

# GERMAN MEDIA & SOCIETY

**(1.5 CREDITS)**

GERMAN 01:470:299 index 20271

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
FALL 2011

MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> period, 7.40-9.00 pm  
UPPER LOUNGE, LEUPP HALL

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## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The aim of this course is to actively develop your language skills and cultural awareness through the study of the role of various media (including print, internet, film, and the other arts) in informing contemporary German politics and society. Special attention will be paid to cultural differences between Germany and the United States. Texts and presentations will be chosen to accommodate language level of students enrolled. By the end of the semester students will be able to talk about certain aspects in Germany's political and cultural life. This course may be repeated. Course credits may be counted toward the German major and minor.

**PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of German 102.

DISCUSSION AND MATERIALS IN GERMAN.

## **Final Grade**

Participation: 10%

Homework (incl. home reading): 15%

Quizzes: 15%

Presentations (short reports and one oral presentation incl. handout): 30%

Final Oral Exam: 15%

Final Written Exam: 15%

## **Grading scale**

A=90-100%; B+=85-89%; B=80-84%; C+=75-79%; C=70-74%; D=65-69%; F=64 and below

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to his or her dean for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, whether quoting or paraphrasing, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html> and discuss with the instructor any questions you may have about this issue.

## **PHOTOCOPIES**

Department photocopying fees add up quickly and impressively; we will therefore need to collect from each student 5 cents per page toward the cost of handouts other than the syllabus, quizzes and tests.

## **CLASS WEBSITE**

You can find a website for the course under the following link: <http://sakai.rutgers.edu>. You should be enrolled and have access automatically if you are a registered Rutgers student and have signed up for the class. Just use your NetID and password. If not, then please contact me and I will give you access. Please check the website frequently for the most recent announcements, worksheets and assignments.

## **GERMAN SPECIAL INTEREST HOUSING**

In cooperation with the German Special Interest Section of Rutgers College Housing, it is an ample opportunity to take advantage of their cultural events such as excursions to museums, theaters, and restaurants, and weekly activities such as German movie nights and German conversation tables. Your active participation will enable you to learn even more about German culture today.

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3Players, etc.) must be turned off during class out of respect to the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important communications outside of class time.

## **REQUIRED TEXT** (available at Rutgers University Bookstore)

Uwe Timm, *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst* (2010)

### **recommended texts**

Derek Lewis and John R.P. McKenzie, *The New Germany. Social, Political and Cultural Challenges of Unification* (1995)

Alison Philipps, *Contemporary German Cultural Studies* (2002)

Renate Luscher, *Deutschland nach der Wende* (1997)

Ben Donald, *Deutschland for Beginners – Meine abenteuerliche Reise ins Land von Weltschmerz und Sauerkraut* (2008)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- attendance and active, thoughtful, and articulate participation are mandatory

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.

- weekly short response papers (DEC)

Homework assignments consist primarily of the readings specified on the syllabus. Completing the readings will ensure that you are prepared for course discussions and quizzes.

- oral presentations on an article or group of articles from our weekly reading

a. All students must give one oral presentation of approximately 10 minutes. In this presentation they will research a current issue. The presentation may not be read; handout(s) required.

b. All students must present a story from the news from the same or previous day twice during the semester. It is expected that the news be presented in their own words.

- quizzes

Students will take several quizzes, which will consist of one or two essential questions. They will refer to the discussion in class and readings. A total of three quizzes will be given throughout the semester.

- a final project, to take the following forms:

- a take-home essay. The take-home essay is a discussion of one issue in contemporary Germany that you find most interesting. It must be about 500-600 words long and due when you begin the oral exam;

- an oral component. You may find one partner for the oral exam or present alone. Each student must be able to discuss two or three issues, which have been previously mentioned in class. The duration of the oral exam is 15 minutes per student.

## **OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

I will hold office hours on Mondays before and after the class, as well as by appointment. You may reach me on email at [nlushina@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:nlushina@rci.rutgers.edu). Emails will be returned within 48 hours.

**\*THIS SYLLABUS IS PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

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## **CALENDAR OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS**

\*DEC = *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst*

\*HA = Hausaufgabe

\*S. = Seitenangabe

\*R = Referate zu vorgeschlagenen Artikeln (Other topic choices are welcome!)

## **WOCHE 1 :: 8. SEPTEMBER :: EINFÜHRUNG**

introduction to the class; DEC, S. 7-10

HA: DEC, S. 11-21.

## **WOCHE 2 :: 12. SEPTEMBER :: GEOGRAPHIE: STAAT UND STADT**

*Frankfurt – immer in Bewegung*

R: *Berlin mit dem Rad, Dresden, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg usw.*

HA: DEC, S. 22-36.

## **WOCHE 3 :: 19. SEPTEMBER :: MOBILITÄT UND VERKEHR**

R: *Reisetipps*

HA: DEC, S. 37-50.

## **WOCHE 4 :: 26. SEPTEMBER :: 1:0 FÜR DIE DEUTSCHE SPRACHE**

Elias Canetti, *Die gerettete Zunge*, Auszüge; *Was Goethe nicht wusste*

R: *Jonathan Franzen – Welterzähler; Welche Rolle spielt Deutsch international?*

HA: DEC, S. 51-65.

## **WOCHE 5 :: 8. OKTOBER :: MUSIK**

quiz #1

*Richard Wagner*

R: *Warum gibt es keinen deutschen Jazz?; Paul Van Dyk über seine Karriere, die Techno-Szene und Politik*

HA: DEC, S. 66-80.

## **WOCHE 6 :: 10. OKTOBER :: SCHERZE UND SPRÜCHE AUF DEUTSCH**

Special Guest: Dr Christophe Fricker, Charlotte M. Craig Visiting Research Scholar and Max Kade Writer/Scholar in Residence (Fall 2011)

HA: DEC, S. 81-94.

## **WOCHE 7 :: 17. OKTOBER :: BERÜHMTE PERSÖNLICHKEITEN**

*Unsere Besten; Lebenslauf*

R: *Deutsche in Hollywood*

HA: DEC, S. 95-110.

## **OKTOBER 2011 :: DIE DREIGROSCHENOPER in BAM/FAUST at the MET**

NEW YORK | "Three penny Opera" | <http://www.bam.com/> trip proposed for (TBA) October

## **WOCHE 8 :: 24. OKTOBER :: POLITIK UND MEDIEN**

Über Grafiken sprechen

R: *Die Chefinnen; Steffi Jones – Die OK-Chefin*

HA: DEC, S. 111-126.

## **WOCHE 9 :: 31. OKTOBER :: INTERNATIONALES DEUTSCHLAND**

quiz #2

Interkulturelles Zusammenleben und religiöse Vielfalt

R: freie Themenwahl

HA: DEC, S. 127-138.

## **WOCHE 10 :: 7. NOVEMBER :: FAMILIE**

Bevölkerungsentwicklung; Lebensformen; Alter

R: *Deutschland 2020*

HA: DEC, S. 139-155.

## **WOCHE 11 :: 14. NOVEMBER :: SCHULE**

Erfolgreiche Schulbildung; Lebenslanges Lernen

R: freie Themenwahl

HA: DEC, S. 156-170.

**WOCHE 12 :: 28. NOVEMBER :: FESTE UND BRÄUCHE**

*Am Nikolausabend; Auf der Silvesterparty; Dinner for One*

R: *Kaiser, Kirchen und Christkind; Adventszeit; Weihnachten*

HA: DEC, S. 171-187.

**WOCHE 13 :: 5. DEZEMBER :: ESSEN MIT TRADITION**

quiz #3

Film *Die Entdeckung der Currywurst*

R: *Whiskey – made in Germany; Manchmal haben wir Tomaten auf den Augen; Forelle blau; Labskaus; Festessen mit Tradition*

**WOCHE 14 :: 12. DEZEMBER :: "EIN WEIHNACHTSLIED GEHT UM DIE WELT"**

Projektarbeit

~special guests invited~

**Final Exam:** Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 8.00-11.00pm

### Class participation rubric

	<b>Exceeds expectations (100-90 %)</b>	<b>Meets expectations (89-80 %)</b>	<b>Meets some expectations (79-70 %)</b>	<b>Below expectations (69-65 %)</b>
<b>Attentiveness</b>	Student is always attentive and focused on work assigned. Student does not interrupt the class with anything that does not pertain to class work assigned, i.e. personal conversations, use of electronic devices, etc.	Student is attentive and focused most of the time and barely interrupts class work with personal conversation, use of electronic devices, etc.	Student is sometimes attentive and interrupts the class at times with personal conversation, use of electronic devices, etc.	Student is barely attentive, not focused and/or frequently interrupts the class with anything that does not pertain to class work assigned, i.e. personal conversations, use of electronic devices, etc.
<b>Contribution/ Participation</b>	Student is always eager to contribute to class, pair and group work and ask questions. Students always Volunteers answers.	Contributions are beneficial and relevant to class discussion/topic. Student is eager to contribute to class, pair and group work and occasionally asks questions. Student volunteers answers most of the time.	Contribution is mostly beneficial to class discussion/topic. Student is occasionally eager to contribute to class, pair and group work and asks questions some of the time. Student Volunteers answers some of the time.	Contribution is somewhat beneficial to class discussion/topic. Student almost never contributes to class, pair and group work, never asks questions and volunteers answers. Contribution is irrelevant to class discussion/topic.
<b>Risk Taking</b>	Student tries to only speak German during class.	Student tries to speak German most of the time during class, but still switches to English.	Student barely speaks German during class and prefers to speak English.	Student almost never speaks German during class and speaks mostly English.