

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

**2016-2017 GERM 225 B2: Germany on Screen: Germany and its Others**

(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Andreas Stuhlmann  
Office: ARTS 309-D  
Fax: 780-492-9106  
E-mail: stuhlman@ualberta.ca  
Personal Website: <http://www.mlcs.ualberta.ca/en/People/Faculty/StuhlmanAndreas.aspxh>

Time: M W F 11:00-11:50am  
Place: HC 2.12  
Office Hours: M W F 1:00-2:00,  
by appointment  
Course Website: on eClass

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**Course Prerequisite:** N.A.

**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:**

Taught in English, the course presents a variety of films from the silent era to the present with emphasis on different issues still relevant today like immigration and multiculturalism, ecology, gender and social issues. These examples will serve also as a survey of cinematic movements and genres like horror film or road movie in Germany from the birth of film to the new millennium with specific attention to the manner in which film is shaped by and reflects its historical, social, or political context.

At the end 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.
- Evaluate secondary literature and employ theoretical and methodological tools to engage critically with film as a cultural product.

**Texts:**

Sections from Sabine Hake: *German National Cinema* (2008) and James Monaco: *How to Read a Film* (2009), as well as selected essays, will be provided on eClass

The following films will be discussed:

F. W. Murnau: *Nosferatu* (1922)  
 Fritz Lang: *Metropolis* (1927)  
 Pepe Danquart: *Schwarzfahrer* (1992)  
 Fatih Akin: *Gegen die Wand* (2004)  
 Marco Kreuzpaintner: *Sommersturm* (2004) or:  
 Stephan Lacant: *Freier Fall* (2013)  
 Tom Tykwer et al: *Deutschland 09* (2009)  
 Bora Dagtekin: *Fack ju Göhte* (2013)  
 Angelina Maccarone: *Tolerant? Sind wir selber* (2014)  
 Fatih Akin: *Tschick* (2016)  
 Jermain & Laurel Raffington: *Schwarz-Rot-Gold-TV* (2015)  
 Christian Schwochow: *NSU: German History X* (2016)

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

Attendance, participation & preparation (throughout the semester)	10%
Roundtable debate, text /film intro	20%
2 essays (essay #1 due Feb 17, essay #2 due April 12; one 15%, one 30%)	45%
Film reviews (five over the course of the semester)	25%

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

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

*Attendance:*

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 / Debate, Text/Film Introduction:***

Each student is expected to give an introduction to one specific text or film during the term. Students can either participate in a roundtable discussion on a specific topic or give an individual presentation. Participants in roundtables present on a film 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 film 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, technical terms, 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.

***Film Reviews***

Five 300 word film reviews are due over the course of the semester; students sign up for five films at the beginning of the semester. The reviews are less focused on the plot, or the biography of the director, but on technical features and artistic merit of the film. Examples will be distributed and discussed in class.

**Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) 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 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.”

***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](#).

***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 content author(s) 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 [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.

**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 [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).

***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	%
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		Value	
<p><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.</p>	<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>
<p><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.</p>	<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>
<p><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.</p>	<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>
<p><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.</p>	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<p><b>Failure.</b></p>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>