

# GERM 214: German Society and Culture 2

School of Languages & Cultures

**Trimester 1 - 2009**

## 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.

## COURSE DELIVERY, CLASS TIMES & ROOMS

GERM 214 is a First Trimester course of three hours per week, involving lectures and seminar discussion. The course starts on 2 March and classes run until 3 June. The exam will take place during the exam period running from 8 June until 1 July.

Three hours of lectures and tutorials per week:

Days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday      11.00am – 11.50am      Room: EALT (Easterfield) 206

## COURSE AIMS AND LEARNING 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 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>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
1	RM (Introduction)	HD (History/Society)	Library session
2	HD (History/Society)	HD (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
3	HD (History/Society)	HD (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
4	HD (History/Society)	HD (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)
5	HD (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)
6	HD (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)

#### Mid- Trimester Break 13 – 26 April

7	HD (History/Society)	RM (Literature/Film)	RM (Literature/Film)
8	HD (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	<b>Queen's Birthday</b>	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 familiarity with German and Germany with which the student comes to the course. Students are expected to use this time for reading, revision, essay and seminar preparation, and exam preparation.

#### 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*.

GERM 214 is assessed by:

- 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.

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- 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 means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **TURNITIN**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

### **ESSAY DEADLINES**

The essay is due on **Thursday, 9 April at 4 pm** (end of week 6).

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

### **WRITING ESSAYS**

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The essay is to be approximately 1500 words in length. Possible essay topics are attached to this course outline.

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

1. **Electronically** uploaded to the assignment box on the GERM 214 Blackboard website 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 SLC 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 be considered to have fulfilled the mandatory course requirements (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**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

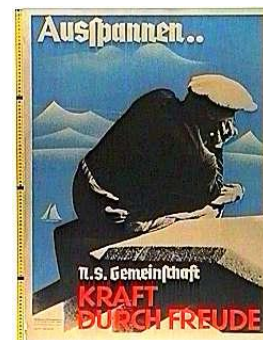
This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

## ESSAY TOPICS

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

*For Prof. Delbrück'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. Show the methods by which the *Hitlerjugend* (HJ) was set up in the Third Reich to make German boys unconditionally loyal to Hitler. Discuss to what extent those methods were successful.
3. Discuss the organisation of the *Bund Deutscher Mädel* (BDM) in the Third Reich, outlining how it differed from youth organisations in the 1920s.
4. Discuss the organisation of *Kraft durch Freude* (KdF). Try to assess its role within Nazi cultural policy.
5. Examine the role of colonisation in Nazi philosophy. How does it compare with the objectives of colonisation in the Kaiserreich?



*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?

