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
Email: peter.schweppe@utoronto.ca

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 GREEN COURSES 2017-2018 #greenerUofT
**Required Texts:**
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/](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**
- 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**

*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)
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