



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

**GERMAN PROGRAMME
GERM 114 TOPICS IN GERMAN CULTURE 1**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Names and contact details

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School office hours: 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday

Contact Person for Māori and Pasifika Students: Dr Carolina Miranda
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School Website: www.victoria.ac.nz/slc

Class times and locations

Three hours of lectures and/or seminars per week:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.00am - 9.50am HM (Hugh Mackenzie) LT103

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on Blackboard. Teaching staff are happy to discuss your concerns with you, or to provide additional information about the course.

Prescription

This course introduces students to the study of German culture by examining topics of importance for understanding the German-speaking world and how these are represented, whether historically or in the present day, in a selection of novels and films. The course is taught and assessed entirely in English.

Course content

This course is designed to introduce students to some key topics that have shaped culture in the German-speaking world. The topics focused on are “Journeys” and “War and Peace” (in Part One of the course) and “Society and the Individual” (in Part Two of the course). 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)

At the end of the course, students should be able to

1. critically analyse the narrative strategies and themes of German-language films and novels in English translation.
2. characterise the cultural, social and/or historical contexts of these works.
3. describe varying representations of particular topics across different films and novels.
4. demonstrate a general understanding of critical terms and concepts relating to the two genres discussed.

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 (MCRs)

- Students must obtain at least 40% in each piece of assessment in order to demonstrate the achievement of all CLOs in the course.
- Students must submit at least 8 of the 10 preparation worksheets.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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 one-trimester 20-point course should work approximately 200 hours over the trimester or on average 13 hours per week, including contact hours - i.e. in the case of GERM 114, 10 hours of private study outside class time. This private study time will involve reading and understanding the texts, preparing any worksheets required, researching and writing the essay and the seminar presentation and reading secondary literature.

Assessment requirements

GERM 114 is assessed by:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 One essay (1000 words). Essay topics will be posted on Blackboard by Week 2 of the course.	20%	1, 2, 3, 4	Monday, 21 September, 4 pm.
2 One seminar paper, either on a set topic or on a topic chosen by the student after consultation with the lecturer. The seminar topics will be posted on Blackboard in Week 1 of the course, and students sign up on Blackboard. These seminars will be researched and presented individually and are to be 10 to 12 minutes in length, plus time for discussion. The seminar topics are related thematically to the examples of literature and film being discussed each week. You may not choose the same topic for your essay as for your seminar.	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	These will take place in the Thursday classes from the second week of the course onwards.
3 Ten weekly preparation worksheets (2000 words in total). The worksheets are submitted in written form. Their purpose is to give students an incentive to do the set readings, familiarise themselves with the primary texts and ensure that they can contribute to class discussions in an informed manner. The 10 worksheets will thus contribute to the development of both textual analysis and communication skills.	25%	1,2, 3, 4	Worksheets for the first half of the course, counting 12.5% towards the final grade, will be completed by Thursday, 20 August. Worksheets for the second half of the course, counting 12.5% towards the final grade, will be completed by Thursday, 15 October.
4 Two-hour examination. This is not an open book	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	Within the

examination. The examination will cover all areas studied in the course, but there will be a choice of questions to be answered.		examination period from 23 October to 14 November 2015.
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Set texts

Max Frisch, *Homo Faber* (Modern Penguin Classics)

Erich Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Vintage)

Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader* (Phoenix)

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

Course programme

A full outline of the order in which texts and films are to be studied in the course is available on Blackboard.

Students are expected to have completed the relevant worksheets prior to the class in which they are to be discussed. Films will be shown either in class or at a time agreed upon with the students. Following the film screening, a copy of the film will be available for viewing in the Language Learning Centre.

Essay information and deadline

The essay is worth 20% of the final mark and is due by 4pm on **Monday, 21 September** (beginning of Week 9). The essay topics will be posted on blackboard in the second week of the trimester.

All essays **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.

Essays 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.

Submission and return of work

All written assessment tasks 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.

Extensions and 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.

Marking system

The marking system by letter grade is as follows:

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	75-79%
B	70-74%
B-	65-69%
C+	60-64%
C	55-59%
C-	50-54%
D	40-49% (fail)
E	0-39% (fail)

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 your courses are 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.

Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

I have thoroughly reviewed last year's student feedback and will discuss any changes that have been made to the course, as well as opportunities for improvement, with students in the first lecture. 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats

- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the University'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