



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

GERM 369.13  
Telling Stories: Exploring German Literature  
Fall 2020  
MWF 15:00-15:50, synchronous meetings via Zoom

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Martin Wagner

**OFFICE HOURS:** Remotely, by appointment via email.

**E-MAIL:** [martin.wagner@ucalgary.ca](mailto:martin.wagner@ucalgary.ca) (You may expect a response within 48 hours, weekends excluded.)

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** I currently don't have access to my office phone. Phone calls and Zoom meetings can be arranged via email.

**DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces students to the study of German literary narratives. It combines a survey of the history of German literature from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present with an introduction to narrative theory and an exemplary analysis of select fiction. All lectures, readings, and writing assignments are in German, and the course's primary language for discussions is German. English can be used to facilitate understanding where necessary.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Provide orientation in the history of German literature from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
- Familiarize students with the conceptual vocabulary to analyse literary narratives.
- Improve students' German language skills, with a particular focus on reading comprehension.

**OUTCOMES**

- Students will be able to explain important historical trends and name major representatives of German literature from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
- Students will possess the critical toolset to analyse narrative texts.
- Students can navigate complex German literary texts in the original language.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

- Reich-Ranicki, Marcel (ed.). *Die besten deutschen Erzählungen*. Suhrkamp, 2012. (Available at the University Bookstore.)

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

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**COURSE NOTES**

- All course meetings are synchronous via Zoom and will NOT be recorded.
- To simulate a regular classroom atmosphere and improve communication, students are encouraged to keep their video turned on during class meetings. Please keep your microphone muted unless you decide to speak.
- Please see detailed information on the assessment and all assignments below.
- Please also see the detailed class schedule, which includes due dates for all assignments, on D2L (under Content).



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**Technology Requirements:**

As per the requirements, students need to have reliable access to technology, as follows:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Stable internet connection.

Additionally, a webcam/camera (built-in or external) is highly recommended.

**ASSESSMENT**

Homework: 40 % (20 short assignments worth 2 % each)

Essays: 30 % (2 essays worth 15 percent each)

Creative assignment: 10 %

Presentation of creative assignment: 5 %

Participation: 15 %

**Homework:** There will be 20 homework assignments. Homework assesses students' understanding of the readings and lectures. Homework has to be submitted on D2L prior to the class meeting for which it was assigned, and it should be ready at hand during class meetings. Homework will be graded based on completion.

**Essays** (500 words each, +/- 10 percent): Students write two essays in which they apply the historical and conceptual concepts introduced in the lectures to the fictional texts read in this course. For precise instructions, see the information on D2L. The essays will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Completion of the task (5% per assignment).
- Structure (introduction and conclusion, clear transitions) (5% per assignment).
- Vocabulary (appropriate register, variety, and correct usage) (3% per assignment).
- Grammatical structures (variety and correctness) (2% per assignment).

**Creative writing** (500 words, +/- 10%): Students write one narrative text of their own invention. In its content and/or narrative structure, the text should be based on important elements of one of the texts read in class. The creative assignment will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Completion of the task (5%).
- Vocabulary (correct usage) (3%).
- Grammatical structures (correctness) (2%).

**Presentation of creative assignment:** Student present their creative writing assignment to the class. They prepare one PowerPoint slide in which they clarify the model on which their text is based and in which they provide a concise summary of their story. The grade will be based on the following criteria:

- It is clearly identified what elements of what text inspired the student's story (3/5).
- The writing complies with standard German spelling and grammar. (2/5)



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**Participation:** Students are asked to participate in class discussions by sharing results of their homework and/or providing additional comments and questions. To receive a perfect grade, students must make 15 substantial contributions in German over the course of the semester. Students may choose to supplement their contributions with short reflective statements (c. 100-200 words each, in German) about individual class meetings. Each of these statements will be worth up to 3 points (to achieve a perfect score, the writing must be clear, and the statement must demonstrate familiarity with the content of the assigned reading, film screening, or class discussion). These statements have to be emailed to the instructor no later than 48 hours after the meeting on which they comment.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- **All writing assignments (except for the reflective statements contributing to the participation component) have to be uploaded D2L. Please use WORD DOCUMENTS for all written assignments, and please include your full name in the name of the file.**
- **For each 24 hours an assignment is late, one point will be deducted. Please reach out to the instructor prior to the due date to arrange accommodations if appropriate.**
- **Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded at zero points.**

#### GRADING SCALE

**A+** (97-100%), **A** (92-96%), **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



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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.

**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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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>.