

The University of Toronto

CONTEMPORARY GERMAN CULTURE AND MEDIA

**FUTURE PERFECT: CULTURAL IMAGININGS OF A
DIFFERENT TOMORROW**

German 310H / Spring 2017

Instructor:	STEFAN SOLDOVIERI	Dept:	German
Office:	Odette Hall #305	Email:	stefan.soldovieri@utoronto.ca
Hours:	TBA	Tel.:	416/926-2341

Class meets on **Wednesday 3-5**



DESCRIPTION

Futur II is a grammatical tense ('future perfect' in English) that can be understood as combining the future and the past. It is a tense that throws up a challenge to the present in questions like 'Wie wirst du gelebt haben?' / 'How will you have lived?' How will we talk about the past in the future? A moral question. The manner in which we have lived as human beings on this planet is perhaps the prime concern of our present Anthropocene. In this course we will engage artistic, cultural, technological, and social practices in German-speaking and global contexts that attempt to imaginatively explore and shape a different, sustainable future. Readings in range of media (literature, film, architecture, performance art, etc.). Practical, creative, and reflective work is required.

COURSE GOALS

The course introduces students to some of the different ways in which contemporary artists, writers, and cultural practitioners have been imagining alternative paths to the future. In addition to developing transferable critical reading and thinking skills and promoting creative expression, the course offers intermediate-level practice in German (reading, writing, speaking, listening comprehension).

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Participation	15 %
Midterm	20 %
Two Short Assignments	20 %
Oral Presentation	20 %
Final Project	25 %

MATERIALS

Course materials will cover a range of media that will be made available primarily over BlackBoard. Film screenings will either take place during class time; some video material may require DVD sign-out or streaming. You are not required to purchase any materials for this course.

CALENDAR (TENTATIVE)

Week 1	Course Introduction: Was ist Nachhaltigkeit? / What is sustainability?
Week 2	<i>futurzwei</i> Project (Harald Welzer)
Week 3	Focus artist: Van Bo Le-Mentzel
Week 4	<i>Schneller als die Sonne</i> (Hans-Christian Dany)
Week 5	Performance Electrics: Arts and Electricity
Week 6	Postindustrial Landscapes and Revitalization
Week 7	Film: <i>Projekt A</i> (dir. Marcel Seehuber & Moritz Springer)
Week 8	Distopic Visions: <i>Perfect Copy: Die zweite Schöpfung</i> (Andreas Eschbach)
Week 9	Focus artist: Pablo Wendel
Week 10	Project Presentations / Actions
Week 11	Project Presentations / Actions
Week 12	Course Wrap-Up