

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2015–2016 GERM 340 B2:  
Introduction to the Study of Modern German Literature  
(Winter Term)**

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Time: T R 11:00-12:20am  
Place: T 1.108  
Office Hours: T R 1:00-2:00,  
by appointment  
Course Website:  
X

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**Course Prerequisite:** co-requisite GERM 303

**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:**

The course highlights German cultural and literary developments from the Classical Weimar period to the present. We shall discuss texts dealing with social conditions, class and gender roles, high and low cultures, rulers, artists and ordinary people. Text by canonical authors such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Adalbert Stifter, Thomas Mann, Else Lasker-Schüler, Franz Kafka, Bertolt Brecht as well as by contemporary writers such as Wolfgang Herrndorf, Judith Herrmann or Juli Zeh will be discussed with regard to formal characteristics. We will give special attention to the social and historical background, as well as to literary trends and theories we can apply to make the text relatable to our world today. We will also use films and videos to enhance our

understanding of selected texts and provide a visual image of the cultural background of the individual period. By the end of the course, students are expected to 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 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.

**Texts:**

Required:

**Waltraud Maierhofer, Astrid Klocke: *Deutsche Literatur im Kontext 1750-2000: A German Literature Reader. First Edition. Newburyport: Focus 2008. (978-1585102631)***

Optional:

Johann Wolfgang Goethe: *Die Leiden des jungen Werther* (1774)

Heinrich Heine: *Das Buch der Lieder* (1827)

Theodor Storm: *Aquis submersus* (1876)

Frank Wedekind: *Die Büchse der Pandora* (1894)

Rainer Maria Rilke: *Duineser Elegien* (1923)

Ingeborg Bachmann: *Anrufung des großen Bären* (1956)

Günter Grass: *Katz und Maus* (1961)

Judith Herrmann: *Sommerhaus, später* (1998)

Thomas Meinecke: *Lookalikes* (2012)

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Attendance, participation & preparation (throughout the semester)	10%
Roundtable debate, text intro	15%
2 essays (essay #1 due Feb 25: 15%; essay #2 due April 8: 25%)	40%
Textbook homework	20%
Test (March 10)	15%

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

Please consult Section 23.5.6 of the University calendar:

<http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2015-Winter-2016-Exam-Planner.aspx>

**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.

### ***Roundtable Statement and Debate***

Each student is expected to give an introduction to one specific text during term. Students can either participate in a roundtable discussion on a specific topic or give an individual presentation. Participants in roundtables present a text, i.e. one book from the period discussed, by preparing a 5-7 minute statement and by actively engaging in the debate following the short presentations. The statement should give an introduction to and overview of the text including important facts and dates; it should then focus on a specific aspect and introduce an assumption or opinion, and finally articulate related questions that will be discussed during the debate. The individual presentations follow the same model, and focus on one main theme or topic, supporting the argument with background research and stylistic features found within the text.

### ***Essays***

Two essays are due during the term. The essays should reflect and elaborate on the objectives and materials learned and used in class. The first essay, of 600-800 words, should describe a specific research interest, formulate questions and develop strategies to pursue those questions. The second essay (1500 words) should follow up on the first and should display a structured argument with a compelling thesis and insightful conclusion. You are expected to use secondary sources, articles and books. To choose a topic, please contact the instructor in advance.

### ***Textbook Homework***

The textbook contains section questions on the text discussed in class, you are expected to prepare written answers, and introduce your answers to your group in class and/or present your answers individually as a means of introduction to a class discussion.

### ***Test***

There will one test in the middle of the term. The test will consist of questions relating to the theories, texts, and films studied in class, as well as to the group work and discussions. The test will be 30 minutes long.

### **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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 which 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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

***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 instructor 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

23.3(1) ) <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.3.html#23.3> ) and 23.5.6 (<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5>) 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, 10% of the grade is assigned to attendance, preparation and participation, i.e. students must view all assigned films and read and prepare texts for the assigned class period so that they can participate successfully in the group work and class discussions.**

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

***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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.sds.ualberta.ca](http://www.sds.ualberta.ca) ).

***Grading:***

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

***“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”***

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	<b>Excellent:</b> Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	<b>Good</b>
B	75-81%	3.0	<b>Good:</b> average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally

			complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	<b>Good</b>
C+	66-69%	2.3	<b>Satisfactory:</b> Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	<b>Satisfactory</b>
C-	58-60%	1.7	<b>Satisfactory</b>
D+	55-57%	1.3	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	<b>Failure:</b> Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements