

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Dept. of Germanic, Slavic and East Asian Studies**  
**Dr. F. Strzelczyk**  
 German 357.02 – Winter 2012  
**Cinema in The Third Reich**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine a number of representative German films made in the Third Reich. We will study the notorious Nazi propaganda films, but also have a close look at the melodrama, adventure and history films and comedies that – by far – represented the majority of the film production during the Third Reich. Our exploration of these various film genres employed by Third Reich filmmakers will lead us to question the political dimension of seemingly non-political entertainment films and – vice versa – the aesthetic surfaces of political films. For a long time, the Nazi past has been a preferred topic of contemporary films. The course will weave in these contemporary perspectives.

**II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

This course will teach students to recognize, describe and evaluate

- Historical, political and cultural parameters shaping film production in the Third Reich
- Film techniques employed by Third Reich filmmakers
- The relation between ideology and entertainment at work in various films
- The cinematic after-life of Nazi images in contemporary films
- The ideological manipulations inherent in all mass media

**III. TEXTBOOKS/READINGS**

The readings will be available through the Blackboard site set up for this course. Please look under *Reading Assignments*. You will find assigned reading for each film shown in class and the dates indicating when the films will be discussed. Under *Course Lectures* you will find the Power Point slides that accompany each lecture and guest presentation.

**IV. ASSIGNMENTS, EVALUATION, DUE DATES**

Marking		Grading		
Day 1 Writing Assignment	10%	A+ (96-100)	B (77-80)	C- (59-61)
Day 2 Writing Assignment	15%	A (92-95)	B- (71-76)	D+ (55-58)
Day 3 Writing Assignment	15%	A- (86-91)	C+ (65-70)	D (50-54)
Day 4 Writing Assignment	15%	B+ (81-85)	C (62-64)	F (0-49)
Day 5 Writing Assignment	20%			
Final Research Paper	25%			

**Due Dates:**

Day 1 Writing Assignment	10%	Due: Thursday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 8 a.m.
Day 2 Writing Assignment	15%	Due: Friday, January 4 <sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.
Day 3 Writing Assignment	15%	Due: Saturday, January 5 <sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.
Day 4 Writing Assignment	15%	Due: Monday, January 7 <sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.
Day 5 Writing Assignment	20%	Due: January 14 <sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m (GSEA main office CHC 205)
Final Research Paper	25%	Due: February 1 <sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m. (GSEA main office CHC 205)

All written assignments are to be submitted in printed form. Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless specified otherwise. Final papers are due at the department of Germanic, Slavic, and East Asian Studies. Assignments submitted after the specified deadline **will be** penalized with the loss of 2% for each 15 minutes late.

### **Writing Skills Statement**

All writing 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 (SS 301). If you are a student with a disability, who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to:

- register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237), and
- discuss your needs with your instructor no later than immediately after the start of this course.

German 357.02 is a block-week course that is part of the winter term semester. While instructors will try their best to enter grades in as early as possible, they technically have all term to work through assignments and final exam.

## **V. EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**Writing Assignment Day 1** through **Day 5** plus the **Final Research Paper** are all explained in BlackBoard under Course Information. Instructions can be found in specific subfolders.

The following applies to **all** assignments

### **Format**

- Name, student number
- Paper title
- Double-spaced
- 1 inch margins
- Font: 12 pt. Times New Roman

### **Form**

- Correct spelling of names and terms
- Correct spelling, syntax, and punctuation
- Correct bibliographical format (in-text citations and works cited)

### **Content**

- See subfolder "How to write on film" (under Course Information)
  - Paper Topics
  - Writing a Research Paper on Film
  - Evaluation Criteria for all Writing Assignments
  - Be an Armchair Critic
  - Timothy Corrigan: Writing on Film

## **VI. ATTENDANCE AND IN-CLASS WORK**

You **must** attend all classes and all film screenings. We will take attendance every morning. We will also randomly assign you to a different working group of ten students per group every day for group debates and discussions.

Like all block-week courses this course is open for registration until midnight of the first day (Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>). If you decide to register at the end of the first day you will have missed 20% of the course. We will not provide make-up exams for students who register late for this course. The onus is on you to come prepared and to keep up with assignments in order to do well.