

**Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics
German History through Movies 415-001
Spring Term 2010
Wednesday 3:30pm – 6:15pm (CRT-B63)**

Course Instructor: Barbara Merten-Brugger; (414) 258-7495;
mertenb2@uwm.edu
Office: CRT 885; phone: 229-4546
Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm and/or by appointment
Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm and/or by appointment

Herzlich Willkommen zu “German History through Movies!”

Syllabus

DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASS

German films have often been closely connected to the cultural and social background from which they materialized. For this reason many German movies can be looked at as stimulating commentaries on society, politics and culture. Thus, a wide variety of mostly German films will be viewed and be treated as cultural artifacts that will enlighten us about important facts and topics in German history and culture. The course is designed for students with no background in either film or German history but who are either interested or are curious about one or the other. The class sessions are divided in an introductory lecture, related readings, discussions and the screening of a film with a follow-up discussion.

LEARNING TARGETS

- Students will study the history of Germany from 1871-2010 and look at movies to see how the respective era in its historical relevance is reflected in the various movies.
- Students will analyze important issues in German history and culture, by examining, discussing and writing about significant movies.
- Students will be encouraged to make connections and comparisons to their own perspective in regard to specific cultural and historical contexts behind each movie.
- Students will learn essential film vocabulary in order to have an active vocabulary for discussions and written expression.
- Students will also develop their oral and written competence through a variety of oral and written assignments.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Attendance

Students are expected to **attend class regularly**, do all assignments, preparatory readings and participate in the discussion of the film. In this class after the 2nd unexcused absence this portion of the grade will be reduced by 10 % per absence. Attendance has to be closely linked to homework because in order to be able to participate fully in each class, you will have to have completed all the homework activities assigned for that particular day and you will need to watch the scheduled movie in order to do the assignments.

Every absence from class is naturally a loss —usually one which can never be made up, as a major part of this class will be devoted to the screening and discussion of movies we watch as a group. It is essential that you are there since we meet only once a week. If you are sick, please make sure you send an e-mail.

2. Homework

2.1 An important part of the course will be the **preparatory reading**, which needs to be completed ahead of the next scheduled class. The readings will be our springboard for the specific movies and related discussions. Please note: **Your first reading assignment will have to be done by Wednesday, January 27, 2010.**

2.2 Students will be provided with an opportunity to express themselves in written form and will receive usually **three interpretive questions on a film analysis sheet after each screening** and these questions need to be answered in writing. The assignment should be handed in promptly one week after each screening. **No late assignments are accepted.** The following websites might be helpful to get more details on the various movies when working on the film analysis:

<http://www.film.de/>

<http://www.filmkritiken.org/>

<http://outnow.ch/>

<http://www.filmstarts.de/>

<http://www.filmz.de/>

2.3 In addition, the students will be provided with a vocabulary list of about 10-15 new words each week in order to gain essential film vocabulary. A mini-quiz can be expected at the beginning of each class. The vocabulary and phrase list has to be learned as it is expected that the vocabulary is used in class to develop the stylistic competence in discussions. There will be a **graded vocabulary test** at the end of the course and there will be a **graded history-mini-quiz** every other week.

3. Final Assignment

There will be a **final assignment** in which the student will have to elaborate in depth on how the respective movie will fit into the respective historical era.

The final paper will be 3-4 pages. Use 1" margins on all sides, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with page numbers. Your own original ideas are of interest, not someone else's, nor a paraphrase of our comments from class, class-discussions, or the readings themselves. Attention should be paid to good organization and logical transitions between paragraphs. Base your arguments on the sections of the films and the historic reference texts; give concrete examples; and avoid vague impressions. If you use ideas or quotes from critical literature (books, articles, internet, etc.), you need to document your sources and give credit to the respective source (whether you quote directly or rephrase their ideas)—otherwise you violate academic integrity and commit plagiarism (see below for policy).

If you do not have access to a German spell-check, please try this link
<http://www.techsupportforum.com/microsoft-support/windows-xp-support/143752-how-make-microsoft-spell-check-german.html>

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Index cards to start a personal vocabulary file
- Reading material for class available on D2L, this document may be printed for easy reference during classroom discussions
- 3-ring binder
- Good German-English dictionary

EVALUATION SUMMARY:

Attendance	20%
Vocabulary Test	9%
History-Miniquiz	5%
Preparation and class room participation	20%
Completion of Film analysis sheets	36%
Final Assignment	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A+	98-100*	C+	78-79
A	93-97	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
		F	59 and below

(Missed test or assignments = 0)

(* No A+ for final grades)

"In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an H1N1 swine flu outbreak, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to this syllabus that will supersede this version."

OTHER PARTICULARS:

E-mail is a good way to communicate but not necessarily a good way to discuss problems. Please feel free to schedule an appointment. I will **always** try to take the time to help you with any problems or issues you may have related to the material discussed in class. Please do not hesitate to talk to me if you feel you are having trouble.

Please make sure you will save three of your best homework assignments for the portfolio you have started in 331. When you decided to put a particular assignment in your portfolio, make sure you have both in your portfolio, the original with commentary by the instructor and the corrected version.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY AND OTHER POLICIES:

If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of the course, please contact me as soon as possible. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the requirements of this course, including what are expected of you in class, i.e., participation, homework, tests, or anything else, discuss this with me as soon as possible. You are responsible for reading this syllabus thoroughly and understanding the requirements and assessment measures for this course.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics intends to comply with the UWM policy on Academic Misconduct and the Students with Disabilities Act. For additional university policies, see Appendix C in UWM Timetable.

The following link will provide you also with a link to the Secretary of the University Web site (<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>) and contains the following University policies:

1. Students with disabilities
2. Religious observances
3. Students called to active military duty
4. Incompletes
5. Discriminatory conduct
6. Academic misconduct
7. Complaint procedures
8. Grade appeal procedures

415 SEMESTERPLAN

Please write down all homework assignments.
 Course schedule may be subject to change by instructor.

Pages = refers to pages from the PDF-pack **Filmanalyse** = Film analysis
HAG = Hausaufgaben (homework)

Woche	Inhalt	Hausaufgaben (which are due)
27. Januar	Begrüßung, Einführung in den Kurs, Semesterplan Gründung des deutschen Reiches Erster Weltkrieg Movie: „Im Westen nichts Neues“ (Ausgewählte Kapitel)	1. PDF Package: History: pages 4-10 2. Excerpts from E. M. Remarque's <i>Im Westen nichts Neues/All quiet in the West</i> , pages 11-25
03. Febr.	Mini-Geschichtsquiz I Movie: „Heimat“ Weimarer Republik	1. PDF package: pages 27-31 2. Filmbblatt I: „Im Westen nichts Neues“
10. Febr.	Wortschatzquiz I Movie: „The Comedian Harmonists“ Dokumentarfilm (Ausschnitte: Hitlers Machtergreifung)	1. book excerpts: Heinrich Böll <i>Billard um halb zehn</i> , page 26 2. Wortschatz I
17. Febr.	Mini-Geschichtsquiz II Nationalsozialismus Zweiter Weltkrieg Movie: „Stalingrad“ (Auszüge)	1. PDF package pages 32-42 2. Filmbblatt II: „The Comedian Harmonists“

<p>24. Febr.</p>	<p>Wortschatzquiz II</p> <p>Film: „Sophie Scholl“</p> <p>Film: „Die Fälscher“</p>	<p>1. Book excerpts: Bertold Brecht <i>Der Radwechsel</i> page 43 + Max Frisch <i>Der andorranische Jude</i> page 44 3. Wortschatz II</p>
<p>03. März</p>	<p>Fortsetzung: „Die Fälscher“</p> <p>Jeopardy Game: Geschichte 1871-1945</p> <p>Deutschland in der Nachkriegszeit</p>	<p>1. PDF package page 45-55</p> <p>2. Review History Facts: 1945-2010</p> <p>3. Filmbblatt III: „Sophie Scholl“</p>
<p>10. März</p>	<p>Wortschatzquiz III</p> <p>Film: „Das Wunder von Bern“</p>	<p>1. Book excerpts: Kurzgeschichte: Wolfgang Borchert, <i>Nachts schlafen die Ratten doch</i>, page 56</p> <p>2. Wortschatz III</p> <p>3. Filmbblatt: „Die Fälscher“</p>
<p>17. März</p>	<p>Mini-Geschichtsquiz III</p> <p>Die zwei deutschen Staaten</p> <p>Film: „Das Versprechen“</p>	<p>1. PDF package pages 57-60</p> <p>3. Filmbblatt V: „Das Wunder von Bern“</p>
<p>24. März</p>	<p>Ferien!</p>	
<p>31. März</p>	<p>Wortschatzquiz IV</p> <p>Film: „Was tun wenn's brennt“</p>	<p>1. Song: Wolf Biermann <i>Als wir ans Ufer kamen</i> page 61</p> <p>2. Wortschatz IV</p> <p>3. Filmbblatt VI: „Das Versprechen“</p>

07. April	Mini-Geschichtsquiz IV Film: „Das Leben der Anderen“	2. Filmblatt VII: „Was tun wenn's brennt“
14. April	Wortschatzquiz V Die friedliche Revolution <i>Dokumentarfilm (Der Fall der Mauer)</i>	1. PDF package page 62-64 2. Wortschatz V 3. Filmblatt VIII: „Das Leben der Anderen“
21. April	Wortschatzquiz VI Der Weg zur deutschen Einheit Film: „Goodbye Lenin“	1. Book excerpts: Volker Braun <i>Das Eigentum</i> page 65 2. Wortschatz VI
05. Mai	Wortschatzquiz VII Quiz: Geschichte 1945-2010 (Board-game) Film: „Gegen die Wand“ oder „Leroy“ oder „Kebab Connection“ wird als Alternative gezeigt.	1. PDF package pages 66-75 2. Wortschatz VII 3. Review History Facts: 1945-2010
12. Mai	Wrap-up Mini-Geschichtsquiz V Wortschatztest (graded / 9%) Präsentationen der Graduate Studenten (max. 10 Min. jeder) Movie Trivia Game	1. Filmblatt IX: „Gegen die Wand“ oder „Kebab Connection“ oder „Leroy“ 2. Due: Final-in depth-assignment (Filmanalyse Projekt): „Good bye Lenin“
	Schöne Ferien!	