

German 150HS: German Culture and Civilization

The University of Toronto

Winter Semester 2018

Peter Schweppe

When: Tuesdays 2-4pm

Where: Victoria College Room 115

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm Ned's Cafe (Goldering Centre) and by appointment

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East Side Gallery. [CCO Creative Commons](#).

Course background

This course will introduce students to the culture and civilization of Germany through a variety of texts, images, films, and discourses. Throughout the course, we will interrogate certain notions of what constitutes culture and civilization in a German historical context while gaining an understanding of events that have influenced Germany from 1871 to the present.

Course objectives

- interpret and critically assess notions of German culture and civilization
- identify cultural debates and historical or artistic events
- discuss topics surrounding weekly themes
- analyze a variety of texts
- evaluate other media such as paintings and films
- moderate classroom conversations in class and online
- improve critical writing and interpretation skills
- present as part of a group project at the end of the semester
- synthesize differences between primary and secondary sources
- explore key cultural venues elsewhere on campus and in Toronto

German 150HS partakes in the University of Toronto's
[#greenerUofT](#)


GREEN COURSES
2017-2018

Required Texts:

Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (1986)

Christa Wolf, *They Divided the Sky* (2013 version) (aka: *Divided Heaven*)

All other materials will be accessible on Blackboard.

Extra Film screenings:

4 extra screenings will be held in BA 1230 (Bahen Centre) this semester, approximately 7-10pm.

- January 24, 2018
- February 7, 2018
- March 7, 2018
- March 21, 2018

Course policies and evaluation**Grading**

10% Class participation and course preparation

10% Weekly writing assignments (on Blackboard unless otherwise specified)

20% Two 1-page position papers

10% End-of-term group presentation

15% Reflection on group project

35% Final Exam

Class participation and course preparation

Full participation is crucial to student success in the course and to meeting our course objectives. Each student's performance will be monitored and evaluated on a weekly basis. You will be asked to come to class with one discussion question about the material that week. Other daily preparation includes but is not limited to: reading assigned texts, answering reading questions, completing assignments, and contributing to discussions. Poor participation will affect a student's final grade significantly. Due to the emphasis placed on participation, students will be allowed no more than three absences during the semester, excused or not, and are responsible for any work due on the days missed.

Each subsequent absence will result in an automatic reduction of the participation grade by 3 points. *Please give 24-hour advanced notice if you do have to miss class.

Academic integrity

The University of Toronto values academic integrity and honesty in all academic work. For tips on how to avoid dishonest work, please see: <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>. German 150 will follow the guidelines established in the UofT's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

Course outline**Week 1: January 9, 2018 Introduction: Imagining Germany**

- Johann Gottlieb Fichte, "First Address" in: *Addresses to the German Nation* (1808)
- Heinrich Heine, "Section 1" in: *Germany: A Winter's Tale* (1844)

Week 2: January 16, 2018 Folktale to Fin-de-siècle

- Franz Franz Xaver von Schönwerth, excerpts from *The Turnip Princess* (2013)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, excerpts from *The Gay Science* (1882)
- Kenneth Barkin, et al., excerpts from “Germany” (2017)

Week 3: January 23, 2018 Folktale to Fin-de-siècle

- Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903)
- Arthur Schnitzler, *La Ronde* (1900)

*Film screening Robert Wiene, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920)
7pm Wednesday Jan 24 Bahen Centre Rm 1230

Week 4: January 30, 2018 World War to Weimar and back

- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (1929)
- Dada: selected periodicals, paintings, poetry

Week 5: February 6, 2018 World War to Weimar and back

- Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (1986)

*Film screening Wolfgang Staudte, *Murderers Among Us* (1946)
7pm Wednesday Feb 7 Bahen Centre Rm 1230

Week 6: February 13, 2018 World War to Weimar and back

- Thomas Mann, “German Listeners!” (1942)
- Visit to Thomas Fisher Rare Book library + Research activity with Alexandra Carter

Reading Week: February 20, 2018

Week 7: February 27, 2018 GDR—Socialism to *Staatssicherheit*

- Christa Wolf, *They Divided the Sky* (1963)

Week 8: March 6, 2018 FRG—Postwar to Protest

- Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, “Culture Industry”
- Timothy Brown, excerpts from *West Germany and the Global Sixties* (2013)

*Film screening Heiner Carow, *Die Legende von Paul und Paula* (1973)
7pm Wednesday Mar 7 Bahen Centre Rm 1230

Week 9: March 13, 2018 Reunification to Reform

- Sibylle Schoenemann, *Verriegelte Zeit* (1990)
- Richard T. Gray and Sabine Wilke, *Reunification and its Discontents* (1996)
- Brian Ladd, excerpts from *The Ghosts of Berlin* (1998)

Week 10: March 20, 2018 Reunification to Reform II

- Wladimir Kaminer, excerpts from *Russian Disco* (2000)
- Brian Ladd, excerpts from *The Ghosts of Berlin* (1998)

*Film screening Hannes Stöhr, *Berlin Calling* (2008)
7pm Wednesday Mar 21 Bahen Centre Rm 1230

Week 11: March 27, 2018 Re-Imagining Germany

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar, excerpts from *Mother Tongue* (1994)
- Firas Alshater, clips from *Zukar* (2016)
- Visit to Goethe Institute Toronto (pending)

Week 12: April 2, 2018 Group Presentations

Final Exam: tba