

Contemporary German Media and Society:
01:470:299:01

Cultural and Medial Landscapes: Austria's Scenic Diversity

Fall 2018



Course Index: 00228

Credits: 1,5

Meeting Times: Tue 7:40pm-9:00pm

Meeting Place: AB-2200 (CAC)

Prerequisites: 01: 470: 102 or 01: 470: 121 or Placement in 121 or Higher or Permission

Instructor: Christiane Fischer

Office Address: Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Languages and Literatures,
Rutgers Academic Building, Room 4100, 15 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Office Phone: 732.932.7201

Office Hours: Wed 3pm-4pm

Scheduled meetings are given priority over walk-ins.

Email Address: christiane.fischer@rutgers.edu

Course Description

The main goal of this course is to increase the students' cultural awareness through the study of the German-speaking countries and regions focusing on the representation of their uniqueness and diversity in different media, while furthering the students' German language skills through consistent speaking, listening, reading, and writing. In this course specifically, we will explore the complex relationships between Austrian society, culture, history and landscapes and how these are represented in and mediated by literature, press, film, television, music, art and architecture. In completing the homework assignments, the students will actively engage in watching videos, listening to audio clips, reading texts and writing essays. The class sessions will be discussion-based and include prepared, semi-prepared, and spontaneous discussions, which will provide the students with ample opportunity to advance their listening and speaking skills and further develop communication strategies.

All course materials and discussions are in German. The course may be repeated. Three credits from this course may be counted toward the major and minor.

Learning Outcomes for the Course

By the end of the course students will be able to better orient themselves in the German media landscape and engage in meaningful conversation about some aspects of the contemporary German-speaking world.

Assessment

Grade Composition

Class participation 15% Homework 10% Essays 30% Oral Presentations 20% Final Project 25%

Grade Distribution

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

	Expectations are exceeded (90-100%)	Expectations are met (80-89%)	Expectations are barely met (70-79%)	Expectations are not met (65-69%)
Attentiveness	The student always pays attention.	The student pays attention most of the time.	The student sometimes pays attention.	The student rarely pays attention.
Contribution	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 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 is occasionally eager to contribute to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student occasionally asks questions and sometimes volunteers answers.	The student almost never contributes to class discussion, exercises, and group work. The student almost never asks questions or volunteers answers.
Use of German	The student only speaks German during class.	The student speaks German almost always during class.	The student speaks German most of the time during class, but sometimes still switches to English.	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 students officially enrolled in this course already have access to it. Students who do not have access need to contact the instructor. Students should check the website frequently for the most recent announcements, worksheets and assignments.

It is expected that the students print out the text materials and bring them in class.

The study materials are placed here: Sakai → Resources → Folder with the Session Number and Date

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Participation • 15%

The course is culture-oriented and discussion-based. Although reviewing grammar lies outside of its scope, it is expected that the students produce understandable speech at the intermediate (post-102) level in order to productively participate in class discussions. Students are encouraged to improve their speech accuracy by taking appropriate level courses offered by the Department.

Homework Assignments • 10%

It is expected that students do the homework, as it serves as preparation for class discussions. Completing homework assignments helps the students work with the course material in a systematic fashion, be prepared for each session, as well as express their personal views and opinions on the topics covered. While preparing homework students will work with different sources. Typically, a week's assignment includes work with one short video, one audio file and one text. A hard copy of the assignment should be brought to class on the due date; it will be discussed in class and then graded by the instructor.

Essays • 30%

Students are expected to write three essays in the course of the semester, engaging with relevant topics of the class. The essays must be typed (12pt., double-spaced) and are to be handed in in hard copy and submitted electronically via your personal Sakai Dropbox. The essays will be graded according to accurate use of language and content. If the final version is submitted late, your percentage will be reduced by 10% for every day it is late (i.e. if you submit your essay 3 days after the due date, 30% will be taken off your percentage).

Use of a translation engine will be considered cheating! (see Academic Integrity Policy)!

Oral Presentation • 20%

Presentations will give students the opportunity to build on one of the topics covered in the course. Students will prepare a 5 – 7 minute presentation, followed by a question and answer session. While the general topic is given, students will choose their own particular subject and create their own content. The sign-up list with topics and dates will be discussed in class. It is expected that students meet outside of class to prepare the presentation. The use of multimedia is required. It is important that the presenters speak and not read; therefore students should take time to practice their presenting skills. Students are required to submit the presentation outline (e.g., the PowerPoint file) as an email attachment beforehand.

Final Project • 25%

Students will prepare a final project in a group of two or three students in a format of their choice. Format and the topic needs to be discussed with the instructor at least two weeks in advance. Each student is expected to talk at least 5 minutes and also the use of multimedia is required. The project needs to be presented in class and submitted via email beforehand. The project will be graded according to creativity, accuracy of German. The grade will consider each individual student but also the overall performance of the group.

Communication with the instructor

Email: The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to email christiane.fischer@rutgers.edu. Generally the e-mails are answered within 48 hours.

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 one or two classes, 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 what he/she has missed and 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

Students are encouraged to come to their instructor's office hours with any questions and problems pertaining to class. Any student who needs additional help should contact the Learning Resource Center or the Department's tutors as soon as possible. Additional practice is available at the

conversation tables offered each semester at the Language Institute. Informal conversation sessions are also held weekly in the Rutgers Student Center. Check the Department website for further details: <http://german.rutgers.edu>.

Semesterplan

Nr.	Datum	Thema	Klassenarbeit	Hausaufgabe
1	Di 04.09	Einführung #1	- Kennenlernen - Semesterplan - Fragestellungen des Kurses	
2	Di 11.09	Einführung #2	Ikonische Silhouetten: stereotype Landschaften, (nationale) Identität und Örtlichkeit	Hausaufgabe 1
3	Di 18.09	Film	(Un)heimliche Heimat?	Hausaufgabe 2
4	Di 25.09	Trauma	Gedenksuren: Die Macht der Erinnerung	Hausaufgabe 3
5	Di 02.10	Migration/ Integration	Wien heute: Die Stadt als multikultureller Lebensraum	Hausaufgabe 4 Abgabe 1. Essay
6	Di 09.10	Ökologie	Mensch und Natur: Kulturlandschaften, Nationalparks, Naturschutz, Tourismus	Hausaufgabe 5
7	Di 16.10	Bildung	Naturlehrgänge: Auszüge aus Adalbert Stifters „Granit“	Hausaufgabe 6
8	Di 23.10	Architektur	Sedimente der Geschichte: Ruinen, Kirchen und Paläste	Hausaufgabe 7
9	Di 30.10	Musik	Sonore Landschaften: Operetten, Walzer, Lieder	Hausaufgabe 8 Abgabe 2. Essay
10	Di 06.11	Literatur/ Politik	Imaginäre Welten: Kakanien und Galizien	Hausaufgabe 9
11	Di 13.11	Treffpunkt(e)	Das Kaffeehaus: Orte der Kunst und des Sozialen	Hausaufgabe 10
12	Di 27.11	Film/ Fernsehen	Kult-(ur)-Räume heute: Gemeindebau, Schrebergärten, Keller	Hausaufgabe 11
13	Di 04.12	Zusammenfassung #1	- Wiederholung des Lernstoffes - Abschließende Diskussion	Hausaufgabe 12 Abgabe 3. Essay
14	Di 11.12	Zusammenfassung #2	Präsentation der Projekte	

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the Syllabus.