# GRMN 352H / MCLG 331H German Culture 1900 to the Present

# Spring 2015

**Instructor Information**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2 – 4 pm, Thursdays 10 am – 12 pm or by Appointment

## Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course offers an overview of major cultural developments in German-speaking culture from the late 19th century to the present. Students will become familiar with the chronology of historical developments in 20th and 21st century Central Europe, as well as the role German-speaking culture has played in the direction of world events in the 20th century and into the present millennium. Focus will be given to examining the historical impact of the two world wars in Central Europe, as well as to movements and trends after the Second World War that led to German unification in 1990. Examination will also be devoted to developments in Central Europe since reunification in the broader context of German and Central European cultural history as well as global trends today. Discussion of trends and cultural change will be placed in the context of a variety of disciplines ranging from the natural sciences and technology to philosophy, politics, business and economics, literature, media, and the arts.

Each area will emphasize relevance of historical development of German Culture to aspects of global culture today as well as evolution of key concepts related to contemporary cultural life and personal identity such as notions of individualism, societal responsibility, the role of law, politics, philosophy and religion in society, as well as an appreciation of each the fine and expressive arts.

## Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify and examine key movements and figures in the course of German cultural history from the late 19th toearly 21st century and draw connections between phenomena through a German Studies approach that will emphasize the chronological, geographical and topical dimensions of material covered.
2. Students will be able to formulate arguments and ties concerning the development of German-speaking culture in the 20th century that bring various disciplinary dimensions together.
3. Through different critical approaches toward the Central European subject matter, students will be able to argue and highlight the global significance of developments and events in German cultural history from the late 19th century to the present.
4. Students will successfully be able to research and convey key problems and arguments on a topic related to German cultural history from the late 19th century to the present in a 8 – 10 page research paper. This paper will be developed in stages, including an initial prospect, an annotated bibliography, as well as a first draft which will be reviewed and revised for a final draft.

## Required Textbooks:

Gay, Peter. *Weimar Culture. The Outsider as Insider*. New York: Norton, 2001.

*German Cultural Studies. An Introduction.*  Rob Burns, ed. Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 1995.

Horváth, Ödön von. *Youth Without God*. Trans. R. Wills Thomas. Brooklyn: Melville House, 2012.

Schlink, Bernhard. *The Reader.* Trans. Carol Brown Janeway. New York: Vintage, 1997.

Other readings will be available by handout. Text readings will be complemented by multi-media presentations in class on such topics as art history, urban history, geography, political developments and key biographic figures. Films indicated on the class calendar below are on course reserve at the Mansfield Library.

## Course Calendar:

January 26 – 30 Introduction, Overview of German History prior to Wilhelmine Period

February 2 – 6 Wilhelmine Germany, Austro-Hungarian Empire, Symbolism, Expressionism

 Burns: Chapter 1

 Wednesday February 4 - Visit to Mansfield Library

February 9 – 13 Weimar Germany

 Burns: Chapter 2

 Gay: Preface, Chapters 1, 2

 Film: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1921, Robert Wiene)

February 18 - 20 Weimar Germany

 Website Essay (1st Draft) Due February 20

February 23 - 27 From the Weimar Republic to National Socialism

 Thomas Mann: *Mario and the Magician* (1929) (Handout)

 Burns: Chapter 3

 Horváth: *Youth Without God*

March 2 - 6 National Socialism

 Horváth: *Youth Without God*

Nazi Film

 Film: *Mephisto* (1981, István Szabó)

 Website Essay (2nd Draft) Due March 6

March 9 - 13 From National Socialism to Advent of Postwar Era

 Midterm Review: Monday March 9

 Midterm Exam: Wednesday March 11

March 16 – 20 Postwar Germany: History of the German Democratic Republic

 (East Germany)

 Burns: Chapter 4

 Film: *Berlin, Schönhauser Corner* (1957, Gerhard Klein)

 Research Paper Prospectus/ Annotated Bibliography (1st Draft) Due March 20

March 23 – 27 Postwar Germany: History of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany):

 1945 – 1968

 Burns: Chapter 5

March 30 - Spring Break

April 3

April 6 - 10 Postwar Germany: History of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany):

 1968 – 1990, Postwar Austria and Switzerland 1945 - 1990

 Burns: Chapter 6

 Research Paper Prospectus / Annotated Bibliography (2nd Draft) Due April 10

April 13 - 17: Reunification: “The Turn” (1989 – 92)

 Christa Wolf: *What Remains* (1979/1989) (Handout)

 Film: *The Lives of Others* (2006, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)

April 20 - 24: Reunification: Between Past and Future

 Research Paper (1st Draft): Due April 24

 Burns: Chapter 7

 Schlink: *The Reader*

Apr 27 – May 1 Reunification: Between Past and Future

 Schlink: *The Reader*

Film: *The Reader* (2008, Stephen Daldry)

May 4 - 8 Central Europe Today, Course Review

 Colin Riordan: “Environment, landscape and culture in Germany” (Handout)

 Film: *Kebab Connection* (2004, Anno Saul)

May 11 Final Exam, Research Paper (2nd Draft) Due

3:20 – 5:20 pm

## Required Assignments and Tests:

Course material will be offered in the form of assigned readings as well as class lectures which will cover and complement readings. Coursework will also involve your own research for writing assignments. In addition to these writing assignments, there will be a written midterm exam as well as written final exam which will present informational questions as well as thematic questions to gauge your comprehension of class material as well as your capacity to organize points and observations in the context of themes covered in the course. You will be expected to keep up with readings and film viewings and to participate in class discussion both individually and in groups.

The formal writing assignments include:

1) Website Essay (2 pp.):

In this essay you will synthesize critical observations regarding a web resource found related to a topic in German Studies, as well discuss material found via your chosen web resource related to key terms, topics, and ideas of the course.

2) Annotated Bibliography for Research Paper (3 pp.):

Your working bibliography will allow you illustrate your ability to find and collect appropriate resources, as well as use correct citation methods for your class research paper. Your annotated bibliography will provide the initial framework through which key ideas derived from your sources will begin to frame the blueprint of your research paper.

3) Research Prospectus (1 p.):

Your prospectus will allow you to identify and focus on the central theme of your paper, as well to synthesize supporting facts, ideas, and material related to your research topic succinctly and clearly in a 1-page scope.

4) Research Paper (8 pp.)

This will be the final trajectory of Assignments 2) and 3), where you will synthesize key ideas from your abstract and your annotated bibliography. You will incorporate and organize the materials you have found to complete a comprehensive discussion of ideas, observations and arguments, including your own, with properly cited and referenced sources.

Each of these written assignments will involve the submission of a first draft for which your instructor will provide commentary and suggestions to include for a following draft. Your response to instructor feedback is an important component of your learning experience in the course. The final grade for each writing assignment will be based on both the initial and second draft. The combination of your work with reading assignments, research and writing assignments, tests, and opportunities to participate in class discussion will help you reach the learning outcomes of the course as we examine the course of German-speaking culture from the end of the 19th century to the present day.

## Course Guidelines and Policies

Please note the course guidelines and polices following below under the headings: “Student Conduct and Student Conduct Code,” “Attendance,” “Course Withdrawal,” “Disability Modifications,” “Assignment Expectations,” and “Grading.”

Additionally, please regard these requests regarding food, gum, beverages and electronic devices: Please chew gum and consume food or drink outside of class if possible. If you need to eat or drink in class, please do so in measure or speak with your instructor about a particular issue involving a need to eat or drink during class. Unless indicated as acceptable or suggested for a particular activity, please do not use electronic/personal communication devices in class and place them on a setting that will not interrupt class. Thanks.

**Student Conduct and Student Conduct Code:**

Recognize that it is the obligation of each the instructor as well as students to maintain a climate of consideration and respect for all those who participate in the course. A good deal of the course will involve the sharing of views and opinions on various topics. It is important that they are exchanged and discussed in a considerate, productive manner so that everyone has the chance to participate eagerly and fairly. Listening to what your peers have to say and to share is an important part of your learning experience. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code of the University as it pertains to your responsibility to respectful of your fellow students, abide by campus policies, and to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned to reflect your own work as indeed representing your own efforts and research with citations and references of others when necessary. The Code is available for review online at: <http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php>

**Attendance:**

It is expected that all students will attend class when the course meets. Except under unusual circumstances, if a student misses 4 class sessions during the semester, the final grade will be lowered by half a grade: A- becomes B+. Likewise, if a student misses more than 7 class sessions during the semester, the final grade will be lowered one whole grade: A becomes B, B becomes C, etc. Missing more than 12 sessions may be regarded as grounds for failing the course.

**Course Withdrawal:**

Your instructor follows general University guidelines and deadlines concerning course withdrawal. Those policies can be found online at: <http://www.umt.edu/uac/adddrop.php>

**Disability Modifications:**

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services for Students, please contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) in Lommasson Center, Room 154, or call 406-243-2243. The DSS website is: <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>

Your instructor will work with you and DSS to provide appropriate modifications. Please note that your instructor can only provide modifications if notified and that such modifications are made after an instructor has been given appropriate information and formal indication by the student and DSS.

### Assignment Expectations:

Please follow and adhere to directions given for course assignments. If directions are not clear, be sure to consult your instructor as soon as possible. Assignments are expected to be handed in on time for full credit. The midterm and final exams are expected to be taken on dates on which they are scheduled. Quizzes will be announced at least two sessions before the date on which they will be given. Unless subject to special circumstances (documented illness, family emergency, university-related absence or travel, religious observation, or other possible reasons you may discuss with your instructor) or by agreement by your instructor beforehand otherwise, missed tests will result in no credit for those tests. Late writing assignments prior to the final draft of the research paper may be accepted for partial credit within one class session of the due date. The final draft of the research paper is to be handed in by the date of the final exam, May 11.

### Grading:

Your grade will be based on the following percentage breakdown:

Written Assignments: Website Paper (1st and 2nd Draft) 50 points (10% of 500)

 Prospectus 25 points (5 % of 500)

Preparatory Bibliographic Review 25 points (5% of 500)

 Research Paper (1st and 2nd Draft) 150 points (30% of 500)

Exams: Midterm Exam: 75 points (15% of 500)

 Final Exam: 125 points (25% of 500)

Classroom Participation: 50 points (10% of 500)

 Total points 500

Final Accumulative Course Grade:

465 – 500 points (93% - 100 %) = A

450 – 464 points (90% - 92.9 %) = A-

435 – 449 points (87 % - 89.9%) = B+

415 – 434 points (83% - 86.9%) = B

400 – 414 points (80 % - 82.9%) = B-

385 – 399 points (77 % - 79.9 %) = C+

365 – 384 points (73% - 76.9 %) = C

350 – 364 points (70 % - 72.9%) = C-

335 – 349 points (67% - 69.9%) = D+

315 – 334 points (63 % - 66.9%) = D

300 – 314 points (60% - 62.9%) = D-

299 points or lower (59.9% or lower) = F

**Questions / Advising**

If you have any questions or need advice regarding the class, international or German interests, study abroad, or anything related, please feel free to reach me by phone (243-5418) or e-mail (marton.marko@mso.umt.edu) or stop by my office during office hours. I would be happy to talk with you! Wishing you a great Spring Semester 2015 in GRMN 352H / MCLG 352H!