

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

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

GER 270H: Money and Economy in German Literature and Culture

Fall 2017, Monday, 2-4 PM and Wednesday 3-4 PM, place TBA

Instructor's Contact Information

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Course Description

This course is an examination of key literary and philosophical texts and contemporary media which help us to understand how modern German culture approaches problems such as property, debt, and exchange value. The course is organized in two segments. In the first segment, students read and analyze representative texts by writers from German-speaking countries like Kant, Goethe, Marx, and Max Weber on topics such as property, debt, and exchange value. By critically engaging with these texts, students follow Germany's history from an agrarian and feudal society based on land ownership to an industrial economy based on capital. The second course segment focuses on contemporary Germany, specifically its business culture and the models it has developed to address economical questions. By comparing North American and German approaches to money and economics, the course asks whether there are specific "German" approaches to these topics. In recent years, a number of models which arguably have helped Germany to weather the economic crisis have appeared in North American news outlets. Among these are "Kurzarbeit" (temporary reduction of working hours), a model which has been praised for allowing German automakers to survive the downturn; the apprenticeship model and its significance in combating youth unemployment; the role of the "Mittelstand" (medium-size, often family owned, companies) for German economy; the unique structure of the "Betriebsrat" (employee representation) as a link between employees, unions, and employers in the German manufacturing sector; and the role of "Soziale Marktwirtschaft" (social market economy) after WWII. While our focus will be on contemporary structures like these, course participants will also inquire into their history, thus better understanding how they have come to define today's German economy. Readings are in English translation.

Course Objectives

The primary objectives of this course are to introduce students to the representation and discussion of money and economy in German literature and culture and to enhance students' ability to analyze and interpret texts.

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 your instructor 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 absence 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.

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 on Monday, 8 AM. No late work will be accepted.

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

Group Project (25%): For this project you will work in a group of 4 or 5 people (depending on class size). Each group will explore one aspect of money and economy in German speaking lands and present it to the class. You will produce a portfolio accompanying this group project to document your work. The project will be graded individually 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.

Test (25%): You will write one test (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 a test or for late assignments must be discussed with me before the test or due date. Except for emergencies, I will NOT accept excuses given after the test or due date. An unexcused late assignment or missed test will result in a zero.

Evaluation of Course Work (Final Grade)

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| Attendance and Participation: | 15% |
| Blackboard Contributions: | 5% |
| In-class essay: | 30% |
| Group Project: | 25% |
| Test: | 25% |

Required texts

A course reader will be available at *The Copy Place*, 720 Spadina Ave, Suite 100, Toronto M5S 2T9, phone: 416-961-2679. The Copy Place is located on Spadina Avenue between Bloor Street West and Harbord Street.

Avoidance of Academic Offenses

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.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students knowingly: to forge or in any other way alter or falsify any document or evidence required by the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered or falsified document, whether the record be in print or electronic form; to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to personate another person, or to have another person personate, at any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism; to submit, without knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere; to submit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted. 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 or <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>.