

Freshman Seminar HUM 199 Fall 2010
University of Toronto
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (inclusive of film screenings)

**GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS:
GERMANY AS CASE STUDY**

Prof. Angelica Fenner
Germanic Languages & Literatures / Cinema Studies Program
Angelica.Fenner@utoronto.ca
Tel. 416.926.2326 (Odette) / 416.978.7382
Office: 325 Odette Hall & 230 Innis College
Office Hours: Tues. 9 -10 a.m. (Odette) & Mon. 3 – 4 p.m. (Innis) and by appointment

Course Description:

This seminar offers incoming freshmen an overview of some of the discourses and debates associated with contemporary globalization processes. While these have maintained a degree of cultural specificity in different regions and cultures, the issues at stake also display commonalities, as our world simultaneously shrinks and expands. The setting of unified Germany – a nation state within the European Union currently coming to terms with heightened levels of mobility of bodies, goods, and capital across its newly redrawn borders – will serve as case study. Does globalization represent an opportunity or a crisis? Whose interests are served and who stands to lose? How is it bound up with changes in communication technology, modes of transport, and class and social mobility? Has globalization created a world without borders or simply rendered those borders more permeable for certain interest groups, while disenfranchising others?

In exploring these questions, we will draw upon the writings of political theorists Karl Marx, urban sociologist Georg Simmel, contemporary German sociologist Ulrich Beck, cultural geographer David Harvey, and several other scholars that have elaborated upon the nature of capital and currency, labour relations, the operation of tourism as a commodified form of travel, and the nature of citizenship and national belonging in an era of cross-cultural identifications. Concurrent to these readings, we will also screen compelling German documentaries such as Andreas Voigt, *Leipzig in Autumn*, Nikolas Geyrhalter's *Our Daily Bread*, and Ulrike Franke's *Losers and Winners*, as well as feature films that include Christian Petzold's *Yella* and Hans-Christian Schmidt's *Distant Lights*. These films offer firsthand insight into the nature of globalization processes by tracking specific sites and circumstances where it has transformed German industry, culture, and personal lives.

COURSE TEXTS FOR PURCHASE

- Course Reader available at Tru-Copy located at *Bay Ave. & St. Joseph St.*
- Ulrich Beck. *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1992. Available on Amazon.com or local bookstores.