

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2020–21** GERM 340-A1: Introduction to the Study of Modern German Literature  
(Fall term)

Remote Delivery

Please note, this syllabus has been modified from the original for privacy reasons.  
Students should log into their eClass account for the official version.

Instructor: Dr. Simone Pflieger

Office: Remote

Virtual Office Hours: Monday 12–1, or by appointment

E-mail: [pflieger@ualberta.ca](mailto:pflieger@ualberta.ca)

Time: M, W, F 11:00–11:50

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**

The course highlights German cultural and literary developments from the Classical Weimar period to the present. We will discuss texts in relation to the historical background, socio-cultural conditions of their time, subjectivity (such as class, race, gender roles and identities), and notions of high and low culture as well as literary trends and theories in the German-speaking world. Text by canonical authors (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Heinrich von Kleist, Ilse Aichinger, Ingeborg Bachmann, among others) as well as by contemporary writers such as

Feridun Zaimoglu, Charlotte Roche, Sharon Dodua Otoo, or Sasha Marianna Salzmann will be discussed with regard to formal characteristics. By the end of the course, students will be able to name the most important periods of German literature since 1750 and identify their individual traits. They will be able to apply this knowledge to the analysis of a chosen text and engage critically with the special formal features of the text on the basis of theoretical background information. Eventually they will be able to evaluate the literary features of a text and develop their own (creative) response to the contemporary literary sphere.

Through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous classes throughout the term, opportunities to participate orally as well as in a written manner, a variety of assignments, students will be able to situate and analyze the texts in their socio-cultural and historic context, examine these complexities and draw connections, and, in so doing, deepen their understanding of the concerns shaping and informing contemporary German-language culture and society today. 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**

Students are expected to read excerpts or the entire text of the following literary works:

- Friedrich Schiller: *Kabale und Liebe* (1784)
- Philippine Gatterer: "Mädchenklage" (1779)
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: *Iphigenie* (1787) and *Faust* (1808)
- Heinrich von Kleist: *Die Marquise von O* (1808)
- Heinrich Heine: "Lorelei" (1823/24)
- Luis Otto-Peters: "Freiheit für alle" (1847)
- Theodor Storm: *Der Schimmelreiter* (1888)
- Rainer Maria Rilke: "Der Panther" (1902)
- Musil: *Die Verwirrungen des Zöglings Törleß* (1906)
- Else Lasker-Schüler: "Dem Barbaren" (1917)
- Erich Maria Remarque: *Im Westen nichts Neues* (1929)
- Ingrid Keun: *Das kunstseidene Mädchen* (1932)
- Anna Seghers: *Das siebte Kreuz. Ein Roman aus Hitlerdeutschland* (1942)
- Ilse Aichinger: "Spiegelgeschichte" (1949)
- Ingeborg Bachmann: "Reklame" (1956)
- Ingeborg Bachmann: "Ein Schritt nach Gomorrha" (1961)
- Heinrich Böll: *Die verlorene Ehre der Katharina Blum oder: Wie Gewalt entsteht und wohin sie führen kann* (1974)
- Feridun Zaimoglu: "Akay, 29, vom Flohmarkt" (1995)
- Elfriede Jelinek: *Die Kinder der Toten* (1997)
- Charlotte Roche: *Feuchtgebiete* (2008)
- Sharon Dodua Otoo: *die dinge, die ich denke, während ich höflich lächle* (2012)
- Sasha Marianna Salzmann: *Außer sich* (2017)

All excerpts of the required texts will be posted on eClass.

**Please ensure that you have the text available when we discuss it!**

### 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 for details

(<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=33&navoid=10011>)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

### **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:

Participation Assignments (10 out of 12; 1% each)	10%
Analysis Questions and More	25%
Exam	25%
2 Essays	40%

### **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.

Due to the nature of the remote learning environment and any challenges that folks are facing due to their respective life worlds and realities, attendance, preparation, and participation cannot and should not be assessed as if the class were to meet in person. Some students might have to miss some of the synchronous sessions throughout the term. We will have discussions on Zoom to give students a chance to practice their German and engage with one another. In order to improve oral command of German and to be able to listen to others speak, it is advisable and most beneficial to attend the synchronous portions of the class. Additionally, it is vital that each student completes the required readings and written exercises.

#### *Participation Assignments*

On Wednesday, a short participation assignment will be posted on eClass based on the readings for that week. You must complete ten out of twelve of these assignments. Assignments will vary how much time students will spend on them. For example, a brief fill-in-the-blanks or true-or-false activity may only take 10-15 minutes, while a reflection question that requires you to respond in a more substantive way may take longer. Some of these assignments will be given full marks based on completion (e.g. free writes), while others will be graded on accuracy (e.g. T/F activity). Note that the assignment may not cover all the texts assigned in that particular week. Participation assignments are due each Friday at midnight. Once the assignment window has closed, students will no longer have access to the assignment and will receive a zero. Participation assignments cannot be made up.

### *Analysis Questions and More*

During the first week of the term, you will be put into a Google Document group of 3–4, in which you will remain all term. On Monday during the term, analysis questions and questions that go beyond the readings assigned for that week will be put into the Google Document. Each group is expected to work together and to respond to every question. The questions vary and ask students to engage with the texts more deeply or with themes and other socio-cultural and historical aspects related to the texts. The purpose of this course component is to mimic small group discussions and to give you an opportunity to work through and reflect on the readings. The marks given on these assignments are group marks. Each group is responsible for themselves to divide the work for each week in whichever way they choose. Responses are due each Sunday at midnight. New responses will not be accepted after this deadline.

### *Essays*

You will write and revise two essays throughout the semester, each of which must be typed (double-spaced). The first essay will be 600-700 words and the second essay 700-800 words in length. The first essay is a close textual analysis of one of the texts discussed in class. For essay 2, students will select one text and discuss its political, social, cultural, or historical significance and impact. Essays 1 and 2 cannot engage with the same text or time period.

The first draft of your essay will be read for content, flagged for errors, and graded, but you yourself must make the actual corrections. You will receive a second grade for your revisions. The grades of your first draft and your revision will be averaged to determine your final essay grade.

All papers must be double-spaced, with an original title and the following heading:

Name

GERM 340

Instructor's name

Word Count

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

### *Exam*

Students will be required to log onto eClass for a synchronous, timed exam. Unless otherwise arranged with the instructor, missing this exam will result in a grade of zero. The content and format of the exam will be discussed with the class prior to the exam date.

## **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 Format**

This course is taking place in a remote environment and is organized as a combination of synchronous and asynchronous classes and modes of delivery depending on where we are in the course. Please consult the course plan for details about synchronous (S) and asynchronous (A) days or a combination of the two.

Synchronous delivery will include:

- check-in via Zoom (link on eClass)
- conversations and discussions via Zoom (link on eClass)
- short lectures via Zoom (link on eClass): These lectures are meant to augment asynchronous content and serve as an introduction to conversation and discussions.

Asynchronous delivery will include:

- Analysis questions and other questions that address socio-cultural and historical aspects related to the texts
- Participation assignments

### **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>.

### **Access to Instructor**

Zoom

I hold virtual office hours on Zoom every Monday 12–1pm. A link to a Google Doc sign-up sheet will be posted on eClass. I am also available to zoom by appointment.

Email

I will make an effort to respond in a timely manner, but please note that I tend not to reply after 8pm on weekdays and with a delay on weekends.

### **eClass**

We will make frequent use of our course site. All assignments and additional course materials will be posted on eClass. Please make a note of any questions or concerns regarding eClass. You should speak with me as soon as possible if you are not familiar with any aspect of eClass that will impact your ability to successfully participate in this course. 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 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.

### ***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-class-day penalty for each subsequent class-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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