

The University of Toronto

Contemporary German Culture and Media

GER 310 / Winter 2015

Instructor: **Yasmin Aly** Dept: German
Office: Odette Hall, 312 Email: yasmin.aly@utoronto.ca
Hours: Fridays 11-1 p.m. Tel: 416-926-2324

Class meets **Thursday at 6-8pm, NF 113**

DESCRIPTION

As the concept of culture in today's world becomes more and more associated with globalisation and international influences, it seems appropriate to supersede the traditional question of 'What is German culture?' with the more open question of 'Where is German culture?' This course provides an introduction to contemporary German culture and its roots from 1945 onwards, focusing particularly on themes of travel and migration. The course will examine cultural texts and objects including poetry, prose, film, songs and old and new media forms. Sessions involve class discussions, group work, readings, and occasional lectures. The course will be taught in German.

REQUIREMENTS/ EVALUATION

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| Participation and Attendance | 15% |
| Presentation | 20% |
| Blackboard Contributions | 25% |
| Final paper | 40% |

PARTICIPATION: In-class participation depends on several factors. Your regular attendance in class is paramount. However, just showing up in class is not enough! It is expected that you actively take part in class work and discussions, and if you do not understand or follow what your instructor expects of you, it is your responsibility to ask. I expect you to come to class on time, having read and prepared the assigned texts. You are responsible for contributing to and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY : Regular attendance is mandatory. Absences will only be excused according to University regulations: for example, religious holidays, serious

accidents or illness (medical note required), and serious family circumstances (written documentation required). In addition, the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures allows you a maximum of 2 unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. For each subsequent unexcused absence, there will be a penalty.

All students are expected to arrive on time to class. Lateness (particularly persistent lateness) will significantly affect a student's class participation and attendance grade, and may be counted towards their number of hours of unexcused absence.

PRESENTATION: You will give a presentation on a topic related to the weekly readings. You will sign up for a particular week at the beginning of the semester and discuss the presentation with me at least one week in advance. To help your fellow colleagues follow your presentation, you will have to provide visual support (handout, power point presentation etc.). The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills (detailed criteria will follow).

BLACKBOARD CONTRIBUTIONS: Each week, you are expected to write three hundred words in response to the assigned course material of the week. Unless otherwise indicated, you can write on any aspect or question of the text/film which seems interesting to you. You must also post a response to at least one other classmate's reflection in the form of a comment or question – this will help prepare you for the class discussion. The three hundred-word response must be posted by 11.59pm on Tuesday each week; the responses to your classmates must be posted by 11.59pm on Wednesday each week.

FINAL PAPER: You will have to prepare an essay (1000 words) focusing on one or several passages of a text or several texts discussed in class. You are encouraged to develop your own topic in consultation with me; I can help you with that and also suggest topics for papers. If writing an analytical paper is new for you or you need help with your paper, do not hesitate to see me during office hours. Your essay will be graded on your thesis, the evidence with which you support your thesis, your attention to detail, and grammar and style (detailed criteria will follow).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty

of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, 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 academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.

DISABILITY ACCESS

The department encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by university policy or by provincial or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell your instructor or visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.