

The University of Toronto

**CONTEMPORARY GERMAN CULTURE AND MEDIA**

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

German 310H / Spring 2018

Instructor:	<b>STEFAN SOLDOVIERI</b>	Dept:	German
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Hours:	TBA	Tel.:	416/926-2341

Class meets **Tuesdays 2-4, NF 007**



## 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 the prime concern of our present Anthropocene. Our global impact on the world's various ecological systems is no longer deniable. In this course we will engage with artistic, cultural, technological, and social practices in German-speaking and global contexts that explore how we continue to transform the planet. We will be concerned with efforts imaginatively explore and shape a different, sustainable future, but also dystopic visions of tomorrow. Readings in range of media (literature, film, architecture). 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 confronted issues of sustainability and climate change on the way toward imagining alternative, sustainable 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	10 %
Quizzes / Short assignments	10 %
Responses to course readings	10 %
Annotated webliography	10 %
Creative Assignment	30 %
Poster Presentation	30 %

## **MATERIALS**

Course materials will cover a range of media that will be made available primarily over BlackBoard. Some video material may require DVD sign-out or streaming. You are not required to purchase any materials for this course.

## Course Plan

- Week 1** Course Introduction: Was ist Nachhaltigkeit?  
9 Jan focus: Van Bo Le-Mentzel, Crowd-Sourcing für nachhaltige und Open-Source Projekte
- Week 2** Was ist Nachhaltigkeit? continued  
16 Jan Reading: Harald Welzer, excerpt on ‘Die Zukunft’ from *Selbst Denken*
- Week 3** Öko-Parabel 1  
23 Jan Kurzgeschichte: “Die Rückeroberung,” Franz Hohler  
Reading: Brand, “German Environmentalism”
- Week 4** Kunst und Nachhaltigkeit  
30 Jan Focus: Performance Electrics  
Reading: Heise, “Futures of the Human”
- Week 5** Wie leben?  
6 Feb Film: *Projekt A – Eine Reise zu anarchistischen Projekten in Europa*  
dir: Marcel Seehuber & Moritz Springer  
Reading: Goodbody, “Nature in German Culture”
- Week 6** Post-Industrielle Landschaften  
13 Feb Reading: Kerstin Barndt, “Memory Traces of an Abandoned Set of Futures”
- Week 7**  
Reading Week – No Class
- Week 8** Creative Assignment: Crowd-Funding Video Pitches  
27 Feb
- Week 9** Cli-Fi  
6 March Film: *F4 Vortex*, 2006, dir: Andreas Linke (2006)  
Reading: Svoboda, “Cli-Fi on the Screen(s)”
- Week 10** Öko-Parabel 2  
13 March “Der Garten Eden,” Andreas Eschbach  
Reading: Oetzel, “Technotope Räume”

- Week 11**      Paradies 2  
20 March      Film: *Müll im Garten Eden*, Fatih Akin (2012)
- Week 12**      Eco-Urbanism / Ökologisches Bauen  
27 March      Reading: Mostafavi, “Why Ecological Urbanism?”
- Week 13**      Poster Gallery & Mini-Presentations  
3 April