



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

GERM 359
German Modernism
Winter 2022
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 13:00 – 13:50 (in person)
EDC 252

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dante Prado

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours will be held every Tuesday from 2:00-2:50 via Zoom. The Zoom link will be made available through D2L. Additional Zoom consultations can be scheduled upon request.

E-MAIL: dante.prado@ucalgary.ca (You may expect a response within 48 hours, weekends excluded.)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: not applicable.

DESCRIPTION

The course provides an overview of the literary and art historical period of German Modernism (ca. 1900-1945) in English translation. We will explore important discourses from the period and their impact on contemporary literary works written in German. Moreover, we will analyze the interconnections between historical context and cultural production. This course looks at the works of German Expressionism and Dada, alongside the works of Robert Walser, Thomas Mann and Anne Seghers, among others.

The course is taught in English and literary works will be read in English translation. No prior knowledge of German language is required. Additionally, this course will introduce and cover the pertinent historical, political and cultural contexts as they become relevant. This course places great emphasis on peer learning.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will critically engage with Modernist cultural products and discourses.
- Students will familiarize themselves with Modernist discourses and aesthetics.
- Students will improve their understanding of the ways in which literary studies can contribute to studies in cultural history.
- Students will strengthen their abilities to improve their work in collaboration with peers.
- Students will be introduced to academic presentation and writing strategies.

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe major events in German history during the first decades of the twentieth century and assess their impact on cultural and intellectual life.
- Identify and describe influential Modernist discourses and aesthetics.
- Apply standard tools of literary and visual analysis to written and visual materials.
- Communicate productive and specific feedback on written work by their peers.
- Utilize concrete strategies to produce clear and convincing academic essays.
- Draw on clear guidelines to give an effective oral presentation.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Primary literature is available through the University of Calgary Bookstore in paperback OR eBook format. Short stories, novellas and all other required readings are either available online through the library or will be made available on D2L.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

NOVELS

Jelinek, Elfriede. *The Piano Player*. Translated by Joachim Neugroschel. Grove press, 2009.

Kafka, Franz. *The Trial*. Translated by Mike Mitchell. Oxford University Press, 2009.

Walser, Robert. *Jakob von Gunten*. Translated by Christopher Middleton. New York Review Books, 1999.

SHORT STORIES and NOVELLAS

Bernhard, Thomas. *The Voice Imitator*. Translated by Kenneth J. Northscott. University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Heine, Heinrich. *The Prose Writings of Heinrich Heine*. Project Gutenberg.

Mann, Thomas. *Little Herr Friedemann and Other Stories*. Penguin, 1972.

Seghers, Anna. *The Dead Girls' Class Trip: Selected Stories*. Translated by Margot Bettauer Dembo, 2021.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

Sebald, W. G. *Vertigo*. Translated by Michael Hulse. New Directions, 1999.

COURSE NOTES

- Please see the detailed class schedule, which includes due dates for all assignments, on D2L (under Content) and the detailed information on the course assessment and all assignments in the section below.
- Policy in case of missed or late assignments: For each 24 hours an assignment is late, one point will be deducted. Please reach out to the instructor prior to the due date to arrange accommodations if appropriate. Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded at zero points.
- Attendance and participation:
- Class etiquette: Students are encouraged to observe proper class etiquette. Please be courteous and respectful at all times.
- Course evaluation procedure (online via D2L)
- Assignments: All writing assignments have to be uploaded to D2L. Please use WORD (or ODT) DOCUMENTS for all written assignments, and please include your full name in the name of the file.
- MLA style is preferred, but other citation styles are accepted if their use is consistent.

ASSESSMENT

Short Essays and Peer Review: 10% (x3)

Research-Based Revision Presentation: 10%

Final Paper: Research-Based Revision: 30%

D2L Quizzes: 5% (x2)

Dada Creative Writing: 5%

Preparation and Participation: 15%

Short Essays and Peer Review (3×10% = 30% of final grade)

Students will write three (3) Short Essays (500 words each, +/- 10%) and perform three peer reviews of their peer's Short Essays. These essays and the peer review process will encourage students to develop their skills of critical thinking, literary analysis, writing, and peer review. Additionally, they serve as a test of knowledge of the primary readings of the course.

Short Essays will primarily feature close readings of the text(s) under investigation and comparative analysis of the primary literature of the course. Students are not required to consult secondary sources for these essays; the thesis should rely on the student's own interpretations of the text(s) in the context of our course and class discussion. If additional sources are utilized, students should use no more than two (2) secondary



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

sources in drafting their Short Essays.

After completing their essays, students will submit them via D2L by 23:59 on their due date. Peer review sessions will be done in class, the next class after the due date.

Each student will thus write one Short Essay and peer review one Short Essay three times over the course of the semester, using the feedback they received on one of these Short Essays to form the foundation of their Final Essay, a Research-Based Revision, which they will turn in at the conclusion of the semester. A detailed rubric can be found on D2L. The peer review component of this assignment will be graded based on completion.

- Short Essay 1: February 7
- Short Essay 2: March 14
- Short Essay 3: April 3

Research-Based Revision Presentation (10% of the final grade)

In their presentation, students showcase their draft of the final paper to the class. Students will prepare a PowerPoint Presentation or a handout for the group. Grades will be based on the clarity of the presentation (what is the thesis, how is the thesis argued for, and what are possible counterarguments?), the presentation materials (slides or handout), as well as on the student's ability to respond to questions and comments.

A detailed rubric can be found on D2L.

- Presentation: April 8 and April 11

Final Paper: Research-Based Revision (30% of the final grade)

Students will select one of their three Short Essays and revise it based on the peer review feedback they received in the semester and the feedback received on their presentation. This Research-Based Revision (2000 words, +/- 10%) will explore the topic of the Short Essay in greater depth. It must include at least four (4) secondary sources.

A detailed rubric can be found on D2L.

- Final Paper: April 22

D2L Quizzes (2×5% = 10% of the final grade)

Two quizzes over the course of the semester test students' knowledge and understanding of the assigned readings/lecture topics.

- Quiz 1: January 28
- Quiz 2: March 18

Dada Creative Writing: 5%

Students will follow Tristan Tzara's instructions in "How to Make a Dadaist Poem" (as discussed in class) and write their own Dada-inspired poem. This assignment will be graded based on completion.

- Creative Writing: February 28

Preparation and Participation: 15%

Students are expected to participate in class discussions and to come to class with questions and comments related to the assigned readings. To receive a perfect grade, students must make 15 substantial contributions over the course of the semester (in the form of questions, comments etc.). Students may choose, alternatively, to submit to the discussion forums on D2L six (6) written statements (c. 250 words each) about one of the assigned texts (see required course materials). These statements have to be submitted no later than 48 hours after the meeting on which the assigned reading was discussed. Each written statement is worth 2.5% of the participation grade.

Students will see a weighted participation grade on D2L based on their work so far (the grade will be updated weekly).



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Other Class Activities:

The course will utilize D2L as another venue for (optional) discussion of the texts and topics viewed in class.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **For each 24 hours an assignment is late, one point will be deducted.** Please reach out to the instructor prior to the due date to arrange accommodations if appropriate.
- **Any assignment that is not submitted will be graded at zero points.**
- **Since MLA is the preferred style for literary studies, all writing assignments have to format their citations according to MLA style.** Concerning citations, PurdueOwl has a comprehensive guide to proper source use:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style

GRADING SCALE

A+ (97-100%), A (92-96%), 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%)

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

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 (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

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

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>

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

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.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>