

The University of Toronto
GERMAN VISUAL CULTURE
German 350H / Spring 2012

Instructor:	ANGELICA FENNER	Dept:	German
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Hours:	TBA (& by app.)	Tel.:	416-926-2326

Class meets on **TUESDAY 10 - 12**

DESCRIPTION

The richly nuanced and often cataclysmic genealogy tracing through German cinema offers an excellent means to explore form and content of this visual medium. Via 12 representative works selected from across a century of filmmaking we will investigate the evolving language of film and its capacity to bring alive and engage significant social and political developments in the history of nation, from the Weimar Republic, to the founding of East and West Germany, and post-unification. This course is taught in German and fulfils requirements for majors and specialists. Non-majors with advanced German language skills are also welcome.



COURSE GOALS

Students will acquire proficiency in technical language skills specific to film analysis, focus most especially on the active modes of language acquisition through verbal discussion and individual writing via journals, sequence analyses, and film reviews. We will analyze individual sequences in class, as well as pursue group discussions of a given film's technical and aesthetic significance, its intervention in a given historical moment, and any controversies surrounding the politics it engages. Films will be screened outside of class meetings, although we will revisit individual sequences in class. Students are required to either view the films on their own, which are on reserve at Media Commons, or they may participate in the weekly group screening at Media Commons, whose date/time will be verified in consultation with the class at our first meeting.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

1 Sequence Analyses (5 pges, 1.5 spacing)	30%
10 Weekly Journals based on Questions Posted on Blackboard (1 pge each, single spacing)	20%
1 Film Review (3 pges, 1.5 spacing)	15
Group Presentation/Guided Analysis on Film Clip of Your Choice	10%
Individual Presentation on Director	13%
Attendance & Participation	12%

MATERIALS

Arbeitsbuch zu German Culture Through Film, Robert Reimer and Reinhard Zeichau
(N.B. Book selection is tentative – please verify w/ instructor before purchase)

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	Weimar Republic and the Transition to Sound: <i>Der blaue Engel</i>
Week 2	Remembering World War II in early West Germany: <i>Die Brücke</i>
Week 3	Interrogating Fascism in New German Cinema: <i>Die Blechtrommel</i>
Week 4	Labor Migrations in Reconstructing Europe: <i>Solino</i>
Week 5	The Sexual Revolution in the GDR: <i>Die Legende von Paul und Paula</i>
Week 6	Twilight of the GDR: <i>Das Leben der Anderen</i>
Week 7	Coming to Terms with Reunification: <i>Berlin ist in Deutschland</i>
Week 8	Ostalgie: <i>Sonnenallee</i>
Week 9	Memorializing the Holocaust: <i>Am Ende kommen Touristen</i>
Week 10	Postcolonial Historical Melodrama: <i>Nirgendwo in Afrika</i>
Week 11	Reviving the German Road Movie: <i>Vergiß Amerika</i>
Week 12	Critiquing Globalization: <i>Die Fetten Jahre Sind Vorbei</i>