

German 01:470:231:02

Advanced Conversation & Composition I: **Berlin/s**

Fall 2009

TTh6 (4:30 pm-5:50 pm)

Frelinghuysen Hall B1

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Office hours: Th 2-4
and by appointment

Joachim Ringelnatz: Sehnsucht nach Berlin (1929)

*Berlin wird immer mehr Berlin.
Humorgemüt ins Große.
Das wär mein Wunsch: Es anzuziehen
Wie eine schöne Hose.*

*Und wär Berlin dann stets um mich
Auf meinen Wanderwegen.
Berlin, ich sehne mich in dich.
Ach komm mir doch entgegen!*

Course description:

Advanced Conversation & Composition is designed for students with a solid grasp on German grammar and vocabulary who wish to extend their knowledge of German language, history, politics, and culture, through reading, discussion, and writing. All readings, discussion, and written work for the course will be in German.

This course explores 20th (and 21st) century German culture through a focus on the city of Berlin in its many incarnations as a capital (the imperial Reich, the Weimar Republic, the Nazi Reich, the GDR, and reunified Germany). We will examine the birth of Germany's first modern metropolis, its subsequent division, and eventual reunification and emergence as a multicultural world capital. We will work with a variety of written and visual narratives, including short stories, poetry, newspaper articles, *Feuilleton* pieces, films, and a novel.

Required texts:

- Thomas Brussig, *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*. Fischer, 1999 (ISBN-10 3596148472, ISBN-13 978-3596148479)
- *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*, 4th edition by Rankin & Wells. (ISBN-10 0618338128, ISBN-13 978-0618338122)
- Most readings will be downloaded in PDF format from the course's Sakai page.
- Occasional handouts and websites. 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. The department may also assess a fee for optical media (blank CD-Rs and DVD-Rs), when appropriate. 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 notes containing:
 - 1) At least one new vocabulary item (a word or an expression) that you have learned from the reading for that day;
 - 2) At least 2 clusters of questions/comments that you think would contribute to a productive discussion and deepen your understanding of the text at hand.

I will occasionally collect these at the end of class and provide written commentary. They will not be evaluated for grammatical correctness, only for content.

Most Thursdays we will discuss a chapter from the *Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik*. Since much of this material will be review for you, you are expected to read the chapter outside of class and prepare (at minimum) the homework exercises indicated on the syllabus. Written grammar homework will not be collected; it is for your own benefit, and we will go over the exercises in class (additional exercises will be done spontaneously in class). You are responsible for bringing any questions you have about the material.

II. Papers: 30% (10 + 10 + 10)

Each 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. *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.*

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, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues. **Any** violations of this policy will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Additional Information:

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class out of respect to the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all telecommunications outside of class time.

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.

Kalender (Änderungen vorbehalten; zusätzliche Aufgaben auch möglich!)
[HzdG=Handbuch zur deutschen Grammatik]

Di., 01.09.: Einführung: Geschichte und Gedichte der Großstadt

I. Berlin in der Weimarer Zeit

Do., 03.09.: Texte aus *Menschheitsdämmerung*
HzdG Kapitel 1: Word Order: A, D

Di., 08.09.: **Kein Unterricht** (=Montag)
Do., 10.09.: Texte aus *Hier schreibt Berlin*
HzdG Kapitel 2: Present Tense: D, F

Di., 15.09.: Walther Ruttmann, *Berlin, die Sinfonie der Großstadt* [Film]
Aufsatz 1a fällig

*Do., 17.09.: Gastvortrag: Klaus Theweleit, „Freud and Pop Culture“
16.30 Uhr im Zimmerli-Museum, Lower Dodge Gallery

Di., 22.09.: Joseph Roth, aus *Berliner Saisonbericht*: „Wenn Berlin Wolkenkratzer bekäme,“ „Wolkenkratzer“

Do., 24.09.: *Berliner Saisonbericht*: „Der merkantile Superlativ,“ „Das ganz große Warenhaus“
HzdG Kapitel 3: Present Perfect Tense: A, B, C, D

II. Berlin in Trümmern

Di., 29.09.: Roberto Rossellini, *Deutschland im Jahre Null* [Film]
Do., 01.10.: Elisabeth Langgässer, „Glück haben“
HzdG Kapitel 4: Cases and Declensions: B, C, G

III. Das geteilte Berlin

Di., 06.10.: Inge Müller, „Die Radfahrer“
Aufsatz 2a (Weimarer Zeit/Trümmerzeit) fällig
Do., 08.10.: Online-Texte zum Bau der Berliner Mauer; Mauergedichte
HzdG Kapitel 5: Articles and Possessive Adjectives: A, C, F

Di., 13.10.: Thomas Brussig, *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 7-42
Do., 15.10.: *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 43-90
HzdG Kapitel 6: Negation, Imperatives: A, F

Di., 20.10., *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 91-120
Do., 22.10., *Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee*, S. 121-Ende
HzdG Kapitel 7: Simple Past Tense, Past Perfect Tense: B, E, F, G

IV. Die Wende und „Ostalgie“

Di., 27.10.: Texte zum Fall der Mauer

***Midterm fällig!**

Do., 29.10.: Texte zum Thema „Ostalgie“

HzdG Kapitel 8: Future Tense, Future Perfect Tense: C, D, E

V. Multikulturelle Hauptstadt

Di., 03.11., May Ayim, „Deutsch-deutsch Vaterland...“, „deutschland im herbst“

Do., 05.11., Wladimir Kaminer, aus *Russendisko*; Texte zu Kaminer

HzdG Kapitel 9: Modal Verbs: A, B, F, G

Di., 10.11., *Russendisko*

Do., 12.11., Emine Sevgi Özdamar, aus *Der Hof im Spiegel*

HzdG Kapitel 10: Prepositions: A, C, G

Di., 17.11.: Thomas Arslan, *Kardeşler—Geschwister* [Film]

Aufsatz 3a (Ayim/Kaminer/Özdamar) fällig

Do., 19.11.: Kutluğ Ataman, *Lola und Bilidikid* [Film]

HzdG Kapitel 11: Conjunctions: A, C, F

Di., 24.11.: Detlev Buck, *Knallhart* [Film]; *Knallhart*-Filmheft; Online-Forschung zum Thema Rütli-Schule

HzdG Kapitel 12: Noun Genders, Noun Plurals, Weak Nouns: B, E, F

Do., 26.11.: Thanksgiving—Kein Unterricht

VI. „Generation Berlin“

Di., 01.12.: Tanja Dückers, „I went mad like a machine“

Mi., 03.12.: Tom Tykwer, *Lola rennt* [Film]; Margit Sinka, „Tom Tykwer’s *Lola rennt*: A Blueprint of Millennial Berlin“

HzdG Kapitel 13: Adjectives: A, B, C, E, G, H

Di., 08.12.: Judith Hermann, „Sommerhaus, später“

Do., 10.12.: Rückblick und Zusammenfassung

HzdG Kapitel 14: Comparative and Superlative: E, F, G

***Endklausur fällig am Mittwoch, 23. Dezember 2008, um 11.00 Uhr**