

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

**GERMAN PROGRAMME
GERM 114 GERMAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE 1**

TRIMESTER 2 2012

16 July to 17 November 2012

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

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012

Study week: 22–26 October 2012

Examination/Assessment period: 26 October to 17 November 2012

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/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>.

Names and contact details

**Course Coordinator
and Lecturer:**

Dr Margaret Sutherland
Office: vZ615
Phone: 463 5975
Email: margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz

Lecturers:

Dr Richard Millington
Office: vZ613
Phone: 463 5976
Email: richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz

Senior Tutor:

Anke Szczepanski
Office: vZ602
Phone: 463 7497
Email: anke.szczepanski@vuw.ac.nz

Administrators:

Nina Cuccurullo
Office: vZ610
Phone: 463 5293
Email: nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz

Sarah Walton
Office: vZ610
Phone: 463 5318
Email: sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz

School Office Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Maori
& Pasifika Students** Dr Ross Woods
Office: vZ504
Phone: 463 5098
Email: ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz

**Contact Person for
Students with Disabilities** Dr Carolina Miranda
Office: vZ502
Phone: 463 5647
Email: carolina.miranda@vuw.ac.nz

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:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 3.10pm – 4.00pm KK (Kirk) 202

Teaching learning summary

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 noticeboard, vZ Level 6 opposite room vZ605, and on Blackboard.

Course Prescription

This course examines social developments and attitudes from 1949 to the time of German Reunification, as well as the historical, political and economic background to those developments and attitudes, and documents them 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 9–27 July 2012, 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.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. 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 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 – 5

The two Germanies

**Dr Sutherland
Dr Millington**

Section Two:

Weeks 6 – 8

Student Seminars

Dr Millington

Section Three:

Weeks 9 – 12

**Post-Unification Germany
in Literature and Film**

**Dr Sutherland
Dr Millington**

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 individually. Two or more students may present seminars on different aspects of the same topic in agreement with each other and the lecturer. 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 26 October - 17 November 2012.

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 4pm on **Monday, 10 September** (beginning of Week 7).

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 Office on Level 6 of von Zedlitz. The print-out must include a coversheet available from the SLC Office 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.

Language Learning Centre (LLC) Level 0, von Zedlitz Building

Do you want to...

- ...further improve your language skills outside of class time?
- ...access digital material for your course?
- ...watch the latest foreign language movies or television between classes?
- ...use exciting software tools to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking?
- ...get together with your classmates and practise conversation in a foreign language?
- ...become a language buddy?
- ...learn about useful tips and strategies that can help you with your language learning?

Then visit us and immerse yourself in the language of your choice in a friendly and supportive environment. For opening hours, upcoming events, and useful external links, check out our website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/llc

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:

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

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 www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.

Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (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. 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?
2. Who were the “guest workers” in West Germany and what effects did their presence have on the country economically and socially?
3. Jörg Schleyer maintains that the film the *Baader Meinhof Complex* “portrayed the RAF ... as ‘a merciless, ruthless gang of murderers’.” Discuss the methods used to portray the terrorists in the film.
4. Discussing at least three characters, examine the themes of loyalty, betrayal and sacrifice in the film *The Lives of Others*.
5. Investigate the situation of Robert Havemann and other dissidents in East Germany and their treatment by the state.
6. 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 21st 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
- Germany and the debt crisis
- 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 Refugee Management
- The cultural significance of the 2006 World Cup

- The legacy of the Stasi files
- Ossis and Wessis – the “wall in German heads”
- Major events in Austrian history since 1945
- Major events in Swiss 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
- Political structure and major institutions of Switzerland
- 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 16 – 22 July	Mon (Sutherland)	Introduction to Course. Federal Republic of Germany
	Wed, Thurs	Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
Week 2 23 – 29 July	Mon	Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
	Wed, Thurs	Terrorism and the <i>Baader Meinhof Complex</i> (Sutherland)
Week 3 30 – 5 August	Mon, Wed & Thurs	German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 4 6 – 12 August	Mon	German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
	Wed	Fall of the Wall and beyond (Sutherland)

	Thurs	Growing up in the GDR (Szczepanski)
Week 5 13 – 19 August	Mon, Wed & Thurs	<i>The Lives of Others</i> (Millington)
Week 6 20 – 26 August	Mon, Wed & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)
MID TRIMESTER BREAK 27 August to 9 September		
Week 7 10 – 16 September	Mon, Wed & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 8 17 – 23 September	Mon, Wed & Thurs	Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 9 24 – 30 September	Mon, Wed & Thurs	<i>The Reader</i> (Sutherland)
Week 10 1 - 7 October	Mon, Wed & Thurs	Trends in contemporary German Literature (Millington)
Week 11 8 – 14 October	Mon, Wed & Thurs	“Ostalgia” ; <i>Goodbye Lenin</i> (Sutherland)
Week 12 15 – 21 October	Mon, Wed & Thurs	Turkish Germans; German Turks: Özdamar and Akin (Millington)

Students are expected to have read the text excerpts prior to the class in which they will be discussed. Some of the films will be shown in class, while for others a separate screening will be organised. This will be announced both to the class and posted on Blackboard.

Some 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).