

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2016-2017 GERM 343 A2: Postwar Cultures
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Lars Richter
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Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 2-3, or by appointment
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Time: M, W, F 10-10:50
Place: HC 2-25

Fax: 780-492-9106

Course Prerequisite: Co-requisite GERM 303 or consent of department

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives: This course focuses on historical, social, and cultural changes taking place in German-speaking countries from 1945 to the present. The course will have three primary focal points: the impact of WWII and the holocaust, the GDR and unification, and migration and race. Throughout, we will examine how these issues of the past continue to resonate in the present. During the semester, students will learn about and discuss the historical facts and cultural phenomena and develop the tools to analyze how these developments are configured and reflected in literature, film, music, architecture, and other art forms in order to develop students' ability for sustained analysis through a variety of media. We will also explore how cultural artifacts and representations in return shape and influence society. Students will learn to critically engage with concepts such as culture and cultural memory both in the classroom through

discussions of readings, films, images, and other documents as well as in their own intellectual engagement in essays, debates, and group work. At the end of this course, students will be able to identify, analyze and critically evaluate how those historical and cultural aspects define contemporary Germany.

Texts: All course material will be available on eClass or will be distributed by the instructor.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

- 10% Attendance, Participation, Preparation, and Homework
- 10% Film or Text Introduction
- 10% Roundtable Statement and Debate
- 10% Creative Project
- 30% Short Essays (due on October 3 and December 5)
- 15% Test I (tentatively scheduled for October 19)
- 15% Test II (tentatively scheduled for December 7)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N/A

<http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance, Participation, Preparation, and Homework: Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in a foreign-language course. Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of class work and assignments – that means: coming to class prepared, viewing the assigned films and reading all texts carefully in advance, doing written or oral homework diligently, participating in group work, and contributing meaningfully to class discussions.

Film or Text Introduction: Throughout the course, students are expected to prepare a very brief (7-10 minutes) introduction to either an assigned text or to a film to be discussed, including relevant facts (e.g. director, cast, and crew for the films) and three questions for discussion (groups of 2-3).

Roundtable Statement and Debate: Each student is expected to participate in a roundtable discussion on a specific topic by preparing a 7-10 minute statement and by actively engaging in the debate following the short presentations. The statement should give an introduction to and overview of the topic including important facts and dates; it should then focus on a specific aspect and introduce an assumption or opinion, and finally articulate relating questions that will be discussed during the debate. The roundtables are tentatively scheduled for September 21, October 17, and November 25.

Creative Project: In this course students will be asked to complete a group project (2-3 students per group) that creatively and critically engages with either a topic discussed in class or a topic that meaningfully expands on our in-class discussions. You will be expected to do most of the preparation outside of the classroom,

however, you will also receive some time during class to work on these projects. It is advisable to build your project around one or more “found objects,” something – an image, a word, a person, a building, a product, a text, a city, or an event, for example – that represents the difficulties, challenges, or the opportunities of your topic. The project can either be presented in form of a poster, image, drawing, collage, a cartoon, a short movie, or in form of one or several objects. The group projects will be presented and discussed on Wednesday, November 30.

Short Essays: Two short essays, one focusing on the teaching unit “Germany during and after World War II”, and one on “Germany as an Immigration Country” are due during the term. The essays should reflect and elaborate on the objectives and materials learned and used in class. The essays are expected to display a structured argument with a compelling thesis and insightful conclusion. You are welcome to use secondary sources, articles and books. To choose a topic for each unit, please see the list distributed in class. If you would like to elaborate on a topic of your own choosing, please contact the instructor in advance. Each essay should be 2-3 pages in length.

Test I and II: There will be two tests, one in the middle of the term and one towards the end of term. Each test will consist of questions relating to the theories, texts, and films studied in class, as well as to the group work and discussions. Each test will be 50 minutes long. Test I is tentatively scheduled for October 19, Test II is tentatively scheduled for December 7.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The

Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, attendance, preparation, and regular participation go hand in hand; students will not only be expected to attend each session, but they are expected to come

prepared for the day's lesson and participate in that day's lesson. As the course will be run in seminar-style, the success of the course is dependent on informed and lively discussions driven by student engagement. It is therefore vital that each student completes the required readings, film screenings, or written exercises assigned for the scheduled class. Attendance, preparation, and regular participation will count for 10% of the overall grade for the course.

Policy for Late Assignments: Students who consult in advance with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, late assignments with no prior arrangement will receive a 5%-per-class-day penalty for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading: Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82

<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59