



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

GERM 359  
German Texts in Translation (German Travels)  
Winter Term 2019

TR 11:00-12:15  
Room: ST 063

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Jan Süselbeck, PD Dr.

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHC 118

**OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403-220-7316

**E-MAIL:** jan.suselbeck@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION**

Is there a special German way of looking at the world and going abroad? The course focusses both fictional and non-fictional travel writings in translation by German, Austrian and Swiss authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Meanwhile, this seminar must deal critically with historical issues like German colonialism and the memory of National Socialism.

Topics are Alexander von Humboldt's travels to South America (1799-1804) as fictionalized by bestselling Austrian writer Daniel Kehlmann, travels to the German colonies in the South Seas in the 1920s and 1930s as envisioned by Christian Kracht in his vividly debated novel "Imperium", Annemarie Schwarzenbach's autobiographical report on her journey to Afghanistan in 1939, Wolfgang Koeppen's 1958 post-war travel reports from the US, and the popliterature approach to the memories of the German-American confrontation during the Second World War as discussed by a fictional character traveling the US around the year 2000 in Thomas Meinecke's novel *Pale Blue*.

**OBJECTIVES**

The course aims at a survey of German language travelogues between different genres of fiction, journalism, and autobiographical writing. The theoretical angle of interpretation ranges from postcolonial theory over narratology and aspects of transculturality to historiographical perspectives.

**OUTCOMES**

Students will get an overview of German travel writing genres from the late 1930s to contemporary literature and study the sophisticated differences between classical modern, postmodern, and autobiographic writing, in order to learn about major developments in German literary history since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and about colonial history in general. The course enhances student's writing and research skills and works as an introduction to the fine art of interpreting complex literary texts.



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DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

- 2 essays, 3-5 pages each = 40 % (20 % and 20%)
- Participation and “Tickets to class” = 20% Tickets to class are short assignments to keep your reading focussed. You will be either given questions on your readings for the week, or asked to comment or pose a good question on an aspect of the reading. The ticket to class is due on Blackboard the day before the reading will be discussed.
- Presentation (list of topics to be distributed in class) = 15%
- Take-home Exam (two hours in length) = 25 %

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 (should be available at the U of C bookstore)

Daniel Kehlmann, *Measuring the World: A Novel*  
[https://www.amazon.ca/Measuring-World-Novel-Daniel-Kehlmann/dp/0307277399/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479937763&sr=1-1&keywords=Measuring+the+World%3A+A+Novel](https://www.amazon.ca/Measuring-World-Novel-Daniel-Kehlmann/dp/0307277399/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479937763&sr=1-1&keywords=Measuring+the+World%3A+A+Novel)

Christian Kracht, *Imperium. A Fiction of the South Seas*  
[https://www.amazon.ca/Imperium-Fiction-South-Christian-Kracht/dp/0374175241/ref=sr\\_1\\_sc\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479937666&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=Imperium.+A+Fiction+oft+he+South+Seas](https://www.amazon.ca/Imperium-Fiction-South-Christian-Kracht/dp/0374175241/ref=sr_1_sc_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479937666&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=Imperium.+A+Fiction+oft+he+South+Seas)

Annemarie Schwarzenbach, *The Roads Are Open*  
[https://www.amazon.ca/All-Roads-Are-Open-Journey/dp/0857420151/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479937257&sr=1-1&keywords=all+the+roads+are+open](https://www.amazon.ca/All-Roads-Are-Open-Journey/dp/0857420151/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479937257&sr=1-1&keywords=all+the+roads+are+open)

Wolfgang Koeppen: *Journey through America (Transatlantic Perspectives)*  
[https://www.amazon.ca/Journey-Through-America-Wolfgang-Koeppen/dp/0857452312/ref=tmm\\_hrd\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1527871892&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Journey-Through-America-Wolfgang-Koeppen/dp/0857452312/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1527871892&sr=1-1)

Thomas Meinecke, *Pale Blue*  
[https://www.amazon.ca/Pale-Blue-Thomas-Meinecke-ebook/dp/B007NN56RY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527870184&sr=8-1&keywords=thomas+meinecke+pale+blue](https://www.amazon.ca/Pale-Blue-Thomas-Meinecke-ebook/dp/B007NN56RY/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1527870184&sr=8-1&keywords=thomas+meinecke+pale+blue)

COURSE NOTES

All numbers about the page lengths of assignments refer to the layout: double spaced, font Times / Times New Roman 12, 1 inch margins.

**Attendance and Participation** are the key factors of this class. Participation means **active engagement** in the activities of the class (with your ideas you improve the discussions for everybody); it is based on thorough readings of the assigned texts and other homework assignments. Attendance is mandatory; unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade. The quality of the sessions will depend upon your preparedness and willingness to engage with each other. Please note that you do not have to have understood everything you have read to make a valuable contribution. Expressing doubts,



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disagreements, and asking for clarification is a useful way of contributing to discussion. Your class participation mark will be based on the quality rather than the quantity of your contribution. Also, it is essential that all participants treat each other with respect and courtesy. Students who feel unable to actively engage in classroom discussion must bring their concerns to the instructor's attention early so that an alternative strategy to ensure adequate performance can be sought. Unexplained absences will be penalized up to a loss of a full letter on the final grade. Also, please don't use electronic devices during class except for accessing digital copies of the required texts on a reading device, as using computers or cell phones for other purposes might distract yourself as well as those around you.

**Missed presentations, missed tests, missed deadlines:** Expected to contact the instructor *prior* to the missed class / deadline in order to reschedule the presentation (phone / email) or in order to ask for an extension.

Updated reading (for example of theoretical texts or interpretations), homework as well as schedule changes will be announced in class or via e-mail.

#### Assignments

**1. Presentation:** Power Point presentation or 1 or 2 pages handout for class to be submitted one day before presentation; 10-20 minutes of presentation in class – the topic for the presentation will be an open (group) research on a topic about one of the texts to discuss in class.

**2. The Ticket to Class** tests the students' understanding of the assigned readings or movies to be watched. You may be asked to come up with a research question based on the reading or to respond to a question or issue raised by one of the readings.

**3. Essays:** You will be required to write *two essays* (but only 3-5 pages each), to the texts discussed in this class, or an aspect of these texts. Topics should be discussed with the instructor beforehand, either after class, during office hours, or via e-mail. You will be expected to develop a personal thesis about a text and to use some secondary literature. To make sure your impressions of the chosen text are still fresh, please turn in your essay no more than a week after we discussed a specific text. Make sure you spread the essays across term so you don't have to cram during the last few weeks before the final. To avoid the common "Yikes, I haven't finished all my assignments yet" end-of-term pile-up, you may only turn in one essay each during the last two weeks of the semester. **You must submit a first paper on Daniel Kehlmann or Christian Kracht before mid-term, on February 14<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are a major or graduate student in our German program, you are encouraged to write in German; if you are not a native speaker, this will of course be taken into account. At the discretion of the instructor, a paper submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

**Avoid plagiarism:** By turning in an essay, you certify that the work is your own; that you have given proper credit and citation to the work of others; and that you have not committed any other form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Any case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and possible consequences up to expulsion from U of C. For definitions of plagiarism, please see the course calendar.

**Writing skills statement:** All writings assignments will be marked according to content, form, analysis, and originality as well as clarity of writing including grammar, spelling, and organization. To improve your writing skills, contact the Effective Writing Centre: [https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing\\_support/overview](https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview).

#### 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);
- 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.



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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.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

#### **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 Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts.

The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).



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For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.