



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

German 357
100+ Years of German Film
Winter 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Cornelia Burian

OFFICE LOCATION: CHC 108

OFFICE HOURS: BW by appointment; term Tu, Th 11:30 – 12:15

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DESCRIPTION This class surveys a broad range of filmic responses to the most turbulent times of the Twentieth Century, including the First and Second World War, the Holocaust, German separation and unification. We will apply a variety of theoretical approaches to determine how German films, as art form and media, represent the past and critique, reflect or incorporate the present circumstances in which they are created. We will explore how totalitarian terror, for example, affects men, women and children, and how the family, ruptured by war and its aftermath, becomes a site of crisis and trauma, but also of potential healing. Of central importance will be the concept of historiography, which will help us better understand and further elucidate German films. The class will benefit from the expertise of various guest speakers, who have generously agreed to present on several topics.

OBJECTIVES This course will teach students to

- Recognize and describe facts concerning 100+ years of German history and film-making in order to place German films into their broader cultural and historical context
- Apply the notion of *historiography* and how it applies to film
- Watch – or “read” – films critically by treating them as works of art that can be interpreted in various ways
- Apply concepts of trauma studies and film theory to a number of German films
- Integrate existing research on German films into students' own, original approaches

Explanation of Assignments:

Homework: Students will have to complete readings (available in the “assignment”



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section on D2L) every night. The readings will be crucial preparation for the group presentation, the reflective writing paper, and the take-home final.

Quizzes: There will be three short, mostly multiple-choice quizzes that assess your understanding of the assigned readings and major concepts and debates discussed in class.

Group Presentation: Students are responsible for a) finding 5-7 others to form a group with and b) picking one of the given topics for class presentation. The topics are based on issues covered during lecture, the readings that were assigned, and the films. By midnight on Tuesday, January 3, each group must post the members' names and the chosen topic in the discussion forum. Make sure to post early, as there will only be one group per topic! On Thursday, group members will then present their group's answer(s) to the class. Each presentation should be 10 minutes long. It should include visuals (slides, images, a film segment of no more than 30 seconds) and a few follow-up questions to engage the class.

Reflective Writing Assignment: Reflective writing helps you turn surface learning into deeper understanding by connecting what was said in class with the films you watched and the readings you studied. The reflection should be 500 words (2 pages) and connect your thinking about the afternoon screenings, the assigned readings, the lectures, and class discussions. On D2L, go to Course Information/Reflections to see details. **Please adhere to the following formatting requirements: Your reflections must be typed, have a title page containing your name, course, and student number. The reflection will be assigned on day one (Monday, January 2). Bring your reflection to class on Wednesday, January 4. We will have an in-class writing workshop. Following the writing guidelines and reflection checklist posted on D2L, students will peer-edit their reflective papers. At home, consider your peers' feedback, edit your paper, and submit the final version to the drop box on the last day of block week, Friday, January 6. The reflections will be returned before you have to hand in the final exam.**

Take-home Exam: Your response to the Take-home exam will be around 2000 words. It will consist of a number of questions from which you can choose your preferences (four out of six questions have to be answered). These questions will give you the opportunity to draw connections between different films we have discussed during those five days.

Think of each question as a mini-essay: try to pull together into a coherent whole film terminology you have learned, in-depth discussion of concrete film scenes that could help you make your point, theory and criticism discussed over the course of the class, and major debates that may have arisen around the film(s) you are



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writing on.

Please adhere to the following formatting requirements: Title page containing your name, course, and student number. One-inch margins all around, double-spaced. You may want to cite from the readings to support your arguments. Please include a references list and choose a bibliographical style that you follow consistently (such as APA or MLA). You have four weeks to complete the final exam. Please submit your final exam to the D2L dropbox by **midnight, February 3**.

Attendance:

You **must** attend all classes and all film screenings. We will take attendance every morning and afternoon. Please place your student ID in front of you on your desk as you would during a final exam.

I would like to thank Dr. Florentine Strzelczyk for allowing me to use her syllabus and various class materials as models

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Participation.....	5%
Reflective Writing Assignment.....	20%
3 Quizzes @ 5%.....	15%
Group Presentation.....	20%
Take-Home Final Exam.....	40%

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100–97%	A = 96–91%	A - = 90–86%
B+ = 85–81%	B = 80–76%	B- = 75–71%
C+ = 70–67%	C = 66–62%	C- = 61–58%
D+ = 57–54%	D = 53–50%	F = 49% and below

REQUIRED TEXTS All Readings will be made available through D2L.

COURSE NOTES Lecture notes will be posted on D2L

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:
a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);



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- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre,



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contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.