



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

GERM359
German Texts in Translation – Africa in German Fiction
Winter 2018
TR 11:00 - 12:15
EDC 156

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Jan Süselbeck

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 513

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-2951

E-Mail : jan.suselbeck@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

Did you know that Germany ran several African colonies from the end of the 19th century until 1918? This important part of German history has been retold in literary texts since the beginning of the 20th century. Additionally, postcolonial writings have been booming in contemporary German literature since many years. In this seminar, we will interpret some of the most important books of this genre, to be read in translation. The goal of our interpretations will be to use and practice postcolonial theories.

OBJECTIVES

This course aims at close readings of translated German novels from the beginning of the 20th century (Gustav Frenssen, *Peter Moor's Journey to Southwest Africa*) to the end of the 1970s (Uwe Timm, *Morenga*), including the works of such different contemporary writers of the 21st century as Stephan Wackwitz (*An Invisible Country*), Urs Widmer (*In the Congo*), Lukas Bärfuss (*Hundred Days*). The goal of our interpretations will be to use and practice postcolonial theories interpreting German texts, which you will be introduced to in the beginning of the semester.

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand Germany's colonial history and its literary representation in the 20th and the 21th century. They will be trained to closely read and analyze literary texts and secondary literature. They will have enhanced their presentation, reading and writing skills. Last but not least, they will have learned how to do bibliographic research for writing individual academic papers.

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,



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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 = 25 %

GRADING SCALE

A+ (97-100 %), A (91-96%), A- (86-91)

B+ (81-85%), B (76-80%), B- (71-75)

C+ (67-70%), C (62-66%), C- (58-61%)

D+ (54-57%), D (50-53%), F (0-49 %)

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books will be available at the U of C bookstore:

- Uwe Timm, Morenga
- Gustav Frenssen, Peter Moor's Journey to Southwest Africa
- Stephan Wackwitz, An invisible country
- Lukas Bärfuss, Hundred Days
- Urs Widmer, In the Congo

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Further articles will be provided via D2L or via hyperlinks in the syllabus.

COURSE NOTES

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 a given text or a movie to discuss.

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 good written question based on the reading or respond to a question or issue raised by the reading

3. Essays: You will be required to write *two essays* (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



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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.

If you are a major or graduate student in our German programs, 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.

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.

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



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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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services office at 403-210-6019 or access@ucalgary.ca; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

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, 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.



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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.