



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS3780 Contemporary Germany: History, Politics, Society - 2024

Published on the 20 Sep 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS3780

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Why is Germany criticised for being too dominant in European affairs, but also for not playing a bigger role on the international stage? Such questions can only be answered by studying Germany's radical transformations since the end of the Second World War, which this course

does from diverse perspectives with an emphasis on major scholarly and contemporary debates. You will examine Germany's occupation by the victorious Allies, its Cold War division into communist East and capitalist West, its unexpected unification after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the emergence of the 'Berlin republic' as a major economic and political force. You will explore how Germans sought a new beginning in the rubble of defeat; about social, political and generational change in East and West Germany; and about the difficulties of uniting East and West Germans since 1990. You will also learn about Germany's ongoing struggle to define its national identity; its approach to migrants, refugees and increasing cultural diversity; and its changing role in Europe and the world.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course can be taken without prior knowledge or specific prerequisites. However, it extends chronologically on Europe's Age of Catastrophe and Understanding Nazi Germany, builds on Contemporary Europe in Crisis, and complements both Britain, Europe and the World and Confronting the Past in Contemporary Europe.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Articulate the dynamism and complexity of contemporary German history, politics and society from diverse perspectives
CLO2 : Evaluate scholarly arguments about and disciplinary approaches to the study of contemporary Germany
CLO3 : Justify a position in relation to contemporary Germany based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis
CLO4 : Exhibit initiative and self-direction to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to the study of contemporary Germany
CLO5 : Critically and creatively apply disciplinary knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex problems relating to contemporary Germany

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Articulate the dynamism and complexity of contemporary German history, politics and society from diverse perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses on weekly readings• Test
CLO2 : Evaluate scholarly arguments about and disciplinary approaches to the study of contemporary Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research essay• Responses on weekly readings
CLO3 : Justify a position in relation to contemporary Germany based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research essay• Responses on weekly readings
CLO4 : Exhibit initiative and self-direction to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to the study of contemporary Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research essay
CLO5 : Critically and creatively apply disciplinary knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex problems relating to contemporary Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Test• Research essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

To be discussed on Moodle and in class.

Additional Course Information

N/a

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Responses on weekly readings Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: 11/09/2024 03:00 PM Due Date: Fridays, 08:50 AM; and 27 September 08:00 PM and 15 November 08:00 PM
Research essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	40%	Start Date: 25/09/2024 12:00 PM Due Date: 28/10/2024 08:00 PM Post Date: 12/11/2024 09:00 AM
Test Assessment Format: Individual	30%	Start Date: Formal examination period. To be advised Due Date: Formal examination period. To be advised

Assessment Details

Responses on weekly readings

Assessment Overview

Students submit a response (max. 250 words) to a set question on the weekly readings and a discussion question of their own before tutorials.

Length: 6 x 250 words

Feedback via rubric, individual comments, and general feedback to group

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Articulate the dynamism and complexity of contemporary German history, politics and society from diverse perspectives
- CLO2 : Evaluate scholarly arguments about and disciplinary approaches to the study of contemporary Germany
- CLO3 : Justify a position in relation to contemporary Germany based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis

Detailed Assessment Description

See additional information below

Assessment Length

6 x 250 words

Submission notes

See Additional information below

Assessment information

You need to submit six responses on the tutorial readings across the term. If you do not submit six responses you will get zero for this assessment item.

Each response (max. 250 words) should consist of your answer to a set question on a weekly reading AND a discussion question of your own about another reading. Submissions that lack a discussion question only count for 50% of the possible mark for that submission.

A discussion question is a question that would lend itself to be debated in the tutorial. It should not be a question about facts and your peers should be able to respond to it based on the reading and lecture. In other words, it shouldn't be a question that would require one to do additional research.

Your responses must be posted on Moodle before the relevant tutorial. You must submit at least two responses in the first three weeks of term in order to receive early feedback. Each day of late submission for an individual response will count as a day of late submission for the whole assessment item, with penalties applying as outlined via the links later in this Course Overview.

In addition to submitting your responses on Moodle prior to the relevant tutorials, you must re-submit your first two responses to Turnitin via Moodle by 8pm 27 September (Friday week 3), and your remaining four responses to Turnitin via Moodle by 8pm 15 November (Friday week 10). For these re-submissions, simply copy and paste the relevant original submissions, including your discussion questions, into a single Word or similar document with double line spacing.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other

media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

For this assessment task, you must demonstrate your ability to represent the ideas of others and express your own ideas in English. You may use standard editing software, but not generative AI, AI-based writing assistants or machine translation. You are permitted to use functions such as the Spelling and Grammar Editor and the Thesaurus in the Microsoft Office suite or the Grammar Checker in QuillBot or Grammarly. You are not permitted to use tools such as QuillBot's Paraphraser, Grammarly's AI Writing Assistant or Paraphrasing Tool, generative AI tools such as ChatGPT or machine translation tools such as Google Translate or Quillbot Translator or the like. You are encouraged to save distinct draft versions of your work and especially to save and keep any versions before subjecting your work or parts of your work to the permitted spelling and grammar checking tools. If in doubt about what is permitted or expected, ask your convenor.

Research essay

Assessment Overview

Students write an essay (ca. 2,500 words) based on independent research.

Feedback via individual comments and rubric.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Evaluate scholarly arguments about and disciplinary approaches to the study of contemporary Germany
- CLO3 : Justify a position in relation to contemporary Germany based on rigorous and engaged scholarly enquiry and analysis
- CLO4 : Exhibit initiative and self-direction to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to the study of contemporary Germany
- CLO5 : Critically and creatively apply disciplinary knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex problems relating to contemporary Germany

Detailed Assessment Description

Details to be provided on Moodle.

Assessment Length

2,500 words

Submission notes

Submit to Turnitin via Moodle.

Assessment information

See Moodle

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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Test

Assessment Overview

The test will give students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the themes, issues and debates covered in the course and to reflect on what they have learned.

Duration: 2 hours.

Feedback via a mark and individual brief comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Articulate the dynamism and complexity of contemporary German history, politics and society from diverse perspectives
- CLO5 : Critically and creatively apply disciplinary knowledge and skills in order to engage proactively with complex problems relating to contemporary Germany

Detailed Assessment Description

The test will be held online as a school-based test during the end-of-term examination period. It will be scheduled by the UNSW exams unit.

Details to be provided on Moodle.

Assessment Length

2 hours

Submission notes

Submit to Turnitin via Moodle.

Assessment information

See Moodle

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

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General Assessment Information

To be discussed in class and outlined on Moodle.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

To pass the course students must meet the tutorial attendance requirement (see Schedule section of this outline) and get an overall mark of 50% in their assessment tasks.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Topic	Introduction, overview, historiography, background
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Topic	The occupation and division of Germany
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Topic	The long 1950s
	Assessment	First two responses on weekly readings to be re-submitted to Turnitin by Friday 27 September, 8pm.
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Topic	The long 1960s
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Topic	The long 1980s
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Reading	No classes - reading week. Catch up on any reading and lectures you've missed and work on your research essay.
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Topic	The collapse of the GDR and German unification
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Topic	Germans, migrants and refugees
	Assessment	Research essay to be submitted to Turnitin by Monday 28 October, 8pm.
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Topic	Germany in Europe
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Topic	German foreign policy
	Assessment	Final four responses on weekly readings to be re-submitted to Turnitin by Friday 15 November, 8pm.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend or watch the recordings of all lectures before the relevant tutorial.

Attendance of tutorials is mandatory in this course. Unexcused absence for more than 20% of tutorials (i.e. more than 2 tutorials) will result in the award of a fail grade. In tutorials you will actively discuss core course content, enabling you to attain Course Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 5. Attendance will be recorded by taking a class roll.

Other Considerations:

- Align with the course learning outcomes;
- Result in a recorded artefact (an artefact for participation may include a post, or response, to an online discussion forum, poll or quiz, when an artefact for mandatory attendance may include a record of attendance) and have processes in place for recording the student artefact;
- Where relevant, include evidence that the attendance or participation is required to meet a statutory or professional body requirement; and
- Be comparable where the activity is delivered in different modes.

General Schedule Information

The course is structured both chronologically and thematically. Changes to the schedule are possible.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

The weekly readings are available through the UNSW Library's Leganto platform.

Recommended Resources

You are encouraged to read at least one of the following books as background and extended reading:

- (1) Pól O'Dochartaigh, Germany since 1945 (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2004).
- (2) Paul Hockenos, Joschka Fischer and the Making of the Berlin Republic: An Alternative History of Postwar Germany (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008);
- (3) Konrad H. Jarausch, After Hitler: Recivilizing Germans, 1945-1995 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006) (German version also available: Umkehr);
- (4) Michael Gehler, Three Germanies: West Germany, East Germany and the Berlin Republic (London: Reaktion Books, 2011)

You are also encouraged to read the recommended readings listed on Moodle.

Good places to search for further resources include the journal database JSTOR and specific journals such as German History; German Politics and Society; German Politics; German Studies Review; Journal of Contemporary History; Contemporary European History; European History Quarterly.

There are numerous useful websites on contemporary German history and contemporary German affairs. For example, the German Historical Institute, Washington, has a bilingual platform called 'German History in Documents and Images': <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org> Also, the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Johns Hopkins University, provides commentary and reports on German politics: <http://www.aicgs.org>

Additional Costs

There are no additional costs.

Course Evaluation and Development

Formal feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. Students have given extremely positive evaluations of 'Contemporary Germany' in previous years. The last three times it was offered (2018, 2020 and 2022), 100% of students agreed that they were satisfied with both the quality of the course and the quality of the teaching.

The convenor also regularly gathers informal feedback from students which he uses to make adjustments to course readings and the like.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Andrew Beatie		Morven Brown building, Room 343	02 9385 2328 (email preferred)	By consultation	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW

Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here.](#)

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, Room 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm