

The University of Toronto  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

## German 334H Fall: Weimar Culture & Beyond

Fall 2009, Wednesday 6 - 8 pm, place TBA



Otto Dix (1928)

Image Source: <http://korkos.club.fr/accords-27grand.jpg>

### Course Description

In an attempt to come to terms with Hitler's rise to power, scholars have often pointed to the failure of the "Weimarer Republik." It is a widely accepted thesis that the political instability of Germany's first republic, fueled by the effects of the Global Economic Crisis from 1929, facilitated Hitler's election in 1933. However, such assessment of Weimar Germany risks judging from a post-45 perspective and overlooking the extraordinary political, social and artistic achievements of the period. Expressionism, Dada, Neue Sachlichkeit, Bauhaus, and the Golden Age of German Film are just a few of the buzz words which belong to the legacy of Weimar. In this course, we will consider the two decades following the end of WWI and preceding WWII (roughly from 1918 to 1938) by studying literary, historical, and artistic documents of one of the most significant periods in German history.

The methodology in this course will be a combination of close readings and broad historical and cultural perspectives. Our work in class will be shaped by class discussions, group work, and occasional lectures.

*Assignments will be in German; discussions too, except for clarification purposes.*

## **Instructor's Contact Information**

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## **Kursprogramm (Änderungen vorbehalten)**

- Ernst Jünger, *In Stahlgewittern* (1920)
- Erich Maria Remarque, *Im Westen nichts Neues*
  
- Heinrich Mann, *Sinn und Idee der Revolution*
- Thomas Mann, [*Zur Revolution*]
- Kurt Tucholsky, *Wir Negativen*
  
- Ernst Toller, *Die Wandlung*
- Georg Heym, *Wolken* und *Der Gott der Stadt*
- Georg Trakl, *Verfall* und *Grodek*
- Ernst Stadler, *Fahrt über die Kölner Rheinbrücke bei Nacht*
- Hugo Ball, *Karawane*
- Kurt Schwitters, *An Anna Blume*
  
- Peter Huchel, *Späte Zeit*
- Bertolt Brecht, *An die Nachgeborenen*
  
- Gina Kaus, *Die Frau in der modernen Literatur*
- Irmgard Keun, *Das kunstseidene Mädchen*
  
- Fritz Lang, *Wege des großen Spielfilms in Deutschland*
- Siegfried Kracauer, *Kult der Zerstreuung*
  
- Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*