

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Graduate Courses 2013-2014

FALL 2013

GER1000H F German Studies Seminar: Culture, Theory, Text
Instructors: *Team taught*

R 2-4
OH 323

This team-taught course will cover some of the seminal debates in theory relevant to advanced students of German. Students will be introduced to key theory texts. They will be confronted with processes of problem-formation in theoretical writing; they will have the opportunity to weigh different kinds of theory debates against one another; they will familiarize themselves with the components and structure of theoretical argument.

GER 1050 H F Methods and Texts in Yiddish Studies
Instructor: Anna Shternshis
anna.shternshis@utoronto.ca

R 10-12
JH 235

This is the core course for the Field of Yiddish Studies, focusing on methods of analysis of major literary, historical, religious and sociological texts created in Yiddish language from 1500 until 2000. Conducted both in Yiddish (reading) and English (discussion), the students are trained both in advanced understanding of the Yiddish civilization as well as how Yiddish societies incorporated cultures of neighbouring communities. The texts analyzed will include Tsena Urena (1616) (Woman's Companion to the Bible), stories by Nakhman from Bratslav (1700s), works by Alexander Abramovich, Sholem Rabinowitch, Itskhok Perets, Dovid Bergelson, Yankev Gladshtein and others.

GER1200 H F Introduction to Medieval German Language and Culture
Instructor: *Markus Stock*
markus.stock@utoronto.ca

T 1-3
OH 323

This course offers an introduction to the German language, literature, and culture of the Middle Ages. We will read and translate Middle High German texts, study facsimiles of medieval manuscripts, and inquire into epochal cultural concepts like courtly love and chivalry as well as courtly and clerical designs of identity. Authors discussed will include Hartmann von Aue and Walther von der Vogelweide among others. The course fulfills the departmental requirement in Middle High German.

GER1820 H F Learning and Teaching of German
Instructor: *Michael Hager*
michael.hager@utoronto.ca

M 1-3
OH 323

This course covers both second or foreign language acquisition theory and foreign language teaching methodology. We will observe ourselves as language teachers and learners; we will discuss and test several teaching methods. (TPR, Content-Based Instruction, The Natural Approach, etc.) and we will talk about various concerns of the language classroom (lesson plans, classroom management, etc.). Participants are expected to present mini-lessons designed to

familiarize them with practice of a variety of techniques and methods. The aim of this course is to provide each participant with an array of approaches to teaching foreign languages.

JGF1733 HF Autobiographical Documentary: History, Alterity and Performativity

**screening W 1- 3
IN 313 R 12-2**

Instructor: Angelica Fenner
[\(angelica.fenner@utoronto.ca\)](mailto:angelica.fenner@utoronto.ca)

It was the international avant-garde of the 1950s that first deployed the camera as a technology of the performative self. Since then, first-person filmmaking has gained ground, dovetailing with disparate social trends across the decades, and more recently, resulting in feature-length autobiographical documentaries with widespread appeal. Using the German cultural context as case study in a comparative framework, this interdisciplinary seminar draws on diverse theories of subjectivity, including recent scholarship in Performance Studies (Goffman, Butler, Phelan), Lacanian psychoanalysis, documentary theory (Gaines, Nichols, Odin, Renov), phenomenology (Sobchak), post-structuralism (Barthes, Derrida, Foucault), and theories of cultural memory (Assmann, Halbwachs, Nora) and of transgenerational trauma (Caruth, Felman, Laub). We explore how the subjective stance blurs the lines between public event and private experience, between national historiography and subjective memory, between families of origin and the bounded self. Consideration will be given to both socio-historical context and innovations in narrative form (confession, diary, testimonial), including the nesting of different technologies (photography, Super 8, home video, archival newsreel, cell phone). Our chronology will touch upon avant-garde and feminist filmmaking of the 1970s but focus primarily on productions of the past 15 years, including investigative family films by (grand)children of both Holocaust survivors and Nazi perpetrators; experimental queer cinema; reconstructed family historiographies of Turkish labor migration to Germany; and mainstream features such as David Sieveking's *David Wants to Fly*.

SPRING 2014

GER 1752 H S Germany's Colonial Imaginary

**M 4-6
OH 323**

Instructor: John Noyes
[\(john.noyes@utoronto.ca\)](mailto:john.noyes@utoronto.ca)

This course will examine the literary engagement with colonialism and postcolonialism in Germany in the past three decades. There has been a blossoming of books dealing with this topic, both as it relates to the German colonies, and to European imperialism. We will begin by evaluating the re-emergence of German colonialism in the public imagination in the 1980's with the publication of Uwe Timm's *Morenga*. Then we will examine more recent works that follow historical figures through key moments in German colonialism and European imperialism.

GER1771 H S Locations of East German Cinema

**T 2-4
OH 323**

Instructor: Stefan Soldovieri
[\(stefan.soldovieri@utoronto.ca\)](mailto:stefan.soldovieri@utoronto.ca)

The course offers an overview of the history of East German cinema at key junctures and explores the complexities involved in conceptualizing film culture in the context of state socialism in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The film screenings will provide the basis for considering issues of entertainment and politics, censorship, GDR cinema's links to transnational cultural flows – and dialogue with the West German film industry in particular – as well as GDR film's afterlife in a unified Germany post 1989. Readings in film history and cultural, film, and social theory. The screened films span all genres – from science fiction to historical epics and musicals.

GER 3000H S**Instructors: *Team taught***

Discussion of new texts in German literature and current debates.

R 2-4**OH 323**

JGC 1855 H S Critical Theory in Context: The French-German Connection W 1-3**Instructor: *Willi Goetschel*****[\(w.goetschel@utoronto.ca\)](mailto:w.goetschel@utoronto.ca)****OH 323**

This course examines central theoretical issues in contemporary thought with particular attention to the role that the "Frankfurt School" and its affiliates such as Benjamin, Kracauer, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas and others play in the context of modern German social and cultural thought. In France, thinkers like Levinas, Foucault, and Derrida respond to this tradition and enrich it. The course explores in which way the continuing dialogue between these thinkers informs current critical approaches to rethinking issues and concerns such as theorizing modernity, culture, secularization, multiculturalism, and the vital role of cultural difference.

GER6000H F / GER6000H S Reading German for Graduate Students**Instructor: TBA****Tuesdays 3-5 pm****Location TBA**

In this course German reading knowledge is taught following the grammar-translation method designed for graduate students from the Humanities. It is an intensive course that covers German grammar with focus on acquiring essential structures of the German language to develop translation skills. The course is conducted in English, and consequently participants do not learn how to speak or write in German, but rather the course focuses exclusively on reading and translating German. Prior knowledge of German not mandatory. By the end of the course, students should be able to handle a broad variety of texts in single modern Standard German.

Course offered in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014; open to U of T graduate students only.
