
Screening the Past: German History in Cinema

Course number: 01:470:299:01
Course index: 00254
Semester: Fall 2015
Credits: 1.5
Meetings: Mondays, 7:40-9:00 pm,
Murray Hall 112 (Period M8)



Prerequisites: 01:470:102 or 01:470:121
or placement in 121 or higher
or special permission

Instructor: Christina Mandt
Email address: christina.mandt@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, 6:30–7:30 pm (before class) & by appointment
Campus Bookstore Cafe, College Avenue Campus

Dept. Address: Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Languages and Literatures
172 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8541

Dept. Phone: 732 932 7201

Course Description

This course will examine post-war and contemporary German history and culture through the lens of German cinema. Both context- and film-oriented sessions will introduce students to Germany's post-war "rubble years", the era of the "economic miracle," questions surrounding Holocaust remembrance, the division and reunification of Germany, as well as current issues such as immigration and multicultural life. Our discussions will trace German society's struggle with becoming a democracy. Films that will be discussed include works of the New German Cinema movement by directors such as Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Alexander Kluge, as well as contemporary films addressing societal issues by directors such as Fatih Akin and Marc Rothemund.

Students will make use of course materials and build on class discussions to draw comparisons between Germany and the United States, thereby strengthening cultural awareness and improving critical thinking skills and media literacy. This course is heavily communicative in nature. Students will describe, compare, and interpret images, texts, and audiovisual media in interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational (written and oral) settings. Students will thereby expand their knowledge of theme-related vocabulary and expressions throughout the semester.

Successful completion of at least German 102 or comparable linguistic ability is required (prerequisite: 470:102; further details listed above). This course may be repeated; 3 credits from 470:299 may be counted toward the major and minor. In cooperation with the Rutgers College Housing German Special Interest Section. Taught in German.

Assessment

Grade Composition

Aspect	Percentage
Class Participation (see rubrics below)	15%
Homework, Written Assignments	40%
Vocabulary Quizzes	20%
Final Examination	25%

Grade Distribution

Grade	Points (%)
A	90–100
B+	85–89
B	80–84
C+	75–79
C	70–74
D	65–69
F	64 and below

Class Participation Rubrics

	Attentiveness	Contribution	Use of German
Expectations are exceeded (90–100%)	The student always pays attention.	The student is always eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student often asks questions. The student always volunteers answers.	The student speaks only German during class.
Expectations are met (80–89%)	The student pays attention most of the time.	The student is usually eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and volunteers answers most of the time.	The student speaks German almost always during class.

Expectations are barely met (70–79%)	The student sometimes pays attention.	The student is occasionally eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and sometimes volunteers answers.	The student speaks German most of the time during class, but sometimes still switches to English.
Expectations are not met (65-69%)	The student rarely pays attention.	The student almost never contributes to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student almost never asks questions or volunteers answers.	The student speaks German some of the time during class, and often switches to English.

Study Materials

- **Sakai** (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>) is the general website for our course. All readings and homework assignments will be made available via Sakai in the form of worksheets or links to online resources. All students officially enrolled in this course have access to the course website, which will be published a few days before the first class. Students who do not have access need to contact the instructor during the first class meeting. During the semester, students should check the website frequently for the most recent announcements, worksheets and other resources.
- **Films:** Students will be required to watch the films (6 in total) outside of class via on-demand services, at the department’s Movie Night screenings (see “Offers and Activities”), or at the Douglass Campus Media Center.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Participation • 15%

- Students are expected to arrive prepared and participate actively in class discussions and group work. For details, please refer to the Class Participation Rubric (p. 2f.).

Homework Assignments • 40%

- Homework assignments will be announced and distributed via Sakai or email. Assignments must be submitted via the Dropbox on Sakai, and an additional copy must be brought to class (unless otherwise instructed). Please note that for each day that an assignment is overdue 10% of its score will be deducted. Please note that the instructor might assign additional homework during class.

Vocabulary Quizzes • 20%

Two vocabulary quizzes will test students’ knowledge of theme-related vocabulary and expressions.

Final Examination • 25%

Date/Time: December 21, 2015; 8-11 pm. Location TBA.

Communication with the Instructor

@ E-Mail

The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to send an email to christina.mandt@rutgers.edu. Please include **G299 – [your first name]** in the subject line, e.g. **G299 – Samantha – Question re....**

Department and School Policies

Academic Integrity

Violation of academic integrity is an extremely serious matter; it can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than their own, students should always acknowledge their sources clearly and completely, whether they are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that **use of online translation services is not permitted** as a tool for generating work submitted for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu> and discuss with the instructor any questions about this and related issues.

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared. If a student expects to miss a class, he/she should use the University Self-Reporting Absence website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>) to indicate the date and the reason for the absence. An e-mail notification is automatically sent to the instructor. Those who miss **more than two class sessions** without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step **reduction in the course grade** (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. Three late arrivals count as one absence.

Note: It is the responsibility of the student who has been absent (for any reason) to find out and make up for what she/he has missed as well as obtain materials that may have been handed out.

Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, audio players, etc.) must be turned off during class out of respect for fellow students and the instructor.

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 the instructor about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

Additional Assistance

- 1) Students are encouraged to come to their instructor's office hours with any questions and problems pertaining to class (christina.mandt@rutgers.edu).
- 2) Any student who needs additional help should contact the Learning Resource Center or the Department's tutors as soon as possible (<http://german.rutgers.edu/german-activities/language-practice-and-tutoring>).
- 3) Additional practice is available at the conversation tables offered each semester at the Department and the Language Institute. Informal conversation sessions are also held weekly in the Rutgers Student Center (<http://german.rutgers.edu/german-activities/language-practice-and-tutoring>).

Offers and Activities

Expert Language Learner Workshop Series

This series of workshops is offered at the Institute for Global Languages to undergraduate and graduate students learning any language. The goal of the series is to help language learners develop and strengthen language learning skills by providing very practical information on language learning strategies and techniques, explaining what usually works and what doesn't, and giving expert advice on an individual basis.

The series consists of five 1-hour workshops conveniently scheduled throughout the Fall Semester 2015. Students may attend all five workshops or just some of them. Students who attend four out of five workshops will be awarded the Expert Language Learner Certificate from the Institute for Global Languages at Rutgers. The workshops take place in the Institute for Global Languages, College Avenue, 20 Seminary Place, Room 110.

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| 1. | Acquiring Vocabulary | • Wednesday, September 16, 7:30-8:30 pm |
| 2. | Mastering Grammar | • Wednesday, September 30, 7:30-8:30 pm |
| 3. | Developing Reading Competency | • Wednesday, October 14, 7:30-8:30 pm |
| 4. | Developing Speaking Skills | • Wednesday, October 28, 7:30-8:30 pm |
| 5. | Online and Mobile Learning | • Wednesday, November 11, 7:30-8:30 pm |

Registration is free, but space is limited to 20 participants. For further information and registration please contact Dr. Alexander Pichugin: pichugin@rutgers.edu.









German Movie Nights







All Rutgers students of German are invited to German Movie Nights organized bi-weekly. The movies are shown in German with English subtitles. Admission is FREE. For further details, please follow <http://german.rutgers.edu/german-activities/german-movie-night> after classes have started.

German Coffee Hour & Conversation Cafe

All Rutgers students of German are invited to join informal gatherings meant to encourage students of all levels to use the German language outside the classroom. The department's German Coffee Hour is organized bi-weekly. In addition, the German Club hosts the Multilingual Conversation Cafe. For further details, please follow <http://german.rutgers.edu/german-activities/language-practice-and-tutoring> after classes have started.

Semesterplan

Sitzung	Datum	Film/Kontext	Thema
1	Dienstag (!) 08.09. (Sept 8)		Einführung und Kennenlernen
2	Montag (!) 14.09.		Nachkriegskultur, Wirtschaftswunder und Studentenbewegung
3	21.09.		Neuer Deutscher Film
4	28.09.		Alexander Kluge: <i>Abschied von Gestern</i> (1966)
5	05.10.		Rainer Werner Fassbinder: <i>Die Ehe der Maria Braun</i> (1979)
6	12.10.		Die Terrorgruppe Rote Armee Fraktion
7	19.10.		Regisseur-Kollektiv: <i>Deutschland im Herbst</i> (1978)
8	26.10.		Die Widerstandsgruppe Die Weisse Rose
9	02.11.		Marc Rothemund: <i>Sophie Scholl — Die letzten Tage</i> (2005)

Sitzung	Datum	Film/Kontext	Thema
10	09.11.		Deutsch-deutsche Teilung: BRD, DDR und die Wiedervereinigung
11	16.11.		Michael Schorr: <i>Schulze gets the Blues</i> (2003)
12	23.11.		Immigration, Multikulturelle Gesellschaft
13	30.11.		Fatih Akin: <i>Auf der anderen Seite</i> (2007)
14	07.12.		Abschlussdiskussion
	21.12. (Dec 21st)		Final Exam Dec 21, 2015, 8:00-11:00 PM (place TBA)

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the Syllabus.
The latest version of this Syllabus is available on [Sakai](#) → Syllabus.