



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

GERM 349
Research Methods in German Studies
Winter 2021
Tuesday | Thursday : 9:30 am to 10:45 am – online (via Zoom)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Elizabeth Schwaiger

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday, 10:30 am to 11:30 am (*regular Zoom drop in office hours; additional office hours by appointment*) **tbc**

E-MAIL: Elizabeth.Schwaiger@ucalgary.ca (Any question sent by email should receive a response within two business days or during the following class if taken place within the 48 hours following receipt of the email.)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: n/a

DESCRIPTION:

This class provides an introduction to research methods in German Studies across the disciplines. It aims to acquaint you with the methods and resources you need to conduct your own research in the field of German Studies, be it literature, art, architecture, film, history, philosophy, music, gender studies, or a related field. Cross-disciplinary research proposals are welcome.

OBJECTIVES

The course will ideally provide you with a toolkit to approach the objects of your study.

- have **general knowledge about the cultural history** of Germany and

OUTCOMES

You are expected to come up with and manage your own project.

By the end of the course, you can expect to:

- _be aware of the **scope of the field** of German Studies
- _understand the **stages and processes** involved in doing and presenting research
- _be familiar with key **information tools** for research in German
- _be acquainted with some **major methodological and theoretical approaches** in German Studies
- _be able to:
 - assess your need for information
 - search for this information effectively
 - critically evaluate your findings
 - synthesize and present your findings
 - use and document sources appropriately



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- write a research proposal and annotated bibliography
- lead a seminar discussion (poster presentation) on your proposal
- write an **original research paper (2500 to 3000 words)**

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be provided online via D2L. These comprise selected readings, podcasts, videos and course notes provided by the instructor.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

Benjamin, Walter. *Illuminations: Essays and Reflections*. Introd. Hannah Arendt. New York: Schocken Books, 1969. (WB)
Culler, Jonathan. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. (LT)
Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 8th ed. New York: MLA Press, 2016.

COURSE NOTES

- *Important dates: Lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am to 10:45 am*
- *Term break: February 14 to 20*
- *End of classes: Friday, April 16.*
- *Course evaluation procedure (online via D2L)*

Course Schedule (updated January 27)

January: Introduction | Overview of Research Methods | Intro to Close Reading | German Studies – Defining the Field | Introduction to Library Research | First Reading: Hannah Arendt: Eichmann in Jerusalem [“The Banality of Evil”]

February:

Week 4: February 2 and 4 → Bauhaus Manifesto

Week 5: February 9 and 11 → Walter Benjamin: “The Task of the Translator” & “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”

ASSIGNMENT February 11: Write a 500 word reflection on *either* Hannah Arendt’s “Banality of Evil” OR the “Bauhaus Manifesto” → **due date February 23**

Week 6: February 23 and 25 → WG Sebald: German literature in “exile” and Christa Wolf “They Divided the Sky” (East German literature; women’s literature)

Week 7: March 2 and 4 → Choosing your topic: Thesis statement and preparing an annotated bibliography

Week 8: March 9 and 11 → Paper proposal/abstract

Week 9: March 16 and 18 → Leading a seminar discussion (preparing a poster)



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Week 10: March 23 and 25 → Seminar discussions (contd.) and Research paper draft and peer review

Week 11: March 30 → Research paper draft and peer review (contd.)

Week 12: April 13 and 15 → Research paper draft and peer review (contid.)

ASSESSMENT (tbc)

Class participation	10%
Annotated bibliography and thesis statement	7.5%
Paper proposal/abstract	7.5%
Research paper draft and peer review	10%
Leading a seminar discussion	15%
Reading assignments	20%
Final paper/presentation (ca. 10 pp.)	30%

GRADING SCALE

A+ (97-100%), **A** (91-96%), **A-** (86-91%)

B+ (81-85%), **B** (76-80%), **B-** (71-75%)

C+ (67-70%), **C** (62-66%), **C-** (58-61%)

D+ (54-57%), **D** (50-53%), **F** (0-49%)

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

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 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



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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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.



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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 Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

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.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.