

GERMAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION / GER150H / Summer 2012

Tuesdays & Thursdays 4-6 pm / Location: Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories, 158

Instructor: John Koster

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Office: OH 310-11

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-3:50 pm, and by appointment

Course Description:

GER 150 is a German culture and civilization course taught in English and designed for students who want to familiarize themselves with historical and cultural developments which have shaped modern German-speaking Europe. The course focuses on cultural history from the Enlightenment to the post-unification era of the 21st century. While emphasizing the broad development of German civilization since ca. 1750, the curriculum includes excursions into popular culture, literature, social history, art, music, modern media and technology. Drawing on thought-provoking texts and visual artifacts, GER 150 offers a diverse view of life in German-speaking Europe based on selections from literary and historical works, commentaries, and interdisciplinary materials which highlight important cultural movements.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce major themes in the history of German culture and civilization while enhancing students' analytic and interpretive skills through engagement with representative artifacts of German culture.

Course Requirements:

- Your regular and punctual attendance is expected at EVERY course session. More than 1 unexcused absence will negatively affect your participation grade by one letter grade per absence.
- Your well-informed participation is expected during those parts of course sessions devoted to questions and discussion. To be a well-informed participant, you will need to come to class prepared.
- You are expected to write weekly short reading responses of 350-500 words (ca. 1 double-spaced page) and post them to Discussion Board on Blackboard. The instructor will give you specific questions for each response paper by no later than the session before they are due. Late work will not be accepted under any circumstances without an officially recognized excuse.
- A weekly German film series, organized by the instructor, will run parallel to this course. Films will be shown on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm. While you are encouraged to attend as many screenings as possible, you are required to watch ONE film and write one additional Blackboard response to it which connects the film to broader course themes. The instructor will provide you with a complete program of the screenings. If you cannot attend a screening, most films will also be available at Media Commons course reserves (*The Legend of Paul and Paula* will not). All films will be shown in German with English subtitles.

- You will write a short mid-term exam consisting of a series of short-answer explanations of particular terms or concepts, as well as one or two longer essay responses to questions that emerge from our readings and discussions. The exam will be take-home, open-book and open-note and due in class on 5 June. The instructor will provide you with the questions on 31 May. Mid-term exams will not be accepted late under any circumstances.
- You will write a Final Exam at the end of the course, on Tuesday, 26 June. The format will be short essay questions. For the Final you will NOT be permitted to use notes or open books; the questions will not be made available in advance; Academic Integrity standards will apply (see below).
- The instructor does NOT accept work via email under any circumstances. When you miss class, you are responsible for catching yourself up by consulting your fellow students, NOT by contacting the instructor.

Evaluation of Course Work:

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Blackboard Contributions (incl. 1 film response):	20%
Midterm Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	35%

Required Text:

Fulbrook, Mary. *A Concise History of Germany*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press, 2004.

A copy of this book is also be available on Course Reserves at Robarts Library. The 2004 2nd edition is preferred, but if you have already acquired an earlier edition, you can read the extra chapter or two in the reserved copy.

Other readings and materials will be assigned and made available throughout the course.

Academic Integrity Statement: Academic Integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with integrity, respect other students' dignity and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, using translation machines, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the work of other students.

Disability Access: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Tentative Course Outline (subject to change)

WEEK I: Introduction: "Culture" and "Nation" in the German Context

Tuesday, 15 May: Introduction

Thursday, 17 May: What is "German"? What is "Culture"?

Fulbrook, Chapter I, pp. 1-8

from JG Herder, *Materials for the Philosophy of the History of Mankind* (1784)

from Fichte, *Speeches to the German Nation* (1806-7)

Eva Kolinsky and Wilfried van der Will, *Cambridge Companion to Modern German Culture* (CUP 1998), pp. 1-19

WEEK 2: Outside-In: German Minorities

Tuesday, 22 May: Religious Differences

Lessing, *Nathan the Wise*

Fulbrook, Chapters III & IV, pp. 33-105

Thursday, 24 May: Language and Selfhood

Yoko Tawada, "The Bath," in *Where Europe Begins* (2002)

Cambridge Companion, Chapters 4 & 5, pp. 86-131

WEEK 3: Literature

Tuesday, 29 May: Poetry and Drama

Brecht, *Round Heads and Pointed Heads*

Hölderlin, "Ister"

Thursday, 31 May: Prose Fiction

Kafka, "A Country Doctor"

Fulbrook, Chapter V, pp. 105-155

WEEK 4: Art and Architecture—Midterm Take-home Exam Due on 5 June!

Tuesday, 5 June: Art

Selections and works from Modersohn-Becker, Kandinsky, Beuys et al.

Thursday, 7 June: Architecture

Fulbrook, Chapter VI, pp. 155-204

Architecture Case Study: IG Farben / Poelzig Building / Uni. Frankfurt/M (on Blackboard)

WEEK 5: Cinema

Tuesday, 12 June: Cinema

Cambridge Companion, Chapter 14

from Friedrich Schlegel, "German Romanticism in Philosophy"

Thursday, 14 June: Cinema

Fulbrook, Chapter VII, pp. 204-249

"The Original Tradition. Hypnotic Space in Herzog's Enigma of Kaspar Hauser" in Timothy Corrigan, *New German Film: The Displaced Image* (IUP, 1994).

WEEK 6: Music, Sport and Politics

Tuesday, 19 June: Music in Germany and Austria

Cambridge Companion, Chapter 11, pp. 233-255

Additional materials to be added on Blackboard

Thursday, 21 June: Economic Miracle: "Wir sind wieder wer" to the RAF

Fulbrook, Chapter VIII, pp. 249-252

Wolfgang Pyta, "German Football: A Cultural History," in *German Football: History, Culture, Society*, ed. Alan Tomlinson and Christopher Young, London: Routledge, 2006, pp. 1-22. Available online via the U of T Library Catalogue.

Tuesday, 26 June: FINAL EXAM
