

Please note: this is a preliminary version of the syllabus, changes might occur.

**The University of Toronto  
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures**

**German 323H Fall: Weimar Culture & Beyond**

**Fall 2017, Wednesday 1 - 3 pm, place TBA**

**Course Description**

In an attempt to come to terms with Hitler's rise to power, scholars have often pointed to the failure of the *Weimarer Republik*. It is a widely accepted thesis that the political instability of Germany's first republic, fueled by the effects of the Global Economic Crisis from 1929, facilitated Hitler's election in 1933. However, such assessment of Weimar Germany risks judging from a post-45 perspective and overlooking the extraordinary political, social and artistic achievements of the period. Expressionism, Dada, Neue Sachlichkeit, Bauhaus, and the Golden Age of German Film are just a few of the buzz words which belong to the legacy of Weimar. In this course, we will consider the two decades following the end of WWI and preceding WWII (roughly from 1918 to 1938) by studying literary, political, and artistic documents of one of the most significant periods in German history. We will focus in particular on how new technologies and media shaped the experience and understanding of individuals and groups in Weimar Germany.

The methodology in this course will be a combination of close readings and broad historical and cultural perspectives. Our work in class will be shaped by class discussions, group work, and occasional lectures.

*Assignments will be in German; discussions too, except for clarification purposes.*

**Course Objectives**

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to major developments in Weimar Germany as they are reflected in German literary and political documents, to enhance student's ability to analyze and interpret texts, and to improve students' facility with written and spoken German.

**Instructor's Contact Information**

Instructor:	Christine Lehleiter
Office:	Odette Hall 318
Office hours:	Monday Noon - 2 pm, and by appointment
E-mail:	christine.lehleiter@utoronto.ca
Phone:	416-926-2322

*Please check Blackboard regularly for the most current course information!*

## Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (15%): 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). Please notify me at least a week in advance in case you know you need to miss class. In addition to excused absences each student may have two (2) unexcused absences of 50 minutes each. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a reduction of the final grade. Besides regular attendance, your participation represents a substantial part of your final grade. I expect you to come to class in time, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text/s. You are responsible for contributing to and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation.

You are expected to come to class **in time**, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class **a copy of the assigned text**. You are responsible for contributing to and stimulating a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation. As mentioned above, the class will be conducted in German. However, don't be shy because you think your German is not perfect. It's much better to make mistakes than to say nothing. We will help each other to find the right words and structures!

Blackboard contributions (5%): You will need to read the assigned texts and to contribute on Blackboard's "Discussion Board" in preparation for class. Please make yourself familiar with Blackboard, if you do not know the portal yet: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>. You are expected to read your classmates' contributions. Your work on Blackboard will help you to participate in class and contribute to a lively discussion. Blackboard contributions will be marked with 0 or 1. As long as your contribution is directly related to the assigned text/task, has the required length and is submitted in time, you will earn 1 point. You can miss one (1) of these assignments without penalties. Blackboard contributions are due **Monday, 5 PM**. No late work will be accepted.

Group Project (25%): The class will be divided into 6 groups. Each group of students will prepare a presentation on a topic related to the readings for a particular week. Each student will produce a portfolio accompanying this group project to document the student's individual contribution/subtopic. The project will be graded individually for content as well as presentation skills. You are encouraged to be creative concerning form and style of your presentation (think about visual and audio aspects, consider sketch, dialogue and similar possibilities). The presentations are supposed to last ca. 20 minutes per group. The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills (detailed criteria will follow).

To make the process as fair as possible, we will decide on who will present when via lottery in the beginning of the course. You are committed to the assigned date and you cannot change it except for the official reasons for excused absences mentioned above. The topic of your presentation should be discussed with me at least one week in advance.

In-Class Essay (30%): Students will write one in-class essay (detailed criteria will follow). See due date in the course program.

Test (25%): Students will write one text. Check the course program for exact date.

**A note on missed or late work:** you can only obtain credit for your work if the absence or delay is related to reasons for excused absences as defined above. Except for emergencies, all excuses for missing an exam or for late assignments must be discussed with me before the exam or due date. Except for emergencies, I will NOT accept excuses given after the exam or due date. An unexcused late assignment or missed exam will result in a zero.

### **Evaluation of Course Work (Final Grade)**

Attendance and Participation:	15%
Blackboard contributions:	5%
Group Project:	25%
In-Class Essay:	30%
Test:	25%

### **Required texts**

Texts will be provided in paper or electronic format. **Students are expected to have a copy of the assigned text available in class.**

### **Useful websites**

- <http://www.dhm.de/lemo/home.html>  
German history 1871 – today (texts, images, music).  
Website prepared by das *Deutsche Historische Museum* (DHM) and *Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (HdG).
- [www.filmportal.de](http://www.filmportal.de)  
German film from the beginning to today: plot summaries, actors and directors, reviews, essays on German film history and much more.
- <http://www.lyrikline.org/>  
Über 5100 Gedichte von 570 Dichtern aus 49 Sprachen und über 6200 Übersetzungen in 47 Sprachen. Für viele der Gedichte gibt es sogar ein audio-file!

### **Avoidance of Academic Offenses**

From the Academic Integrity Handbook: “Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. According to Section B of the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students to: To use someone else’s ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism. To include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work. To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment. To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work. To submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor. To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University.

This includes, but is not limited to, doctor's notes. To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam. There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.”

### **Accessibility Needs**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [accessibility.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>.