

# GERM 214: German Society and Culture 2

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

**Trimester 1 - 2008**

## STAFF

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All three teachers are happy to discuss students' problems with them at any time, or to provide additional information about the course. Such information is regularly given in class announcements or posted on the notice board of the German Programme (Level 6 of the von Zedlitz Building) and on Blackboard. German staff have no specially designated office hours, but students may make an appointment with the German Administrator, Alison Dixie (vZ 610) at any time, if the staff member they wish to see is unavailable for consultation.

## CLASS TIMES & ROOMS

GERM 214 is a first Trimester course of three hours per week, involving lectures and seminar discussion.

Three hours of lectures and tutorials per week:

Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday      4.10pm – 5.00pm      Room: KK (New Kirk) 107

## COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

GERM 214 follows on from GERM 114 and aims to acquaint students with the basic facts of, and relations between, political, economic, social and cultural developments and attitudes in Germany between 1914 and 1949. It includes a section on German history from 1914 till 1949 and an examination of the way in which these historical developments are reflected in German literature and film. Students who pass the course should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and an informed understanding of German history and culture of the period covered.

## TEACHING METHOD

Classes will consist of lectures and seminars, supplemented by reading materials and films. Students are expected to take an active part in class and to contribute their own background knowledge on the topic under discussion.

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### Course Outline GERM 214

#### COURSE PROGRAMME

<u>Week</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
1	MS (History/Society)	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
2	MS (History/Society)	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
3	MS (History/Society)	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
4	MS (History/Society)	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
5	<b>EASTER Holiday</b>	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)
6	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)
7	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)

#### Mid- Trimester Break 14 – 27 April

8	MS (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)
9	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)
10	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)
11	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)
12	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)	MT (Seminars)

#### SET TEXTS

Joseph Roth, *Das Spinnennetz*, dtv, available from VicBooks. Students must also purchase a handbook (\$9.00) for GERM 214 from Student Notes Distribution Centre, Student Union Building.

#### ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

In addition to the three class hours, twelve additional hours per week. This will naturally vary according to the knowledge of German and the knowledge of Germany with which the student comes to the course.

#### ASSESSMENT

The assessment programme is designed to evaluate the extent of the student's understanding and knowledge of a topic and to assess the student's ability to research a topic, organise thoughts and insights and to express them in a lucid, well-documented way, in class seminars, in essay form, and in the final examination. To help with essay writing, students will be given the German Programme's detailed *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*.

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GERM 214 is assessed by:

- a. One essay on a set topic, to be written in English or German as the student prefers. The essay counts 25% towards the final grade of the course.
- b. One seminar paper, either on a set topic or on a topic chosen by the student. This counts 15% towards the final grade.
- c. Preparation worksheets for the Film and Literature section of the course. This counts 10% towards the final grade.
- d. A final two-hour examination in June. This counts 50% towards the final grade. This is not an open book exam. Students are expected to be available during the examination period 6-28 June.

The essays and the seminar are on individual topics relating to the society and culture of Germany in the timeframe covered. The examination relates to all topics studied over the semester, but students will have a choice of questions to be answered. Time and venue of the examination will be given on Registry noticeboards.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **TURNITIN**

Student work provided for assessment in this course will be automatically checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. The decision about whether any copying is plagiarism will be made in the first instance by the course coordinator based on the information supplied by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

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### **ESSAY DEADLINES**

The essay is due on **Friday, 4 April at 4 pm** (end of week 6).

The seminar dates will be finalised in the sixth week of term.

### **WRITING ESSAYS**

The essay is to be of c.1500 words in length. A choice of essay topic is attached to this course outline.

All assignments **must be submitted in two forms**:

1. **By email** to [german@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:german@vuw.ac.nz) for submission to Turnitin (see above)
2. **AND** as a **print-out** to be handed in to the German assignment box located to the left of the SAELC Reception area on Level 6 of von Zedlitz. The print-out must include a cover sheet available from SAELC Reception or Blackboard.

**Assignments will not be considered complete until submitted in both forms.**

Essays *must* be handed in on time. Students prevented by uncontrollable circumstances from completing an essay on time must, *in advance of the deadline*, formally request an extension of time from the tutor. In cases of illness, accident or bereavement, this can be done by telephone. Essays submitted late without explanation will have penalty marks deducted at the rate of two marks a day; in the case of extreme lateness, the essay will not be marked and the student will not receive Terms (see below.)

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS**

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course students may be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: regular attendance at a minimum of 80% of each of the three sections of the course, satisfactory completion of the essay, presentation of the seminar, and completion of the final examination. Unless informed to the contrary, students may assume they have been awarded Terms.

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES**

Information concerning the General University Requirements, Policies and Statutes can be found on Blackboard.

## ESSAY TOPICS

Write an essay of about 1500 words in English or German on ONE of the following topics:

*For Margaret's section of the course:*

1. Discuss some of the significant contributions that the Jewish population of Berlin made to that city during the 1920s.
2. Examine the activities of clairvoyants and similar people during the Weimar Republic and consider why some Germans had a fascination with such people.
3. "The Adlon Hotel was something of an oasis" (Anton Gill, *A Dance between Flames*). Examine the role of the Adlon Hotel in Berlin during the Weimar Republic. What significance did this and similar large hotels have in Berlin at that time?
4. What was the *Lebensborn* movement? Try to assess its role within Nazi philosophy.



*Einstein*



*Lebensborn house*

*For Richard's section of the course:*

1. Joseph Roth's novel *Das Spinnennetz* offers a panoramic view of German society during the early Weimar Republic. Which social groups are portrayed and how is each group characterised?
2. Compare and contrast the characters Theodor Lohse and Benjamin Lenz from the novel *Das Spinnennetz*, and discuss their relationship.
3. Analyse the style and narrative technique of Roth's *Das Spinnennetz*, considering such matters as plot structure, perspective, tone, symbols, leitmotifs, etc.
4. Identify significant differences in plot and characterisation between Roth's *Das Spinnennetz* and Bernhard Wicki's 1989 film version. How do Wicki's modifications affect our appreciation of the characters and events portrayed?



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