

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2021-2022 Germ 225 A1: German Cinema
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Ute-Brigitte Blunck.
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Time: MWF 1-1:50
Place: Arts 550
Office Hours: F: 10-11:50
or by appointment or Zoom

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>

Course Prerequisite: N/A

Technology requirements (minimum):

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. Check this link for more information:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/students/computing-recommendations.html>.

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

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.

Upon successful completion 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 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Preparation and participation in class discussions	10%
Weekly Response Journal (<i>due every two weeks on Wednesdays throughout term</i>)	30%
3 Sequence Analysis Papers (<i>—due Oct 4, Nov 1, Nov 26</i>)	30%
Presentation (<i>sign up for your date at beginning of term</i>)	15%
Test (<i>Dec. 3</i>)	15%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Preparation and participation 10%

Participation and preparation is essential. Your mark for this component will be based the effort made to contribute to class by adequate preparation of your contribution to the films.

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 30%

Your Journals will be due every two weeks. Entries will consist of two parts each week:

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

Part II: Your thoughts and responses to the weekly Student presentations and discussions (1-1 ½ pages)

More information can be found on the handout posted on eClass.

Sequence Analysis Papers (3 papers = 30%)

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

Presentation (Student-led discussion of a film) 15%

Although I will show selected clips of various important films throughout the term and suggest others that may interest you, the following films are REQUIRED VIEWING each week. Links are posted on eClass.

Each Friday, a student group will present their views on the film and lead a class discussion on the Required Viewing for that week.

A Google doc will be posted for Sign Up. You will summarize the relevant aspects of the film screened for that week, including 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 class discussion.

Presentation and discussion should comprise **40 minutes**.

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

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 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 for. No allowances for late presentation.

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](#).

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).

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>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[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.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

Learning and working environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

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>

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.

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

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.	A+ A A-	4.0 4.0 3.7	95-100 90-94 86-89
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+ B B-	3.3 3.0 2.7	82-85 75-81 70-74
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+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	66-69 61-65 58-60
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+ D	1.3 1.0	55-57 50-54
Failure.	F	0.0	0-49