

The University of Toronto

WRITING MEMORY POST 1945

German 326H / Fall 2013

Instructor:	LARA PEHAR	Dept:	German
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Hours:	TBA	Tel.:	416-926-2324

Class meets on **Tuesdays 5-7 p.m.; location TBA**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Writing Memory is an interactive seminar that guides students through the literary landscape of German speaking regions between 1945 and the present. In the aftermath of World War II, Germany lies in ruins of a never before seen destruction. The country has suffered not only a military, but also a moral defeat, and stands before the world burdened with unparalleled guilt for the atrocities of the Holocaust. *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*—the project of coming to terms with the Nazi past—has become a cornerstone of German identity, and a common goal of a large body of literature post 1945. The seminar proceeds chronologically in investigating the importance of literature as a receptacle for individual and collective memory from the earliest post-war reflections, to more recent critically acclaimed works by Sebald, Schlink, and Timm.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Throughout the course, students will gain insight into German-language literature after the Second World War, and the historical context from within which these works emerged (from the division of Germany into two countries, to its reunification and the subsequent negotiations of a common identity). Upon successful completion of the course, students' ability to read, critically discuss, and write about literary texts in German will be improved.

LANGUAGE

The language of class discussion, readings, and assignments, is German.

EVALUATION OF COURSE WORK

Attendance, preparedness and active participation	15%
Reading assignments	20%
Short paper (~ 3 pages)	15%
Short paper (~4-5 pages)	20%
Final paper (~6-7 pages)	30%

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are required readings and are available for purchase from the University of Toronto Bookstore. Additional materials will be provided by the instructor.

Wolfgang Borchert: *Draußen vor der Tür und ausgewählte Erzählungen*. Rowohlt: Hamburg, 1956.
ISBN 978-3499101700

Ulrich Plenzdorf: *Die neuen Leiden des jungen W.* Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1976.
ISBN 978-3518368008

Bernhard Schlink: *Der Vorleser*. Diogenes: Zürich, 1995.
ISBN 978-3257229530

Uwe Timm: *Am Beispiel meines Bruders*. München: dtv, 2005.
ISBN 978-3423133166

CALENDAR

Note: The purpose of this calendar is to provide a general idea of how this course is structured. It may be subject to change. A binding course syllabus will be provided at the first class session.

Week 1	(Sept. 10)	Introduction
Week 2	(Sept. 17)	Deutschland in Trümmern Wolfgang Borchert, <i>Draußen vor der Tür</i> , 1946/47
Week 3	(Sept. 24)	Gedichte schreiben nach Auschwitz Paul Celan, Nelly Sachs, Rose Ausländer
Week 4	(Oct. 1)	Identitätskrise und Identitätsfindung Ingeborg Bachmann, <i>Das dreißigste Jahr</i> , 1961 (excerpt)
Week 5	(Oct. 8)	Berlin Ost: Selbstbestimmung Ulrich Plenzdorf, <i>Die neuen Leiden des jungen W.</i> , 1972
Week 6	(Oct. 15)	Berlin West: Die Mauer und andere Grenzen Peter Schneider, <i>Der Mauerspringer</i> , 1982 (excerpt)
Week 7	(Oct. 22)	Postmemory W.G. Sebald, <i>Die Ausgewanderten</i> , 1992 (excerpt)
Week 8	(Oct. 29)	Deutsche Opfer/Täter Bernhard Schlink, <i>Der Vorleser</i> , 1995
Week 9	(Nov. 5)	<i>Der Vorleser</i> (cont'd)
Week 10	(Nov. 12)	Fall Break
Week 11	(Nov. 19)	Neue Väterliteratur Uwe Timm, <i>Am Beispiel meines Bruders</i> , 2003
Week 12	(Dec. 3)	<i>Am Beispiel meines Bruders</i> (cont'd) Concluding discussion