

The University of Toronto  
**INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN CULTURE**  
**THE STORY OF GERMANY**  
GER 150 / Winter term, 2020

Professor: **JOHN ZILCOSKY**

Departments: German / Comparative Literature

Office: Odette Hall, room 303

Office Hours: Tues. 4-5 PM (& by app't)

Class meets on **Mondays, 1 – 3 PM, in EM 302**

### **DESCRIPTION**

This course tells the story of modern Germany, beginning with the birth of a unified Germany in 1871. We will investigate the vibrant ways in which writers, thinkers, and artists related to this new country, beginning with the powerful tradition of nineteenth-century German thought. Continuing into the twentieth century, we will examine the great artistic experiments before and after World War I, the arguments for and against the war by those who fought in it, and the deliberately “aesthetic” propaganda of the Nazi period. Throughout the course, we will discover the high points of German culture – in philosophy, literature, and film – and ask: How did a society that created such works of genius also produce the Holocaust? And how has German society today tried to come to terms with its past, including the trauma of being divided into two countries at the end of World War II?

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE: TBA**