



FACULTY OF ARTS

Linguistics, Languages & Cultures

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Course Syllabus – *Fall 2013*

GERM 561/627 – S02: Media, Message and Memory

MWF, 12:00-12:50 • CHD 425

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Course Description

What is the *Kulturindustrie*? Is the medium the message? If you are what you watch, who do Germans think they are?

This course will trace some of the most important developments in German media in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course begins with the theories of the Frankfurt School, as well as German media discourse analysis (Friedrich Kittler) and Canadian contributions (Marshall McLuhan) that either influenced or mirrored the German development. It will go on to cover topics such as terrorism and the secret police in media coverage, to examine the tensions of the global and the local in contemporary cinema, and consider how popular media shape cultural memory. Students will analyze newspaper articles, feature films, television news, literary production and social media.

Evaluation

- presentation and sequence analysis of one film or television source (10 %)
- response paper to one print or electronic media source (10%)
- attendance / participation / text responses ("tickets to class") (20 %)
- take home exam after the term (20 %)
- research paper (40 %)

General Course Objectives

The course introduces the students to work in depth with various German media forms. It will examine major developments in the German media landscape since World War II.

Students will deal with questions of authorship, journalistic ethics, visual culture and mass production and reception. They will be exposed to canonical films, as well as more ephemeral media sources, such as television serials, print and television news, and electronic sources such as Twitter.

Students will learn to use online sources for research, work with media theory and hone skills in visual media analysis for their major papers.

Required texts

- essays and text excerpts posted as links on Blackboard or made available in class
- Christa Wolf, *Was bleibt / What remains*. Students in the German program should read this in the original.
Wolf, Christa. *Was bleibt*. Frankfurt a/M: Suhrkamp, 2007.
- *DVDs will be on reserve on the 3rd floor of Taylor Family Digital Library or made available for viewing in Craigie Hall*

Class Schedule

Weeks 1 and 2 (September 9 and 16). Introduction to Issues of Mass Communication

Reading:

Horkheimer and Adorno, "Fragments on the Culture Industry" (From *Dialectics of Enlightenment*)

online: https://blogs.commons.georgetown.edu/engl-246-fall2011/files/2011/09/Dialectic-of-the-Enlightenment_-The-Culture-Industry.pdf

Enzensberger, "Constituents of a Theory of the Media"

online: <http://www.tcnj.edu/~miranda/classes/topics/reading/enzensberger.pdf>

McLuhan, "The Medium is the Message," *Understanding Media*.

online: <http://users.wpi.edu/~bmoriarty/imgd2000/docs/McLuhan1.pdf>

Kittler, "Introduction," *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*.

http://monoskop.org/images/7/73/Kittler_Friedrich_Gramophone_Film_Typewriter.pdf

Week 3. (September 23) Post-war Germany:

The Evening News in Germany and Canada

--excerpts from *Die Tagesschau* and *The National*

Current issues in German and Canadian Media: eg. Edward Snowden's 2013 mass surveillance disclosures

Week 4 (September 30) no class

Week 5 (October 7) German Auteur-Film and Transnationalism

Rainer Werner Fassbinder: *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (1974)

Wim Wenders: *Paris, Texas* (1984)

Week 6/7 (week of October 14 and 21) Remembering Terrorism in the Media

Margarethe von Trotta: *Marianne and Juliane* (1981)

Uli Edel/Bernd Eichinger: *The Baader Meinhof Complex* (2008)

-selected articles from *Der Spiegel* and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, video clips *Deutsche Welle*

Week 8 (October 28) Writers and the Stasi in the Media

-Christa Wolf: *What Remains*

-selected newspaper articles on former GDR writers Christa Wolf, Heiner Müller and Sascha Anderson in response to the revelation that they were Inofficial Collaborators for the Staatssicherheitsdienst

Week 9 (November 4) Cultural Memory and Transnational Film Production

Volker Schlöndorff: *Strike* (2007)

Erlil, Astrid. "Literature, Film and the Mediality of Cultural Memory." *Cultural Memory Studies: An International Handbook*, eds. A. Erlil and A. Nünning. Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 2008. 389-398.

Week 10 (November 11) no class

Week 11 (November 18) Angelina Maccarone: *Unveiled (Fremde Haut)* 2005

Paul Cooke, "Transnational cinema, globalisation and multicultural Germany." *Contemporary German Cinema*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2012. 123-164.

Week 12 (November 25) Literature and Hypertext

--lyrikline.org

--neuedichte.de (text as image; spatiality; poetry and politics)

--Twitter and German culture

Week 13 (December 2) Popular Television

--"Türkisch für Anfänger." Media and diversity:

http://diversity-boell.de/downloads/diversity/Dossier_Medien_und_Diversity.pdf#page=19

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