

Contemporary German Media and Society (German 299):

Is That a German Thing? – History, Values, Culture, and the Media Landscape

01:470:299:01; index 20266

Fall 2013

Credits: 1.5

Mondays 7:40-9:00 pm (period 8)

Room: MU 112 (Murray Hall, College Avenue Campus)

Instructor: Christina Mandt

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Office hours: Thursday 5:00-5:30 pm and by appointment, PTL office room, German Department

Course Description

The focus of this course is contemporary German culture in the context of its history and institutions, seen through the lens of the German media landscape. Students will make use of materials and discussions to draw comparisons between Germany and the United States that relate to cultural awareness as well as improving critical thinking skills and media literacy. Communicative skills trained in this course include discussing and comparing news and information as well as describing and interpreting images, music, audiovisual media and literary texts in interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational (written and oral) settings. The course structure involves four units, dealing with media and the public sphere, contemporary film, literature, and popular culture. Theme-related vocabulary and expressions will be introduced throughout the semester.

Successful completion of at least German 102 or comparable linguistic ability is required. This course may be repeated; three 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. Prerequisite: 470:102

Final Grade:

Attendance & Class participation 30%

Homework, written assignments 30%

Presentation 20%

Final exam 20%

Grade distribution:

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

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 16, 2013: 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM, MU 112.

Required texts: available online and on Sakai. No textbook required.

Homework: A worksheet for each corresponding text will be provided on Sakai. You are expected to respond to it after going through the assigned material. The worksheets are designed to improve your language skills and to assess your homework. Please be sure to complete the worksheet and bring it to class. Additional written

Presentations: The presentation (5 minutes, in German) should cover a current news subject related to German culture or society. It should be based on at least three German news sources, but given in the student's own words. While the presentation may be not read, flashcards with bullet-point notes may be used. A one-page paper on the topic (in German) is due a week after the oral presentation. Details will be discussed in class. The evaluation will accommodate students' language levels.

Class Website: All the readings and worksheets required for this course will be available online or on the class website at Sakai (www.sakai.edu). To log in, you will need your Rutgers NetID and password. If you cannot access the course website by the first week of classes, please contact the course instructor via email.

Departmental policies

Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss a class, please **use the Rutgers Self-Reporting Absence Website** <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email 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 students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

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 quizzes and tests. The costs for this class could reach up to \$15.00 per student.

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.

Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and 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 your own, always acknowledge

your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that **use of online translation services is not permitted** as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

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

Semesterplan

	Datum	Hausaufgaben (fällig)	Thema
	09.09.		Einführung und Kennenlernen
1 Medien und Öffentlichkeit	16.09.	Text: „Die Medien. Presse, Rundfunk und Fernsehen“ (Luscher: Landeskunde Deutschland, S. 94-96)	Die deutsche Medienlandschaft: Presse, TV, Radio und das duale System
	23.09.	Chronologie: http://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/chronologie-prism-tempora100.html Angela Merkels Reaktion: http://www.zeit.de/politik/deutschland/2013-07/angela-merkel-prism-pressekonferenz	Medien und Privatsphäre in Deutschland: Die aktuelle “Geheimdienstaffäre”
	30.09.	Text/Bilder: „Das parlamentarische Regierungssystem“ Selbstdarstellung: https://www.piratenpartei.de/partei/ Zum Datenschutz: https://www.piratenpartei.de/politik/selbstbestimmtes-leben/privatsphaere-und-datenschutz/	Politik und die digitale Gesellschaft: Die Piraten-Partei
2 Film	07.10.	Text zur deutschen Filmförderung (Arbeitsblatt) Inge Scholl: <i>Die weiße Rose</i> (Auszüge)	NS-Zeit und Studentenbewegung im Film: <i>Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage</i>

	Datum	Hausaufgaben (fällig)	Thema
	14.10.	Einführung RAF: http://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/lexika/das-junge-politik-lexikon/161578/rote-armee-fraktion-raf Chronologie: http://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/animation/animation24.html (Fokus: 1977-78)	Terror, Trauma und Journalismus: <i>Deutschland im Herbst</i> und die 1970er
	21.10.	Text zum Film (Arbeitsblatt)	Humor und Selbstironie: <i>Schultze gets the Blues</i> – von Sachsen-Anhalt in die USA
	28.10.	Text zur Immigration (Arbeitsblatt), Text zum Film (S. 1f.): http://www.goethe.de/mmo/priv/4728604-STANDARD.pdf	Multikulturelle Gesellschaft und globalisiertes Kino: <i>Auf der anderen Seite</i>
3 Gegenwarts- literatur	04.11.	Text: „Graz, Düsseldorf, Paris – Wer ist Peter Handke?“ (Luscher: Landeskunde Deutschland S. 113-115) Handke: <i>Der kurze Brief zum langen Abschied</i> (Auszüge)	Autor Peter Handke und Amerika
	11.11.	Interview mit J. Hermann: http://www.goethe.de/z/jetzt/dejus48/dejus48.htm <i>Sommerhaus, später</i> (Auszüge)	Berlin und die Renaissance der Kurzgeschichte: Judith Hermanns <i>Sommerhaus, später</i>
4 Popkultur	18.11.	Text: „BRAVO, eine deutsche Jugendzeitschrift“ (Zwischendurch mal Landeskunde, S. 82f.), Auszüge aus der BRAVO	Jugendmedien im Kulturvergleich: BRAVO und Co.

	Datum	Hausaufgaben (fällig)	Thema
	25.11.	Text zur Geschichte deutschsprachiger Popmusik (Arbeitsblatt)	Die USA in der deutschsprachigen Musik: Wir sind Helden und Rammstein
	02.12.	Text: „Sonntagabend, 20 Uhr 15, Erstes Programm“ (Zwischendurch mal Landeskunde, S. 84f.)	Ein deutscher Sonntagabend: <i>Tatort</i> – TV-Kult seit über 40 Jahren
	09.12.		Rückblick und Resümee
	16.12.	Final Exam, 8-11 pm, MU 112	

German-language news sources

Nachrichten der ARD (Public German Television Network News) www.tagesschau.de

Süddeutsche Zeitung (daily newspaper) www.sueddeutsche.de

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (daily newspaper) www.faz.net

Die Welt (daily newspaper) www.welt.de

Bild (daily tabloid newspaper) www.bild.de

Der Spiegel (weekly newsmagazine) www.spiegel.de

Die Zeit (weekly newspaper) <http://www.zeit.de>