

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2019-2020 *Germ 225 A1: German Cinema*
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Ute-Brigitte Blunck
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Time: MWF 2-2:50
Place: Arts 550
Office Hours: Tues 11-12 Fri 10-11
or by appointment

Course Prerequisite: N/A

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

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

Taught in English, this course surveys cinematic movements in German language film from Weimar Expressionism to the new millennium with emphasis on issues like national and individual identity, immigration and multiculturalism, gender and social issues. Specific attention is given to how we can better understand historical, social, or political change through film and to grasp the culture of cinematic context. Particular emphasis will be placed on how aesthetic interests and technical innovations come together to shape our understanding of this context.

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Analyze and discuss films of various genres and formal approaches in the different social and historical contexts of German film.
- Identify key concepts in filmmaking, and understand how formal techniques help to construct meaning.
- Communicate their ideas about films and the results of their analysis in class discussion and presentations, as well as in writing.
- Analyze films using the technical terminology and demonstrate critical writing skills to discuss formal aspects of films.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, student presentations, and personal reflections as well as discussions based on assigned readings and films.

Texts:*Required*

Reimer/Zachau, German Culture Through Film: An Introduction to German Cinema (2nd Edition)
 Readings, handouts and assigned viewings for discussion posted on e-Class

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 4, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019

Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019

Grade Distribution:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Attendance, preparation and participation in class discussions | 15% |
| Weekly Response Journal (<i>due every two weeks throughout term</i>) | 15% |
| 3 Sequence Analysis Papers (<i>15% each—due Oct 4, Nov 1, Nov29</i>) | 45% |
| Presentation (<i>sign up for your date at beginning of term</i>) | 10% |
| Test (<i>Dec. 4</i>) | 15% |

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**Attendance 15%**

Class attendance, participation and preparation is essential in this course. Your mark for this component will be based on attendance and the effort made to contribute to class by adequate preparation of your contribution to the films discussed – a component upon which extensive unexcused absence will, of course, have a negative impact.

Students are encouraged to communicate with other students (or with the instructor by email or in office hours) to keep up with missed classes. Do not expect your instructor to go over material in class again because you were absent.

Weekly Response Journal 15%

Your Journals will be due every two weeks. The entries will consist of three parts each week:

Answers to the weekly journal prompts (1-1 ½ pages)

Your thoughts and responses to the weekly Student presentations and discussions (1page)

More information can be found on the handout posted on e-class.

Sequence Analysis Papers (15% each x 3 = 45%)

three sequence analysis papers of approx. 4-5 pages each. Information and handouts will be posted

Presentation 10%

Fridays will be particularly focussed on discussion. The class will begin with a Student **presentation**. In groups of two, you will summarize the relevant aspects of the film screened for that week. You should include any aspects of the visual presentation of the film that you found intriguing (camera angles, editing styles, costuming, setting, etc.), and pose at least three questions related to the film's larger cultural context that we might use as a springboard for our discussion.

Please sign up for a date.

Although we will see clips of various other films, the student presentations will be on the following films.

You will be responsible for leading the class discussion.

Presentation and discussion should will comprise **30 minutes**.

YOU MUST PRESENT ON THE DAY YOU HAVE SIGNED UP FOR.

Sept 13: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Robert Wiene, 1919)

Presenters: _____, _____

Sept 20: Berlin – Symphony of a Great City (Walter Ruttmann, 1927)

Presenters: _____, _____

Sept 27: M (Fritz Lang, 1931)

Presenters: _____, _____

Oct 4: Triumph of the Will (Leni Riefenstahl, 1932)

Presenters: _____, _____

Oct 11: Murderers Among us (Wolfgang Staudte, 1946)

Presenters: _____, _____

Oct 18: Berlin Schönhauser Corner (DEFA, East Germany, Gerhard Klein, 1957)

Presenters: _____, _____

Oct 25: Ali Fear Eats the Soul (West Germany, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, 1974)

Presenters: _____, _____

Nov 1: Far Away so Close (Wim Wenders, 1997)

Presenters: _____, _____

1Nov 8: Edge of Heaven (Fatih Akin, 2007)

Presenters: _____, _____

READING WEEK

Nov 22: Oh Boy/A Coffee in Berlin (Jan Ole Gerster, 2012)

Presenters: _____, _____

Nov 29: Transit (Christian Petzold, 2018)

Babylon Berlin

Prepare your thoughts for class discussion.

Required Notes:

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

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

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](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, GERMAN 225, you are expected to attend class, be prepared to discuss the films in a variety of situations (partners, groups in-class), keep up with the material, complete and hand in assigned homework, and write the test. ***There are no make-up assignments.***

When a student misses any term work (e.g., classes, essays, journal submissions, presentations, etc.) without acceptable excuse, ***a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the term work missed.*** Instructor’s discretion prevails with respect to acceptability of excuse.

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 will have a **5%-per-class-day penalty** assessed for each **calendar day** of lateness.

Any assignments submitted after the remainder of the class has had their marked assignments returned will be **assigned a mark of 0** and be **marked for feedback only**.

Presentations must be given on the day you signed up.

In cases of potentially excusable absences (emergency conditions, incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction, legitimate University-related business, or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy), students may apply for an excused absence for missed term work (such as quizzes, presentations, or exams) to receive the opportunity to make-up the missed term work. Please note:

- For an absence to be considered excused, instructors will request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence (i.e. in the form of a “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student-services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf>)).
- Providing any kind of document(s) does not imply an automatic approval; it will be at the discretion of the instructor to accept or decline a document and/or grant the student’s request for an excused absence.
- A student must inform the instructor **within two working days** following the term work which was missed, or as soon as the student is able, with regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.
- For missed exams or term work, **no extension will be given after this deadline has elapsed and a grade of ZERO will be assigned.**
- For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes; and within three days of the start of Spring or Summer classes.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on e-Class. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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 |
| 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. | C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 |
| | C | 2.0 | 73-76 |
| | C- | 1.7 | 70-72 |
| 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. | D+ | 1.3 | 65-69 |
| | D | 1.0 | 60-64 |
| Failure. | F | 0.0 | 0-59 |