

The University of Victoria
Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies

German Studies 401: Popular Culture (in German)

Fall 2020
W 16:30 – 17:50
online

Instructor: Dr. Ulf Schuetze
Office: CLE D253
Office hours: Th 14:00 to 15:00
Tel. 721 - 7323
E-Mail: ulfs@uvic.ca

<http://www.uvic.ca/humanities/germanicslavic/>

Description

In this course, we explore popular cultural trends in German-speaking countries with emphasis on literature music, film, and cultural traditions in terms of their historical development and contemporary significance. All four language skills are developed and practiced so that students can effectively discuss and analyze the material in German.

Format

This is a blended learning course that combines asynchronous and synchronous elements. All material is available on Brightspaces. Every Wednesday, there is a live Zoom session from 16.30 to 17.50 that is used to review the material, to answer questions, engage in discussions and do group work.

Required Texts

All material will be supplied by the instructor on Brightspaces.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcome is to be able to discuss, analyze and interpret authentic texts (fiction and non-fiction) in written and oral formats of various genres in German.

The course is taught in German.

Marking Scheme

A+	90 -100	B-	70 – 72
A	85 – 89	C+	65 – 69
A-	80 – 84	C	60 – 64
B+	77 – 79	D	50 – 59
B	73 – 76	F	0 – 49

To familiarize yourself with the UVic grading guidelines, please consult the University Calendar.

Note (from the University calendar): An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.

Assignments/Course Requirements

Participation (in Zoom sessions)	15%
Two written assignments (25% per assignment) (two at home assignments of about 1000 words per assignment; one on the short stories and one on the cultural content covered in class)	50%
Oral Presentation on the film (a mix of answering pre-prepared and spontaneous questions; 15 minutes)	20%
Poster presentation (on a topic of your choice related to the course; 15 minutes)	15%

Course Policies

Registration:

Students are not permitted to take GMST 301 while taking another language course in German. Furthermore, students are not permitted to take any course out of sequence (i.e. to take a higher level course (GMST 301) before a lower-level course (GMST 202). Waitlisted students must attend the class in which they wish to register in order to be admitted into the course. Students who do not attend class within the first seven calendar days of the course's beginning may be deregistered.

Add/Drop Deadlines:

It is the student's responsibility to attend to ADD/DROP dates as published on page 6 in the Calendar and the Undergraduate Registration Guide and Timetable. You will not necessarily be dropped automatically from a class that you do not attend.

Placement:

Students are expected to be honest and forthcoming about their level of German knowledge. The department reserves the right to place students with previous knowledge of German at an appropriate level.

Communication

The most efficient way to talk to your instructor is after class or during office hours. If you decide to communicate by email, please be advised that instructors only check and answer UVic emails from Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. PST. Due to the volume of emails received by instructors, there can be delay of 72 hours or more until your email is being answered. When emailing your instructor, please use a proper form of address and clearly state your question.

Absences and Incomplete Work:

Regular attendance, completion of in-class tests and quizzes and the punctual submission of assignments and/or other work are important and mandatory components of completing the course successfully. If an in-class test or quiz is missed, proper documentation (in form a note from UVic's medial or counseling office) is required to reschedule the test or quiz. A rescheduled test or quiz is to be written the first business day after the time period, the student is excused for, expires. The instructor reserves the right to not accept assignments and/or other work that is submitted past the deadline. Further to this, 5% of the mark will be taken off for each day the assignment and/or other work is handed in late.

Concessions and Documentation:

Students may ask for an academic concession, such as the rescheduling of a quiz or test or an extension for an assignment, upon providing proper documentation of a personal or medical affliction or of a time conflict.

Proper documentation would include a doctor's note or a memo from Counseling Services, or a memo from a coach, employer or faculty member. It must be dated before or close to the time of the missed work or classes.

Withdrawals and Deferrals:

Students who miss more than six classes for documented medical or personal reasons may still be asked to apply for a *backdated withdrawal*. Even when the reasons for failing to meet course requirements are valid, it is neither academically sound nor fair to others in the course to allow students missing significant amounts of work to continue in the course and receive credit.

Students who miss substantial amounts of class and assignments without documentation will be asked to withdraw, as they will receive an N at the end of the semester. Students are to familiarize themselves with the withdrawal dates on page 6 of the academic calendar.

Students may only apply for a *course deferral* if a) they have serious and documented medical or personal reasons for not completing some of the end-of-term requirements and b) they have already completed practically all the course requirements at the time of their application.

In situations in which a student cannot complete the course requirements and a deferral is not a viable option, he or she must have completed 80% of the course requirements for an **AEG (aegrotat)** grade to be assigned.

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Actions such as plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials used in academic evaluations, cheating or aiding others to cheat violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offences. You must inform yourself about the university regulations (see the [Uvic Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar).

Please note that it is not allowed to use automated translation programs (such as google) or have advanced German speakers edit, rework, and/or write your assignments.

Unauthorized Use of an Editor

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work. The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.

Classroom Conduct:

Since the quality of the learning environment is paramount, every student has the right to learn and your instructor has the duty to perform his or her teaching duties in a cooperative, respectful, non-offensive, distraction-free and effective manner. Students using their laptops or smart phones during class are expected to use them solely for accessing and working with course-related materials. The use of earphones is prohibited at all times unless the instructor explicitly states otherwise.

Accessibility Statement:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please consult with the Center for Accessible Learning (CAL). CAL staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Information on Campus Services supporting Student Wellbeing and Success

A note to remind you that there are a number of services available to you at UVic:

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* <http://www.uvic.ca/services/health/>

Center for Accessible Learning (CAL) - *Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the CAL as soon as possible. CAL staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations.* <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

Commitment to Inclusivity and Diversity:

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing, and protecting a positive, supportive, and safe learning and working environment for all of its members.

Course Plan and Syllabus

Week of ...

Sept 7	Introduction / Games
Sept 14	Kunstlied / Volkslied / from Schubert to Rammstein
Sept 21	Hexenkult in der Literatur: damals und heute
Sept 28	Feiertage: was, woher und warum
Oct 5	Written Assignment due: Oct 7 Bonus: Udo Lindenberg "Götterhämmerung"
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day: Oct 12 Film
Oct 19	Film
Oct 26:	Oral exams (via Zoom): Oct 28
Nov 2	Herman Hesse: Der Dichter
Nov 9	Reading Break: Nov 9 – 11
Nov 16	Written Assignment due: Nov 18 Bonus: Silbermond: Irgendwas bleibt
Nov 23	Wilfried N'Sondé: On the Run
Nov 30	Poster
	last day of class: Wednesday, Dec 2 nd