

**“Ost und West, vorher und nachher”:
Modern Germany and its Cultural Heritage
German 220**

Fall 2007
Monday and Wednesday
11:30-12:40
Comenius 304

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F 10:00-12:50
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to some of the major cultural trends in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1945. Through readings of literature, students will study and discuss major trends in culture, politics, and economics from the end of WWII to the present. Students will be introduced to a number of prominent authors and literary trends from the postwar period in both East and West Germany, as we loosely focus on the cultural development of the two German states. Organized around a number of thematic “Schwerpunkte,” the course asks to what degree one can speak of an eastern or a western perspective in Germany, both during the cold war and today. Topics include legacies of the Holocaust, the Cold War, the German economic miracle, socialist construction in the GDR, the Sixties, immigration and multiculturalism, everyday life in both Germanies, the fall of the Wall, and the problems that still divide East and West Germans today.

GOALS

- Build on 100 level concepts and skills
- Provide students with a familiarity with recent history in Germany and the major trends in postwar German culture
- Provide guided practice in methodologies and ways of thinking and knowing relevant to the discipline(s) in the course, in this case literary criticism and cultural studies
- Use literature and film as a vehicle to the acquisition of skills in reading, writing, and speaking
- Involve significant personal engagement in the material in and beyond the classroom
- Involve synthesis of ideas from the discipline(s) relevant to the course and expression of original ideas

REQUIRED TEXTS

- **Vom Nullpunkt zur Wende.** Deutschsprachige Literatur 1945-1990, 2. Auflage 2002. Hannes Krauss und Andreas Erb (Hg.)
- **Deutschland nach 1945.** Ein Lesebuch zur deutschen Geschichte von 1945 bis zur Gegenwart, 3. Auflage 2001. Eckard Conze und Gabriele Metzler (Hg.)
- **Dictionary:** Please, if you don't already have one, get yourself a **good** dictionary. We usually suggest looking for a dictionary with at least 75,000 entries. Look for Klett, Langenscheidt, Harper-Collins or Webster.
- **Library Reserves:** Many of the course readings will be available on reserve at the Reeves Library, as well as a number of recommended and background readings that I will place on reserve over the course of the semester.

EVALUATION

Grades are given on a conventional 100 point scale and will be based on:

- Two oral presentations in German, each app. 10 minutes (15%).
- Three papers (10% each): papers should be three-pages (typed) and related to course readings and discussions. Due dates for assignments will be indicated on the course schedule. The instructor will give topics in advance on Blackboard.
- Class Participation (15%): Your participation is of utmost necessity to make this course a success. Participation in a language course means **active participation**. You must speak, not merely listen, and you will be graded not simply for being present, but on your ability to actively contribute to the discussion in class. Attendance is mandatory and will be noted in each class. You will be allowed two absences with no questions asked. **Each unexcused absence (beyond the second) will affect your participation grade by lowering it by 5 %. Students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail this class.** If you must be absent, notify me ahead of time. Obtain the assignment from me or from a classmate, so that you can hand it in on time. Some form of documentation will be required for excused absences such as illness, family emergencies, and academic obligations, or any College-sponsored extra-curricular event such as varsity sports. It is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any scheduled events. Regardless of your reason for missing class, you will want to keep up with your work. You will be expected to have completed all the readings prior to each class meeting, and to engage in informed discussions pertaining to a text's content, its formal features, its cultural context, or other relevant aspects. Sometimes you will be given written questions to answer at home. They will facilitate your readings and help you to be better prepared. Students are expected to spend about 6 hours per week on their course assignments.
- Midterm (20%): vocabulary and acquired cultural knowledge from the first half of the semester will be tested.
- Final (20%): This test is the same as the midterm, covering the second half of the course.

POLICIES

- We will be making use of Blackboard in this class, so please sign up for the course on the Blackboard website. The enrollment code is 2007.
- No chewing gum or food! You will need to be able to speak clearly and loudly, free of any interference.
- No pagers and cell phones!
- The primary **language of communication will be German**. German is not simply the object of discussion, it's the vehicle of communication. Your teacher will speak as much German as possible. Please feel free to ask for repetition or clarification when needed. You are expected to reciprocate: You should try to speak as much German as possible, from the beginning. You will learn the necessary classroom and teaching vocabulary first to facilitate this goal. Of course, you can ask your teacher's help in formulating thoughts, questions, etc. and you are not expected to produce language on par with that of a native speaker. Your teacher may also set aside or signal brief periods during which English is permissible. Moreover, you may ask your teacher for permission to speak English when absolutely necessary.
- **Plagiarism** and **cheating** will be handled according to the Student Code outlined in the current Student Handbook and in the statement on Academic Honesty at Moravian College.
- Any student who wishes to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for this course must first meet with either Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services (for learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center (for all other disabilities).

Note: I reserve the right to make appropriate changes to this syllabus whenever necessary.

Lehrplan

Montag, 27.8	Einleitung / Bertolt Brecht, "Gedanken über die Dauer des Exils"*
Mittwoch, 29.8	Bericht: Holocaust Paul Celan, "Todesfuge"; Anna Seghers, "Zwei Denkmaler" (NW)
Montag, 3.9	Frei
Mittwoch, 5.9	Anna Seghers, "Zwei Denkmaler"; Peter Weiss, "Mein Ortschaft" (NW)
Montag, 10.9	Bericht: Nationaler Sozialismus
Mittwoch, 12.9	Alexander Kluge, "Ein Lebesversuch"* Heiner Müller, "Der eiserne Kreuz"* Ursula von Kardoff, "Die Befreiung"; Wilfried Röhrich, "Die Stunde Null" (Dn45)
Montag, 17.9	Bericht: Trümmerjahre Aufsatz 1 fällig Inge Müller, "Unter Schutt III"; Wolfgang Bochert, "Nachts schlafen die Ratten doch" (NW) Christian Graf von Krockow, "Die Stunde der Frauen," Ursula A.J. Becher, "Hungerjahre (Dn45)
Mittwoch, 19.9	Anna Seghers, "Die Umsiedlerin"* Klaus J. Bade, "Einheimische und Fremde" (Dn45)
Montag, 24.9	Screening: <i>Die Mörder sind unter uns</i>
Mittwoch, 26.9	Filmbesprechung
Montag, 1.10	Bericht: Wirtschaftswunder Hans Magnus Enzensberger "Middle Class Blues", Marie Luise Kaschnitz, "Das dicke Kind"* Heinz Ludwig Arnold, "Die Gruppe 47: Ein literarischer Neubeginn"; Franz-Joseph Brüggermann, "Im Zeichen des Wiederaufbaus"; Ursula A.J. Becher, "Die Freßwelle" (Dn45)
Mittwoch, 3.10	Midterm exam
Montag, 8.10	Frei
Mittwoch, 10.10	Ingeborg Bachmann, "Reklame" (NW), Heinrich Böll, "Es wird etwas geschehen"* Hans Pleschinski, "Die Wirtschaftswundergesellschaft" (Dn45)
Montag, 15.10	Bericht: sozialistischer Aufbau Bertolt Brecht, "Die Lösung" (NW); Käthe Rühlicke, "Hans Garbe erzählt"* Brecht, "...daß ein gutes Deutschland blühe," "'Aufbau des Sozialismus'—ohne die Arbeiter? Der 17. Juni" (Dn45)
Mittwoch, 17.10	Volker Braun, "Die Leute von Hoywoy"* Rolf Schneider, "Blauhemden im bunten Berlin: Weltjugendfestspiele 1951"; Christoph Klessmann, "Eine neue Gesellschaft" (Dn45)

- Montag, 22.10 **Bericht: Die Berliner Mauer**
Aufsatz 2 fällig
Ulrich Plenzdorf, "kein runter kein fern"*
Christian Weber, "Die schwarze Kanal" (Dn45)
- Mittwoch, 24.10 Wolf Biermann, "Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen" (NW)
Jay Rosellini, "'Das geht sein' sozialistischen Gang.' Die Biermann-Ausbürgerung (Dn45)
- Montag, 29.10 **Bericht: Feminismus**
Elfriede Jelinek: "Paula"*
Ursula W., "Kinder, Küche, Kombinat"; Unbekannte Verfasserin, "Frauenalltag in der Bundesrepublik" (Dn45)
- Mittwoch, 31.10 **Bericht: Gästarbeiter**
Emine Sevgi Özdamar, "Erinnerungen einer Putzfrau"*
- Montag, 5.11 Screening: *Die verlorene Ehre der Katherina Blum*
Mittwoch, 7.11 **Bericht: Baader-Meinhof-Gruppe / Rote Armee Faction**
Filmbesprechung
Helmut Gollwitzer, "1968 und der deutsche Herbst"; Karl-Rudolf Korte, "Innere Sicherheit oder Überwachungsstaat?" (Dn45)
- Montag, 12.11 **Bericht: Ende der DDR / Wiedervereinigung**
Heiner Müller, "Fernsehen"; Volker Braun, "Mein Eigentum" (MW); Ingo Schulze, "Zeus"*
Jürgen Kocka, "Das Ende der DDR" (Dn45)
- Mittwoch, 14.11 **Bericht: Stasi**
Lutz Rathenow, "Böse Geschichte mit gutem Ende" (NW)
Jürgen Fuchs, "Der Stasi-Staat"; Alexander Stephan, "Was bleibt?" (Dn45)
- Montag, 19.11 **Bericht: Erinnerungskultur in der Berliner Republik**
Maxim Biller, "Die Marx-Brothers in Deutschland"*
Christian Meier, "Die Gegenwärtigkeit der NS-Vergangenheit"
- Mittwoch, 21.11 **Frei**
- Montag, 26.11 **Aufsatz 3 fällig**
Film: *Good Bye Lenin*
- Mittwoch, 28.11 **Bericht: Ostalgie**
Filmbesprechung
Michael Rutschky, "Wie erst jetzt die DDR entsteht"*
- Montag, 12.3 Jana Hensel, aus *Zonenkinder**
Mittwoch, 12.5 Fortsetzung, *Zonenkinder*

(NW)= *Vom Nullpunkt zur Wende*

(Dn45)= *Deutschland nach 1945*

*= available on reserve at the library