

#### SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

## GERMAN PROGRAMME GERM 114 GERMAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE 1

## **TRIMESTER 2 2011**

11 July to 12 November 2011

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

#### **Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 11 July to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Study week: 17–21 October 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 21 October to 12 November 2011

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during

the formal examination period.

#### Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds.aspx.

## Names and contact details

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Reception Hours: 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday

Contact Person for Maori Dr Ross Woods & Pacific Island Students & Office: vZ 507 Students with Disabilities: Phone: 463 5098

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Teaching staff are happy to discuss your concerns with you, or to provide additional information about the course. Such information is also regularly provided through announcements in class and on Blackboard. Staff are available for student consultation at times indicated on their office doors, or by contacting them via email to arrange a suitable time.

## **Class times and locations**

Three hours of lectures and/or seminars per week:

Mon, Tues, Thurs 1.10pm – 2.00pm Murphy (MYLT101)

## **Course delivery**

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.

#### **Communication of additional information**

Further course information can be found on the German Programme notice board, vZ Level 6 opposite room vZ 605 and on Blackboard.

## **Course Prescription**

This course examines social developments and attitudes from 1949 to the present day, as well as the historical, political and economic background to those developments and attitudes, and documents especially the post-unification events by excerpts from German prose, films and the study of a bestselling novel by Bernhard Schlink. The course is taught and assessed entirely in English.

#### **Course content**

GERM 114 aims to introduce students to the basic facts of, and interrelations between, political, social and cultural developments and attitudes in Germany from the time of its division into the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic in 1949 to the present day. As well as being given factual information and analysis, students will study aspects of German fiction and film. This course is taught and assessed entirely in English and is open to anyone interested in this subject. All materials are studied in English translation.

#### **Learning objectives**

Students passing the course should be able to:

- demonstrate an informed understanding of aspects of Germany from 1949 to the present day;
- outline Germany's physical and political geography;
- identify and discuss some key values and cultural concepts in German society;
- demonstrate familiarity with facets of German writing and film.

#### **Expected workload**

The University Assessment Handbook has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a 100-level 1-trimester 20-point course should work on average 13 hours per week including contact hours - i.e. you are expected to work an additional 10 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.

#### Reading

#### **Set Texts**

Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader* (Phoenix) *GERM 114 Student Notes* 

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 4 to 22 July 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at <a href="www.vicbooks.co.nz">www.vicbooks.co.nz</a> or can email an order or enquiry to <a href="enquires@vicbooks.co.nz">enquires@vicbooks.co.nz</a>. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours for VicBooks are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

#### Course programme

**Section One:** 

Weeks 1 – 4 The two Germanies Dr Sutherland
Week 5 Impressions of Unification Anke Szczepanski
Sarah Raulea

**Section Two:** 

Weeks 5 – 8 Student Seminars Dr Millington

**Section Three:** 

Weeks 9 – 12 Post-Unification Germany Dr Tempian

in Literature and Film

Please refer to the end of this Course Outline for more detailed timetable information.

#### **Assessment requirements**

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 express them in a lucid, well-documented way, both in class seminars and in essay form. To help in the latter, students will be given the German Programme's detailed *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*, which is also available on Blackboard.

#### GERM 114 is assessed by:

- 1. One essay which counts 30% towards the final result. See the list of essay topics below.
- 2. One seminar paper on a set topic. These seminars will be researched and presented in groups, but each group member is expected to do an equal share of the work and to take over part of the presentation. Students are assessed individually. The seminar counts 20% towards the final result.
- 3. A final two-hour examination. This is not an open book exam. It counts 50% towards the final result. All students enrolled in the course are expected to be available during the examination period 21 October 12 November 2010.

The essay and the seminar are on individual topics relating to the society and culture of modern Germany. Seminar dates **must** be observed. The seminar allocations will be finalised in the second

week of the course. **See the list of seminar options below**. Students will be able to sign up for their seminar topics and dates on Blackboard.

The examination will cover all areas studied in the course, but students will have a choice of questions to be answered.

#### **Penalties**

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 lecturer. 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 have met minimum course requirements.

## **Essay information and deadline**

The essay is worth 30% of the final mark and is due by 5pm on **Monday, 15 August** (beginning of Week 6).

All assignments must be submitted in two forms:

- 1. An electronic copy is to be uploaded to the relevant assignment drop box on the GERM 114 Blackboard website.
- 2. **AND** a **print-out** is to be placed in the German assignment box located to the left of the School of Languages and Cultures Reception area on Level 6 of von Zedlitz. The print-out must include a cover sheet available from SLC Reception or Blackboard.

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

Here are five basics for essay writing. See also the *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*.

- The essay should not exceed the word-limit of 1000 words.
- It must have a 5 cm left margin. (NOTE this instruction, which is often ignored!)
- It should be typed with double-spacing (i.e. vertical spacing between lines).
- Give page-numbers.

A choice of topics is given below. **Note: You MAY NOT choose the same topic for your essay and your seminar.** 

#### **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Submit the written work specified on or by the due dates
- b) Present the seminar required for this course
- c) Attend the examination at the end of the course
- d) Attend at least 80% of all three sections of the course.

Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume they have met the mandatory course requirements.

## **Class representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be made available to VUWSA, the Course Co-ordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course co-ordinator on behalf of students. Class representatives will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

## Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

## 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: <a href="http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx">http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx</a>

#### **Use of 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.

#### Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at <a href="https://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress">www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress</a>.

Most statutes and policies are available at <a href="www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy">www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy</a>, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at <a href="www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx">www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx</a> (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about victoria/avcacademic.

## **Essay topics**

- 1. What was the Berlin Blockade (1948-1949)? What effect did it have on the future development of Germany?
- 2. Germany has had two "Grand Coalitions" (1966-69 and 2005-2009). What is a Grand Coalition and what path has each of these coalitions taken?
- 3. Who were the "guest workers" in West Germany and what effects did their presence have on the country economically and socially?
- 4. Outline the activities and beliefs of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group in the Federal Republic of Germany.
- 5. Investigate the situation of Robert Havemann and other dissidents in East Germany and their treatment by the state.
- 6. Trace the history of the Green Party in Germany and try to assess their political influence today.
- 7. Who are the Sorbs? Examine their situation during the Regime of the German Democratic Republic and today.

## **Seminar topics**

Below is a list of possible seminar topics you may choose from. If you have an alternative topic you would like to do, please discuss it with your lecturer first.

Please Note: You may not choose the same topic for your seminar as for your essay.

- The German military contribution in Kosovo and Afghanistan
- Growth and stagnation in East Germany since reunification
- Immigration and citizenship since reunification
- Turkish Germans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- The return of the Russia-Germans
- Moving the capital from Bonn to Berlin
- The Holocaust memorial in Berlin
- Neo-Nazis and xenophobia
- Currency reform: Ost-Marks, D-Marks, Euros
- Ostalgia Remembering the DDR
- Education and youth organisations in the DDR
- The status of women in the DDR and FRG
- Cuisine in Germany old and new
- Higher Education in Germany today
- German Refuse Management
- The cultural significance of the 2006 World Cup
- History of the Berlin Wall

- The Stasi its purpose and methods
- The legacy of the Stasi files
- Ossis and Wessis the "wall in German heads"
- Major events in Austrian history since 1945
- Political structure and major institutions of the FRG
- Political structure and major institutions of the DDR
- Political structure and major institutions of Austria
- The FRG as a federal state (Bund and Länder)
- The media in Germany today
- An important museum (of student's choice)
- Religion in the FRG since 1949
- The German transport network
- The FRG and the European Union
- The DDR and the Warsaw Pact
- Germans on holiday
- The Love Parade
- Neue deutsche Welle the flowering of German pop
- Deutsche Qualität successful German exports
- A German Land (of student's choice) geography, economy, character
- A prominent German politician / sportsperson / writer / artist / musician / director / actor / etc (of student's choice) of the period 1949 to the present day

## Timetable

Week 1     Mon     Introduction to Course (Sutherland)       11 – 15 July     Tues, Thurs     Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)       Week 2     Mon     Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)       18 – 22 July     Tues, Thurs     German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)       Week 3     Mon, Tues & German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)       25 – 29 July     Thurs       Week 4     Mon     German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)       1 – 5 August     Tues     Fall of the Wall and beyond (Sutherland)       Thurs     Growing up in the GDR (Szczepanski)       Week 5     Mon     Growing up in the GDR (Szczepanski)       8 – 12 August     Tues     Memories of the GDR (Raulea)       Thurs     Student Seminars (Millington)       Week 6     Mon, Tues & Student Seminars (Millington)       15 – 19 August     Thurs       MID TRIMESTER BREAK 22 August to 4 September       Week 7     Mon, Tues & Student Seminars (Millington)       5 – 9 September     Thurs       Week 8     Mon, Tues & Student Seminars (Millington)       12 – 16 September     Thurs       Week 9     Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)       19 – 23 September     Thurs       Week 10     Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)       27 - 30 September				
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Week 10 27 - 30 September  Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Thurs  Week 11 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Thurs  Week 12  Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Thurs	5 – 9 September Week 8	Mon, Tues & Thurs Mon, Tues &	Student Seminars (Millington)	
27 - 30 September Thurs  Week 11 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  3 - 7 October Thurs  Week 12 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	5 – 9 September Week 8 12 – 16 September	Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)	
Week 11 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian) 3 – 7 October Thurs  Week 12 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	5 – 9 September Week 8 12 – 16 September Week 9	Mon, Tues & Thurs Mon, Tues & Thurs Mon, Tues &	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)	
3 – 7 October Thurs  Week 12 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	5 – 9 September  Week 8  12 – 16 September  Week 9  19 – 23 September	Mon, Tues & Thurs Mon, Tues & Thurs Mon, Tues & Thurs Mon, Tues & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	
3 – 7 October Thurs  Week 12 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	5 – 9 September  Week 8  12 – 16 September  Week 9  19 – 23 September  Week 10	Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues &	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	
Week 12 Mon, Tues & Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	5 – 9 September  Week 8  12 – 16 September  Week 9  19 – 23 September  Week 10	Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues &	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	
	5 – 9 September  Week 8  12 – 16 September  Week 9  19 – 23 September  Week 10  27 - 30 September	Mon, Tues & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	
10 – 14 October Thurs	5 – 9 September  Week 8  12 – 16 September  Week 9  19 – 23 September  Week 10  27 - 30 September  Week 11	Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	
	5 – 9 September  Week 8  12 – 16 September  Week 9  19 – 23 September  Week 10  27 - 30 September  Week 11  3 – 7 October	Mon, Tues & Thurs  Mon, Tues & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)  Student Seminars (Millington)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)  Post-unification literature and film (Tempian)	

# Outline of Topics for the Film and Literature Section Dr Tempian (Weeks 9 - 12)

The literary texts and films in Section 3 of the course (Weeks 9-12) will be dealt with in the following order:

- 1. Schlink, Bernhard *The Reader*. London: Phoenix, 1999. ISBN: 0-75380-470-0
- 2. Schulze, Ingo *Simple Stories*. London: Vintage, 2002. 2nd ed. 3-10pp, 200-215pp, 272-280pp. 30pp from 304 pp. ISBN: 0-375-70512-0
- 3. Hermann, Judith *Summerhouse, Later: Stories*. New York, London: Harper Perennial, 2003. 1st ed. 185-205pp. 20 pp from 224pp. ISBN: 0-060-00687-0
- 4. Wolfgang Becker, *Good Bye, Lenin*! (Film, 120min)
- 5. Müller, Herta *Traveling on One Leg*. Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 2010. 1st ed. 18-33pp. 42-43pp. 64-70pp. 35pp from 149pp. ISBN: 0-810-12706-7
- 6. Özdamar, Emine *Mother Tongue*. Toronto: Coach House Press, 1994. 1st ed. 9-15pp. 6pp from 160. ISBN: 0-889-10464-6
- 7. Dischereit, Esther "Joemi's Table". Contemporary Jewish Writing in Germany: An Anthology. Ed. Leslie Morris, Karen Remmler. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002. 115-120pp. 129-131pp. 163-166pp. 10pp from 247pp. ISBN: 0-803-23940-8
- 8. Fatih Akin, *The Edge of Heaven* (Film, 116min)

Students are expected to read the text excerpts prior to the class which will include seminar discussions based on active group work.

#### **Background literature**

- Briel, Holger (ed). German Culture and Society: the Essential Glossary (2002).
- Burns, Rob (ed). German Cultural Studies: An Introduction (1995).
- Elsaesser, Thomas & Wedel, Michael (eds). The BFI Companion to German Cinema (1999).
- Furness, Raymond & Humble, M. (eds). *A Companion to Twentieth-Century German Literature* (1997).
- Phipps, Alison. Contemporary German Cultural Studies (2002).