



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

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

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

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

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Study period: 21–25 October 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 25 October to 16 November 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

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

Dr Monica (Moni) Tempian
Office: vZ614
Phone: 463 5548
Email: monica.tempian@vuw.ac.nz

School 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 to 5.00pm Monday to Friday

Contact Person for Māori and Pasifika Students:

Dr Vanessa Frangville
Office: vZ703
Phone: 463 6463
Email: vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz

Contact Person for Students with Disabilities:

Dr Carolina Miranda
Office: vZ502
Phone: 463 5647
Email: carolina.miranda@vuw.ac.nz

School Website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/slc

Class times and locations

Three hours of lectures and/or seminars per week:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1.10pm – 2.00pm KK (Kirk) 107

Communication of additional information

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.

Further course information can be found on the German Programme noticeboard, vZ Level 6 opposite room vZ605.

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.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to:

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

Teaching format

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.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, each student must:

1. Submit the written work specified on or by the due dates
2. Present the seminar required for this course
3. Attend the examination at the end of the course
4. 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.

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.

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.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	One essay (1000 words) See the list of essay topics below	25%	1, 3, 4	Monday, 9 September
2	One seminar paper of 10 to 12 minutes 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.	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	12 August to 22 September
3	Class Participation	10%	1, 3, 4	15 July to 18 October
4	Two-hour examination. This is not an open book examination.	50%	1, 2, 3, 4	25 October to 16 November

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.

Submission and return of work

All assignments must include a cover sheet provided or available from the SLC main office. Assignments are to be handed in to the German assignment slot located to the left of the SLC main office area on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz. Marked work will either be returned in class or be made available for collection from the SLC main office. Please bring your student ID card with you when you come to collect your work.

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.

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.

Set texts

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

Texts can be purchased from Vic Books, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. It can also be ordered online at www.vicbooks.co.nz. Orders and enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Student feedback

Response to feedback for this course will be discussed in class or delivered via Blackboard. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades

- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the Library's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning. At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning.

You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website www.victoria.ac.nz/llc.

Course programme

Week 1 15 – 21 July	Mon: Introduction to Course. Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland) Wed, Thurs: Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
Week 2 22 – 28 July	Mon: Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland) Wed: Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland) Thurs: German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 3 29 July – 4 August	Mon, Wed, Thurs: German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 4 5 – 11 August	Mon: German Democratic Republic (Sutherland) Wed: <i>Der Vorleser</i> (Sutherland) Thurs: <i>Der Vorleser</i> (Sutherland)
Week 5 12 – 18 August	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 6 19 – 25 August	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Student Seminars (Millington)
MID TRIMESTER BREAK 26 August to 8 September	
Week 7 9 – 15 September	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Student Seminars (Millington)

Week 8 16 – 22 September	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 9 23 – 29 September	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Post-unification Germany in Literature and Film (Tempian)
Week 10 30 September - 6 October	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Post-unification Germany in Literature and Film (Tempian)
Week 11 7 – 13 October	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Post-unification Germany in Literature and Film (Tempian)
Week 12 14 – 20 October	Mon, Wed, Thurs: Post-unification Germany in Literature and Film (Tempian)

Students are expected to have read the text excerpts prior to the class in which they will be discussed. Some films may 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.

Essay information and deadline

The essay is worth 25% of the final mark and is due by 4pm on **Monday, 9 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 slot 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.**

Essay topics

1. Germany has had two “Grand Coalitions” (1966-1969 and 2005-2009). What is a Grand Coalition and what path has each of these coalitions taken?
2. Discuss the causes of the economic miracle in West Germany in the 1950s and 1960s and try to assess its impact on the lives of the citizens.

3. What was the student revolution that took place in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1968? Describe its activities and the aspirations of the participants.
4. Why did the East German government feel the need to construct a wall through Berlin? What effects did its construction have on the lives of East German citizens?
5. Investigate the situation of Robert Havemann and other dissidents in East Germany and their treatment by the state.
6. Identify some of the methods East Germans used to escape from their country and examine at least two of these in greater detail.
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 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 Refuse Management
- The cultural significance of the 2006 World Cup
- The legacy of the Stasi files
- Osis 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

Outline of Topics for the Film and Literature Section (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. Schulze, Ingo *Simple Stories*. London: Vintage, 2002. 2nd ed. 3-10pp, 200-215pp, 272-280pp. 30pp from 304 pp. ISBN: 0-375-70512-0
2. Hermann, Judith *Summerhouse, Later: Stories*. New York, London: Harper Perennial, 2003. 1st ed. 185-205pp. 20 pp from 224pp. ISBN: 0-060-00687-0
3. Özdamar, Emine *Mother Tongue*. Toronto: Coach House Press, 1994. 1st ed. 9-15pp. 6pp from 160. ISBN: 0-889-10464-6
4. 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
5. Wolfgang Becker, *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Film, 120min)
6. 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
7. Fatih Akin, *The Edge of Heaven* (Film, 116min)

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).