

German 01:479:301:01; index 07139
Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis:
GDR: FROM OSTZONE TO OSTALGIE

Fall 2008
TuTh5 (2:50-4:10)
Scott Hall 103

Professor Christopher Clark
Dept. of German
172 College Ave., Room 302
732-932-7201, ext. 24
cmclark@rci.rutgers.edu
Office hours: TBA

Course description:

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Analysis is designed for students with a solid grasp of basic German grammar and vocabulary who wish to extend their knowledge of German language, history, politics, and culture, through reading, discussion, and writing. It is a writing-intensive course. **All readings, discussion, and writing in German.**

This course will explore the literature, culture, and politics of the German Democratic Republic, commonly referred to as “East Germany.” From its beginning as the Soviet-occupied zone to its foundation as a socialist republic at the dawn of the Cold War, we will trace how artists and intellectuals negotiated between their own utopian ideals and the often brutal reality of daily life in a repressive regime. We will examine the *Aufbaujahre* of the 1950s and the failed workers’ uprising of 1953, as well as the massive flow of people into the West, leading to the construction of the Berlin Wall, the most (literally) concrete symbol of the Cold War. We will read the literature of the relatively liberal early 70s and then explore the disastrous consequences of the Wolf Biermann affair for artists and intellectuals in the late 1970s. We will move on to the events leading to the fall of the Wall and subsequent public debates over re/unification vs. a “third way.” In the second half of the course, we will consider the cultural legacy of the GDR in the 1990s and beyond, including the remainder of the so-called “Mauer im Kopf” and the phenomenon of “Ostalgie,” a widespread nostalgia for many aspects and artifacts of daily life in East Germany. We will work with a variety of written and visual narratives, including short stories, poetry, newspaper articles, films, television, and a novel.

Required texts:

- Thomas Brussig, *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*. Fischer, 1999
- PDF downloads from the course’s Sakai page
- Occasional handouts, electronic reserves, and web sites. Budgetary restrictions require the German Department to collect from each student 5 cents per page toward the cost of handouts other than the syllabus, quizzes and tests. When readings are available electronically, students are expected to print them out and bring them to class.

Grading:

I. Class Participation: 40%

Your participation grade includes a range of factors including:

- Attendance. All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse (a doctor's or college dean's note, for instance) should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.
- Discussion and preparation. All students are expected to take part actively in class discussion. To this end, you are expected to bring with you to each class **three** written or typed clusters of questions that you think would contribute to a productive discussion and deepen your understanding of the text at hand. I will collect these at the end of every class and provide occasional written commentary. They will not be evaluated for grammatical correctness, only for content. I will provide examples of what I think constitute good discussion questions. Your questions should total around half a page if handwritten (although I will not be counting words).

II. Papers: 30% (15 + 15)

Every essay will be revised at least once, for content and style as well as for grammar. Your first draft will receive comments but no grade; only your revised essay (to which you must attach your first draft when you submit it) receives a letter grade. If you wish to further improve your essay, after discussion with me you may submit a subsequent revision for a better grade. Most of your work on grammar in this course will be in the context of working with your essays; however, if there are particular points of difficulty common to many students, we may do some specifically grammar-oriented exercises during the semester. *No late work will be accepted unless you have arranged in advance for an extension.* Use of an online translation engine or excessive use of a dictionary will be considered cheating (see academic integrity policy below).

III. Midterm & Final Exams: 30% (15 + 15)

There will be a take-home mid-term and final. These exams are open-book and open-note, but *use of the internet is absolutely forbidden.*

Academic Integrity Policy:

With regard to papers and exams, please refer to Rutgers University's official policy on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. **Any** violations of this policy will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

KALENDER (Änderungen vorbehalten)

Di. 02.09.08: Einführung

I. Anfang und Aufbau

Do., 04.09.08: „Der Kampf gegen den Formalismus in der Literatur“; Johannes R. Becher, Gedichte

Di., 09.09.08: Becher, „Vom Aufbau einer sozialistischen Kultur“; Bertolt Brecht, Gedichte;
Alexander Abusch, „Der Schriftsteller und der Plan“

Do., 11.09.02: „Der Auftrag der Partei an die Künstler“; Anna Seghers, „Die Umsiedlerin“; Käthe
Rülicke, „Hans Garbe erzählt“

Di., 16.09.08: Inge Müller, „Die Radfahrer“; Heiner Müller, „Der Vater“

Aufsatz 1a (Gedichte) fällig

Do., 18.09.08: Mary Fulbrook, aus *Anatomy of a Dictatorship*; Stefan Hermlin, „Die Kommandeuse“

Di., 23.09.08: Stefan Heym, „Der Bazillus“/„The Germ“

II. Alltag, Politik und Kunst im Schatten der Mauer

Do., 25.09.08: Online-Texte zum Bau der Berliner Mauer; Klaus Schlesinger, „Am Ende der
Jugend“

Di., 30.09.08: Online-Texte zur „neuen Ostpolitik“

Do., 02.10.08: Wolf Biermann, aus *Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen*; Texte zur Ausbürgerung

Aufsatz 2a (Erzählung) fällig

Di., 07.10.08: Biermann, aus *Für meine Genossen*

Do., 09.10.08: Heiner Carow, *Die Legende von Paul und Paula* [Film]

Di., 14.10.08: Charlotte Worgitsky, „Karriere abgesagt“

Do., 16.10.08; Heiner Carow, *Coming out* [Film]; Texte zur DDR-Punkbewegung

III. Die Wende und Blicke zurück

Di., 21.10.08: Online-Texte zum Fall der Mauer und zur Wieder/Vereinigung

***Midterm fällig!**

Do., 23.10.08: Jane Kramer, aus *The Politics of Memory*

Di., 28.10.08: Stefan Heym, „Der zuverlässigsten einer“

Do., 30.10.08: Heym, „Auf Sand gebaut“

Di., 04.11.08: Thomas Brussig, *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 7-42

Do., 06.11.08: *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 43-90

Di., 11.11.08: *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 91-120

Do., 13.11.08: *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 121-Ende

Di., 18.11.08: *Good Bye, Lenin!* [Film], PDF-Heft zum Film

Aufsatz 3a fällig

Do. 20.11.08: Thanksgiving—kein Unterricht

Di., 25.11.08: *Good Bye, Lenin!* und andere Texte zum Thema Ostalgie

Do., 27.11.08: Jana Hensel, *Zonenkinder*, S. 11-26, 158-168

Di., 02.12.08: aus *Die Zonenkinder und Wir, Unschuldig*, Folge „Das Erbe unserer Väter“ [Film im Unterricht]

Do., 04.12.08: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, *Das Leben der Anderen* [Film], PDF-Heft zum Film

Di., 09.12.08: Rückblick und Zusammenfassung

***Endklausur fällig am Montag, 22. Dezember 2008, um 12.00 Uhr**