

Contemporary German Media & Society

– Writing on Film. Written, spoken and audiovisual Film Criticism in Germany –

Course Number: 01:470:299:01
Semester: Fall 2016
Credits: 1.5
Meetings: T 7:40 - 9:00pm, AB 2200
Prerequisites: 01:470:102 or 01:470:121 or placement in 121 or higher, or special permission
Instructor: Janine Wahrendorf
Office Address: Department of Germanic, Russian and East European Languages and Literatures
E-mail address: janine.wahrendorf@rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Contact instructor for meeting time and place

Course Description

The main goal of this course is to increase the students' cultural awareness through the study of the various German-speaking countries and regions focusing on the representation of their uniqueness and diversity in the modern media, while furthering the students' German language skills through consistent speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

In this course, we will explore the landscape of German film criticism in all its facets, ranging from traditional print critiques, to the youtube, television and radio formats. After getting a solid grasp on the meaning and structure of a film critique, students will get to know the various media outlets including their idiosyncrasies and differences. Students will learn to understand critiques, their structure and style of language common for the platform of publication, as well as to write their own critique including all previously learnt aspects. We will also pay attention to cultural comparisons between German-speaking Europe and the United States.

The class discussion will be based on pre-prepared texts as well as spontaneous class discussions about watched short films during class. With this, students will practice building and communicating their own opinions about a given subject with the active use of learnt and introduced vocabulary.

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.

Assessment Grade Composition

Aspect	Percentage
Class Participation & Attendance	15 %
Homework	15 %
Written assignments	30 %
Class presentation	10 %
Midterm	15 %
Final Project	15 %

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.

	Attentiveness	Contribution	Use of German
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, links to online resources, or discussion forums. 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. Note: students are required to check Sakai weekly in order to print and bring the most recent worksheets to each class meeting.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Class Participation • 15%

- Students are expected to arrive prepared and participate actively in class discussions and group work. Homework Assignments.
- Each class will require a previously assigned student to take notes of new vocabulary and subsequently make them available via the Sakai forum.

Homework assignments • 15%

- Homework assignments will be announced and distributed via Sakai or email. Assignments must be submitted via online discussion forums or 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.
- Students will be asked to carefully prepare specific texts for the upcoming classes as well as independently prepare the introduced vocabulary.
- After each class, students are asked to note down a min. of 3 and max. of 5 sentences (in German) about the content of the class, things that “stuck”, were surprising or interesting. This will be subsequently used for means of recap in the following week.

Presentation • 10%

- Students will decide on one topic and one week in which they will function as experts, meaning they will have carefully prepared a previously specified critique and researched information on the organ of publication. Presentations on critiques include, for example, structure, weighting of mentioned elements and opinion of the author.

Midterm and final projects • 30%

- The midterm project will be done individually in a format of student's choice and on a film of their choice (poster, radio, television, written, discussion round).
- The final project will be done by a group of students in a format of their choice and on a film of their choice and presented in class. The project needs to be submitted via email before the date of presentation. See due date on syllabus.

Written Assignments • 30%

- Students will prepare a total of three 1-page written film critiques on (short) films specified by the instructor.

Communication with the Instructor

@ E-Mail

The best way to contact the instructor outside the classroom is to e-mail janine.wahrendorf@rutgers.edu.

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 you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. 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.

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>.

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

The latest version of this Syllabus is available on Sakai → Syllabus.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

[\(848\) 932-7884](tel:848-932-7884) / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

[\(848\) 932-1181](tel:848-932-1181) / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call [848-932-1181](tel:848-932-1181).

Disability Services

[\(848\) 445-6800](tel:848-445-6800) / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

[\(732\) 247-5555](tel:732-247-5555) / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Semesterplan

	Datum	Thema	Klassenarbeit	Hausarbeit
1	Di 06.09	Einführung	Kennenlernen / Lehrplan / Einleitung ins Thema	1. Expertenwoche festlegen (Sakai) 2. Wortschatzwoche festlegen (Sakai) 3. Zitate zum Kritikbegriff vorbereiten (Sakai) 4. Wortschatz
2	Di 13.09		Was ist Kritik? Was will Kritik? Was schafft Kritik? Genrebegriff	1. Wortschatz 2. Protokoll 3. Kritikanleitungen vorbereiten
3	Di 20.09		Wie schreibt man eine Kritik?	1. Wortschatz 2. Nachbereitung 3. Kritik lesen
4	Di 27.09	Printmedien / Textbasierte Medien	Medienbeispiele: BILD, Cinema Genre: Komödie	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten
5	Di 11.10		Medienbeispiele: Fernsehzeitschriften , Schnitt Genre: Action	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten Kritik #1 fällig
6	Di 18.10		Medienbeispiele: Stern, EPD-Film Genre: Drama	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten
7	Di 25.10	MIDTERM	Medienbeispiele: Süddeutsche, Blogeinträge Genre: Western	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten Kritik #2 fällig
8	Di 01.11		MIDTERM	
9	Di 08.11		Audiovisuelle Medien	Medienbeispiele: Youtube Genre: Horror
10	Di 15.11	Radio	Medienbeispiele: TV-Kritiker Genre: Romantikfilm	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten Kritik #3 fällig
11	Di 22.11		Medienbeispiele: Unterhaltungsradio Genre: Thriller	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten
12	Di 6.12		Medienbeispiele: Bildungsradio Genre: Sci-Fi	1. Wortschatz 2. Kritik vorbereiten Final project fällig
13	Di 13.12	Abschluss	Zusammenfassung. Präsentationsideen	

	Datum	Thema	Klassenarbeit	Hausarbeit
14	Di 20.12	Final Presentation Time and Space TBA		