONE NUMBER : 403-220-7316

E-Mail : jan.suselbeck@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the culture of modern Germany in the 20th and 21st century. You will learn about German history, art, literature and film. In the first half of the seminar, our main reading source will be the book *1913: The Year Before the Storm* by German writer Florian Illies (* 1971). It paints a literary panorama of the cultural scene in the year before the *Great War* began, collecting chronological snapshots of cultural events and of the lives of many famous German personalities at the end of the 'long 19th century' (Eric Hobsbawm). The book works like Robert Altman's film *Shortcuts* or even Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, creating a complex puzzle of people wandering around, incidentally meeting in different places and contexts: Parts of these stories are based on facts, some only probably happened – or are just fiction. Main topics of the course are the two World Wars and the Holocaust, as well as their interpretation in historiography and in cultural studies. We also will analyse pre-fascism cinema by Leni Riefenstahl and other art from the time of the Weimar Republic, read about Germany's literary culture after 1945, study the representation of the left wing terrorism of the 1970's *Red Army Faction* in Bernd Eichinger's film "The Baader Meinhof Complex" (2008) – and eventually enter the German pop history of the 1980s and 1990s.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand Germany's history and culture since 1900. They will be trained to closely observe, read and analyse historiographic texts, literary texts, poetry, and film. They will have enhanced their presentation, reading and writing skills. Last but not least, they will have learned how to do bibliographic research for writing individual academic papers.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

- Presentation 20%
- Tickets to class/participation 15%
- Peer Review of 6-pages paper draft 5%
- One 6-page paper 30% (These papers are due on Friday, December 8, 2017).
- Final exam (2 hours) 30%



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REQUIRED TEXTS

The book *1913: The Year Before the Storm*, Melville House, 2013 by Florian Illies is required reading for the course. All other readings will be available through the D2L.

COURSE NOTES

- All numbers about the page lengths of assignments refer to the layout: double spaced, font Times / Times New Roman 12, 1 inch margins.
- **Attendance and Participation** are the key factors of this class. Participation means **active engagement** in the activities of the class (with your ideas you improve the discussions for everybody); it is based on thorough readings of the assigned texts, films, and other homework assignments. Attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade. The quality of the sessions will depend upon your preparedness and willingness to engage with each other. Please note that you do not have to have understood everything you have read to make a valuable contribution. Expressing doubts, disagreements, and asking for clarification is a useful way of contributing to discussion. Your class participation mark will be based on the quality rather than the quantity of your contribution. Also, it is essential that all participants treat each other with respect and courtesy. Students who feel unable to actively engage in classroom discussion must bring their concerns to the instructor's attention early so that an alternative strategy to ensure adequate performance can be sought. Unexplained absences will be penalized up to a loss of a full letter on the final grade. Also, please don't use electronic devices during class except for accessing digital copies of the required texts on a reading device, as using computers or cell phones for other purposes might distract yourself as well as those around you.
- **Missed presentations, missed tests, missed deadlines:** Expected to contact the instructor *prior* to the missed class / deadline in order to reschedule the presentation (phone / email) or in order to ask for an extension.
- **Group Presentation:** The group work is an opportunity to introduce, in approximately 20 minutes total, a character/art movement/location from the novel 1913. The goal of the work will be to more closely understand the difference between fiction, artistic representation and historical truth. **Everybody will have to join on of these group presentations about one of the scheduled Florian Illies reading meetings.**
- Power point presentation or 1 or 2 pages handout for class to be handed in one day before presentation; 5-10 minutes of presentation in class – the topic for the presentation will be an open (group) research on a topic about a given text or a movie to discuss.
- **The Ticket to Class** tests the students' understanding of the assigned readings or movies to be watched. You may be asked to
 1. come up with a good written question based on the reading / the movie
 2. respond to a question or issue raised by the reading / the movie
 3. write an abstract: Summarizing your ideas on course material helps you to formulate your research question in a precise and focused way. Bibliographic references will support, deepen and extend your thoughts.
 4. answer a short quiz at the beginning of a class



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Updated reading (for example of theoretical texts or interpretations), homework as well as **schedule changes** will be announced in class or via e-mail.

Peer review of 6-pages paper draft: There will be one compulsory meeting in which you'll have to bring your planned 6-pages paper in a 2/3 ready version and have it reviewed by another student during class (Tuesday, November 21th). That review form will have to be handed in with the final version of your paper.

6-pages paper: You will be required to write one 6-pages paper. It will be about one of the texts or movies discussed in this class, or an aspect of these works. Possible topics for these papers will be provided by the instructor or can be discussed with him beforehand.

If you are a major or graduate student in our German programs, you are encouraged to write in German; if you are not a native speaker, this will of course be taken into account. At the discretion of the instructor, a paper submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

These 6-pages papers are due on Friday, December 7, 2017.

By turning in a paper, you certify that the work is your own; that you have given proper credit and citation to the work of others; and that you have not committed any other form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Any case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and possible consequences up to expulsion from U of C. For definitions of plagiarism, please see the course calendar.

Final Exam: After the end of Fall Term, there will be one last 2-hour exam. In this exam, you will have to respond to some short answer questions and write an three-pages mini-essay about your learnings.

Writing skills statement: All writings assignments will be marked according to content, form, analysis, and originality as well as clarity of writing including grammar, spelling, and organization. To improve your writing skills, contact the Effective Writing Centre: https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the



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examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services office at 403-210-6019 or access@ucalgary.ca; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.



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SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.