

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2020–2021** GERM 454 B1: Gender and Sexuality  
Queer German Cinema  
(Winter Term)

*Note: Remote Delivery*

Instructor: Dr. Simone Pflieger  
Office: Remote  
Virtual Office Hours: by appointment  
E-mail: [pflieger@ualberta.ca](mailto:pflieger@ualberta.ca)  
Zoom link: please see eClass

Time: T, TH 12:30–13:50  
Place: Zoom, eClass

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies**  
<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite**

Co-requisite GERM 303 or consent of department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Technology requirements (minimum)**

Please make sure that you consult the following website for the university's technology requirements for fall term 2020: <https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/students/computing-recommendations.html>

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

**Experiential Learning Component**

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**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 and Learning Outcomes**

Since the early years of filmmaking, German cinema has played a leading and innovative role in depicting and reflecting on diverse sexualities in society and culture. In this sense, queer German films are present throughout a variety of movements in German cinema such as Weimar cinema, New German Cinema, and the Berlin School, and therefore can also chart a path through crucial events of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Thus, Queer German films not only reflect a wide range of aesthetic and formal elements of German cinema, but also confront audiences with larger social, political, and cultural developments. Throughout this class, we will engage with a variety of major directors and works important to Queer German cinema. In addition to examining the content of the films, we will acquire the vocabulary and skills to understand and interpret films and see them in their historical and cultural frameworks. We will discuss individual films and directors along with the conditions of production and reception of moving pictures from the early twentieth century to the present.

Throughout, we will examine the depictions of gender and sexuality in German film. During the term, students will acquire the necessary vocabulary to discuss the following: the film's formal aspects, the content of the films, and ideas about (queer) identities in those time periods of German history covered in this course. Students will learn how to discuss the historical facts and cultural phenomena and develop the tools to analyze how these developments are configured though and reflected in German-language film. Further, students will develop the ability for sustained analysis of society and culture through the medium of film. We will also explore how cultural artifacts and representations in return shape and influence society. Through a combination of in-class discussions and essay writing, students will be able to situate and analyze the films in their socio-cultural and historic context. Further, students will examine these complexities and draw connections to the cultural realities of contemporary Germany and, in so doing, deepen their understanding of the concerns shaping and informing contemporary German-language culture today. Students will also familiarize themselves with existing scholarship pertinent to (queer) German film and conduct research in the target language. Finally, these critical skills and new knowledge bases will be developed and honed in discussions and writing in German; at the end of the course, therefore, students will have gained considerable practice in improving their oral and written academic German.

## **Texts**

The following films will be made available to students:

- Oswald, Richard. *Anders als die Andern* (1919)
- Sagan, Leontine. *Mädchen in Uniform* (1931)
- von Praunheim, Rosa. *Nicht der Homosexuelle ist pervers, sondern die Situation in der er lebt* (1971)
- Ripplloh, Frank. *Taxi zum Klo* (1981)
- Treut, Monika. *Die Jungfrauenmaschine* (1988)
- Carow, Heiner. *Coming Out* (1989)
- Ataman, Kutluğ. *Lola und Bilidkid* (1999)
- Maccarone, Angelina. *Fremde Haut* (2005)
- Tykwer, Tom. *Drei* (2010)
- Wnendt, David. *Feuchtgebiete* (2013)

Additional required texts will be posted on eClass.

**Please ensure that you take notes when watching the films and that you have those as well as the assigned readings available when we discuss them!**

## Dictionary

You will also need a good dictionary, such as Harper Collins, Cassell's, or Langenscheidt. If you prefer to use online dictionaries, I have linked a few reliable ones (German-English) to our course site. Please remember when you look up a word that you must scroll through the list of results to choose the most appropriate word, which is not always the first one. I am happy to help you with dictionary skills at any time during the semester.

## Additional Course Fees

Yes  No

## Important Dates

See Academic Schedule in current Calendar

First Day of Class: January 11, 2021

Add/Delete Date: January 22, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: February 10, 2021

Winter Term Reading Week: February 16-19, 2021

Withdrawal Date: April 9, 2021

Last Day of Class: April 16, 2021

## Components of Course Grade (see "Explanatory Notes")

The grade for this course will reflect the progress each student makes during the semester, taking into account the linguistic starting point. The types of assignments are also reflective of the COVID-19 imposed reality and the awareness that more flexibility and time is needed to complete the assignments. The final course grade will be based on the following:

Discussions	20%
Presentation	15%
3 Short Essays	30%
Research Essay	35%

## Explanatory Notes on Assignments

You are responsible for keeping up with your work. Assignments and readings are due on the day that they appear on the syllabus. If you are absent, your work is still due. See Required Notes: Policy for Late Assignments for details.

This class will be run as a seminar so attendance, preparation, and participation are vital components of this course. Although some students might have to miss some of the sessions throughout the term, students are required to attend the class sessions on Zoom, which give students a chance to practice their German and engage with one another. This is crucial for students to improve their oral command of German and to be able to listen to others speak. Additionally, it is important that each student completes the required readings prior to class.

## Film Screenings

Students are required to watch all films outside of class as homework. There will be weekly film screenings. Timing will be determined based on the availability of the majority of students.

## *Discussions*

This class will meet on Zoom to discuss the films and assigned readings. These meetings will also allow students to do their presentations in front of a live audience as well as ask questions about course materials and/or assignments. Students are required to attend these sessions and be prepared to talk about the film and readings assigned for that week.

### *Presentation*

Throughout the term, each student is required to give a short presentation on one of the films. Students will be put in pairs and each pair is expected to introduce the film and provide some additional background information on the film, the director, the actors, and its socio-cultural, historical, and political relevance.

### *Short Essays*

You will write three essays throughout the semester, each of which must be typed (double-spaced) and approximately 600–700 words in length. The first two essays are a breakdown and analysis of a short sequence from a film viewed in class. For Essay 3, students will select a German-language film that is not on the syllabus and write a film review. I will provide a list of films, but students can select any film which they find interested in consultation with me.

All papers must have the following heading:

Name

GERM 454

Instructor's name

Please submit your essays as a Word document via eClass. As a courtesy, you will be allowed ONE extension for whatever reason. You MUST discuss the extension with me in advance.

### *Research Essay*

This assignment allows you to work more intensively with one of the films covered in class during the term. Alternatively, and only with permission of the instructor, students can also write on a film that is not on the syllabus. Students are expected to write one essay of 2,000 words in which you demonstrate your ability to perform film analysis. Your essay must be typed and double-spaced. Please use Times New Roman 12pt font. All papers should have an introduction, a body, a conclusion, and an original title that accurately describes the content of your paper. In addition, all papers should use at least four (4) sources as support of the argument.

The essay assignment is due by April 14, 2021, 23:59. Please do not submit your final essay via email. Hand it in on eClass. A grading rubric will be posted on eClass for more details.

## **Course Policies**

### **A Note on Online Learning**

This course has recently been adapted to a remote format. While the course is 'online' it is important to note that there will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning components. What this means is that while some course components will be self-paced and can be done on your own time, there will also be times when you are required to log on at a specific time for discussions, quizzes, and exams. As such, you must be available during scheduled class time in order to succeed in this course.

### **Class Engagement**

Online learning is new to most of us. One major hurdle of not being able to meet in person and connect is that people can feel isolated and less engaged. It might be difficult to cultivate a sense of community. That being said, I will aim to cultivate an online class community while maintaining some flexibility for folks during this difficult time.

### **Class Etiquette**

Please consult the following website for more information for the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer: <https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/students/computing-recommendations.html> as well as <https://www.ualberta.ca/chief-information-security-officer/index.html>.

### **Note on Potentially Challenging Content**

Some of the films in this course include disturbing topics such as violence, assault, sexual abuse, torture, murder, and more. If one of these subjects is particularly uncomfortable for you, please let me know so that we can see about making accommodations for you.

### **Access to Instructor**

#### **Zoom**

Due to the remote environment and its particularities, I hold virtual office hours on Zoom by appointment only in order to ensure maximum flexibility. Please send me an email to schedule a time and date.

#### **Email**

I will make an effort to respond in a timely manner, but please note that I tend not to reply after 7pm on weekdays and with a delay on weekends.

### **eClass**

We will make frequent use of our course site. All homework assignments and additional course materials will be posted under the course documents a couple of weeks in advance. Some homework assignments will require you to participate in discussion forums. Please visit it before our next class meeting and make a note of any questions or concerns. You should speak with me as soon as possible if you are not familiar with eClass. I will also use this site to email you with any necessary communications between class meetings, so please be sure to check your email regularly. If you receive emails at an account other than your ualberta.ca address, please forward your ualberta.ca emails to that account so that you will receive my communications in a timely manner.

**Please contact me if you have any questions about the syllabus or any of the course policies.**

### **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.

### ***Language and Translation Courses***

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of online translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour.

### ***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.

### ***Sexual Violence Policy:***

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." (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

### ***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 of the Zoom meetings is essential for optimal performance in this 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 “discussion” component of this 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.

### ***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 either a 0 or a 10%-per-late-day penalty for each subsequent day of lateness, depending on the nature of the assignment.

### ***Disclaimer***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. 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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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