

German 65
Winter 2014
Dartmouth 206, 2A slot (T, Th 2-3:50, x-hour W 4:15-5:05)

Professor Irene Kacandes
Dartmouth 338, M 1:30-2:30, aba
6-2639

(Any student who wants to take the course and already has a required 2A should please contact Prof. Kacandes asap.)

Topics in Twentieth-Century German Cultural Studies: Major Transformations

The goals of this seminar are to introduce students to four major issues in German culture spanning the course of the twentieth-century and into the twenty-first (*Die Großstadt, Gewalt und Antisemitismus*; *Stunde Null*; *Multikulturalismus*; and *Die Berliner Republik*); to familiarize them with the methods of cultural studies; to use different media to explore a topic; and to improve reading, speaking, listening, and writing in German. The course is divided into four two-week segments with a session at the end for oral presentations of paper topics. For each topical segment there will be primary readings in German and some visual and/or musical materials. This course also counts as the culminating experience for German majors, who will meet as a group during the x-hour. *Course conducted in German.*

Requirements for all seminar participants:

- attentive preparation of reading, listening and viewing assignments
- active participation in class discussion
- five minute oral presentation on one "text" (visual, musical, or performative) per topic, sharing conjectures about what it might add to our knowledge of that topic (follow-up papers in German, 1-2 pp.)
- five to ten minute oral presentation of your final paper topic (in German)
- final paper on topic of your choice in German cultural studies (8-10 pages for non majors; 18-20 pages for senior majors fulfilling the culminating experience requirement; in English unless you are a native speaker)

Additional requirements for senior German majors:

- attendance and active participation in designated x-hours
- some additional readings to help majors better understand scholarly work
- presentation of one primary text and one scholarly article related to your final essay
- additional ten pages of writing on your topic (also stated above under requirements for all participants: your final essay is ten pages longer, that is, 18-20pp in length)

Note to senior honors thesis writers:

The content of your presentations and essay should relate to your chosen thesis topic, unless you opt for this course not to count as the prerequisite for German 87.

Books available at Wheelock Books:

Required:

Borchert, *Draußen vor der Tür*

Denham, Kacandes, Petropoulos, eds. *A User's Guide to German Cultural Studies*

Kolmar, *Die jüdische Mutter*

Nossack, *Der Untergang*

Özdamar, *Die Brücke vom Goldenen Horn*
Schulze, *Simple Storys*

Recommended:

Döblin, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*

Anonyma, *Eine Frau in Berlin. Tagebuch*

Additional notes on conduct of course:

If any student has a disability s/he considers might affect her/his ability to do the assignments for this course, s/he should please come see me in my office hours before the end of the second week of the term, so that we can discuss the nature of accommodations that would lead to most successful performance in class.

If any student anticipates a religious holiday observance that overlaps with sessions of this class, s/he should please let me know this before the end of the second week of the term.

Dartmouth Honor Code with regard to this particular course: joint discussion of any of the reading or viewing assignments is always considered a positive thing. Similarly, consulting a native speaker about pronunciation in preparation for an oral presentation is also welcome. All written assignments are expected to reflect (only) the student's effort.

Week One:

Introduction to German Cultural Studies

- Tues. Jan. 7 review of syllabus and how course will function; intro to "methodology"
[Tues individual meetings with senior majors to discuss advisors, topics]
Thurs. Jan. 9 no class; use this time to do advance reading and see one film (see below)
Tues. Jan 14 read: Irene Kacandes, "German Cultural Studies: What Is at Stake?"
(1997) in *A User's Guide to German Cultural Studies*, pp. 1-28; plus
any two chapters from *A User's Guide* of your choosing; identify and
describe in your own words the method and materials its author utilizes

Weeks Two and Three:

Topic One: Die Großstadt, Gewalt, und Antisemitismus

- Readings: selections from Alfred Döblin, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*
Gertrud Kolmar, *Die jüdische Mutter*
Viewings: paintings by German Expressionists and artists of the *Neue Sachlichkeit*,
buildings by Bauhaus
one Weimar film (*M*, *Eine Stadt sucht einen Mörder* or *Berlin, Die
Sinfonie einer Großstadt* or Jutzi's 1931 version of *Berlin Alexanderplatz*)
Listenings: one piece of your choice in the twelve-tone system
[Wed. Jan. 15 written project proposal due from senior German majors]
Thurs. Jan. 16 introduction to Berlin as "Großstadt" and to presentation of consciousness
in fiction; excerpts from BA; read first 50 pages of *DjM*
Tues. Jan. 21 discussion of *DjM* (make sure you have completed the novel by this date)
[Wed. Jan. 22 additional reading: Irene Kacandes "Making the Stranger the Enemy: Gertrud
Kolmar's *Eine jüdische Mutter*." *Women in German Yearbook* 19 (2003): 99-116.
What makes for a good presentation? Review of analytical language in German
*bring copies of text about which you will be speaking on Feb. 5]
Thurs. Jan. 23 other materials from Weimar period; how do they help us understand it?

Weeks Four and Five:

Topic Two: Stunde Null

- Readings: Nossack, *Der Untergang*
Borchert, *Draußen vor der Tür*
Selections from Julius Posner, *Deutschland 1945*
Selections from Anonyma, *Eine Frau in Berlin. Tagebuch.*
Selections from Ruth Klüger, *weiter leben*
Viewings and listenings: Selections by seminar members
Tues. Jan. 28 discussion Nossack
Thurs. Jan. 30 discussion Borchert
Tues. Feb. 4 discussion Posner, Anonyma, Klüger
[Wed. Feb. 5 Primary texts/materials
*oral presentation
1) a brief plot summary (or overview) of one of your primary texts/sets of data AND

2) a close reading (or analogous analysis) of a brief excerpt (not more than 1 p.) from that same text/set of data (max. 10 min. per student)]

Thurs. Feb. 6 discussion of materials selected by seminar members

Weeks Six and Seven:

Topic Three: **Multikulturalismus**

Readings: Emine Sevgi Özdamar, *Die Brücke vom Goldenen Horn*
poems and short works by Zafer Senocak, Yoko Tawada, Navid Kermani

Viewings and listenings: Selections by seminar members

Tues. Feb. 11 viewing and discussion of *Ich wollte immer weiss sein auf der Haut*
make sure you have read first 100 pages of *Brücke*

Thurs. Feb. 13 discussion of *Brücke* (make sure you have completed novel by this date)

Tues. Feb. 18 discussion of Senocak, Tawada, Kermani

[Wed. Feb. 19 additional reading: Leslie Adelson, "Genocide and Taboo" from *The Turkish Turn in Contemporary German Literature*, pp. 79-122.

*bring copies of text about which you will be speaking Feb. 26]

Thurs. Feb. 20 discussion of materials selected by seminar members

Weeks Eight and Nine:

Topic Four: **Die Berliner Republik**

Readings: Ingo Schulze, *Simple Storys: Ein Roman aus der ostdeutschen Provinz*

Viewings and listenings: Selections by seminar members

Tues. Feb. 25 viewing and discussion of film *Berlin is in Germany*

[Wed. Feb. 26 secondary sources

*oral presentation of one of your secondary sources and of how it aids your understanding of your primary text(s) (10 minutes)

In addition to succinctly summarizing the argument made by the writer of that secondary source, this presentation should reveal the method(s) you are using to analyze your primary materials.]

Thurs. Feb. 27 discussion of *Berlin is in Germany*, cont, disc. of *Simple Storys*

Tues. March 4 discussion of *Simple Storys* continued

[Wed. March 5 your project

*oral presentation of your culminating experience project or of one of the chapters of your thesis (10 min). This should be a comprehensive presentation of your research. It may incorporate material from your earlier presentations, and it may be the basis of your final written work for the course.]

Thurs. March 6 discussion of nonliterary materials selected by seminar members and oral presentations of essay topic

Week Ten:

Finale Time to be determined: Festive event with senior major oral presentations to German Studies faculty

Essays are due in my mailbox in Ger St office at noon of day our course would have had an exam; please do not forget that proofreading before AND after printing is essential.