

GERM 114 : GERMAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE 1

2/3 - 2006

GERM 114 is a Second Trimester course of three hours per week, involving lectures and seminar discussion.

COURSE AIMS

GERM 114 aims to introduce the student 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 OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students 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.

TEACHERS

Dr Margaret Sutherland (Course Co-ordinator)	Room vZ 615	Tel. 463-5975
Dr Richard Millington	Room vZ 613	Tel. 463-5976
Dr Monica Tempian	Room vZ 614	Tel. 463-5548

(Some lectures may also be given by guest speakers from outside the University.)

All staff are happy to discuss students' concerns with them at any time, or to provide additional information about the course. Such information is regularly given in class announcements and on Blackboard. German staff have no specially designated office hours, but students may make an appointment with the German Administrator, if the staff member they wish to see is unavailable for consultation at any time.

CLASS TIMES & ROOMS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	5 – 6 pm	Murphy LT101
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FIRST MEETING

For ALL GERM 114 students: Tuesday, 11 July 2006	5.10 pm	Murphy LT101
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SET TEXTS

Students are asked to buy two texts:

1. Bernhard Schlink's novel, *The Reader* (\$24.95), available at VicBooks. It will be used in Weeks 4 and 5.
2. The *GERM 114 Handbook* available from Lisa Kenny in the SAELC Reception office in the **August vacation**. It will be used from Week 9.

TEACHING METHOD

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.

ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

In addition to the three class hours, eight to eleven additional hours per week. This will naturally vary according to the knowledge of Germany with which the student comes to the course.

ASSESSMENT

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:

One essay which counts 30% towards the final result. **See the list of essay topics below.**

One seminar paper on a set topic. These seminars will be researched and presented in groups, but each group member is expected to do an equal share of the work and to take over part of the presentation. The seminar counts 20% towards the final result.

A final two-hour examination in October or November. This is not an open book exam. It counts 50% towards the final result.

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.**

The examination will cover all areas studied in the course, but students will have a choice of questions to be answered.

THE ESSAY

The essay is worth 30% of the final mark. It is to be posted through the GERM slot to the left of the reception desk on Floor 6 of von Zedlitz by 5 pm on **Monday, 14 August** (the beginning of Week 6). Fill out and attach to it an Assignment Cover Sheet, available at the desk or on Blackboard.

ESSAY DEADLINE

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 receive Terms (see below).

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!)
- If typed, it should be with double-spacing (i.e. vertical spacing between lines).
- Use only one side of the paper.
- Give page-numbers.

A choice of topics is given below. **Note that you may not choose the same topic for your essay and your seminar.**

ESSAY TOPICS

1. Examine and explain the electoral system introduced into West Germany in 1949.
2. How did the Economic Miracle come about in West Germany and what effects did it have on German society?
3. Outline the activities and beliefs of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group in the Federal Republic of Germany.
4. Discuss some of the methods used by East German citizens to attempt to escape the regime in the GDR.
5. What was the Stasi in East Germany and how did it operate?
6. Who are the Sorbs? Examine their situation during the Regime of the German Democratic Republic and today.
7. Discuss the significance of reading and the inability to read in Bernhard Schlink's novel, *The Reader*.



Aftermath of bombing by Baader-Meinhof Gang

POSSIBLE SEMINAR TOPICS

Below is a list of possible seminar topics you may choose from. **Please Note: You may not choose the same topic for your seminar as for your essay.**

- The 2005 general election and the new Grand Coalition
- Unemployment and recent social welfare reforms
- Immigration and citizenship laws today
- Turkish Berlin
- Die Russlanddeutschen (Russia-Germans)
- Berlin as the new capital city
- The new Holocaust memorial
- Neo-Nazis and xenophobia
- Currency reform: Ost-Marks, D-Marks, Euros
- *Ostalgia* - Remembering the DDR
- Socialism - theory and practice in the DDR
- Everyday life in the DDR
- Cuisine in Germany - old and new
- Higher Education in Germany today
- The Green movement
- Refuse management
- Soccer
- History of the Berlin Wall
- Family life since 1949
- Austrian 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
- The FRG as a federal state (*Bund and Länder*)
- The media in Germany today
- Important museums
- A German *Land* (of student's choice) - geography, economy, character
- Religion since 1949
- The German transport network
- The FRG and the European Union
- The DDR and the Warsaw Pact
- Germans on holiday
- The Love Parade
- *Deutsche Qualität* - successful German exports
- A prominent German politician / sportsperson / writer / artist / musician / director / actor / etc. (of student's choice)



Holocaust Memorial



Berlin Wall

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: regular attendance at a minimum of 80% of the course, satisfactory completion of the two essays, presentation of the seminar, and completion of the final examination. Unless informed to the contrary, students may assume they have been awarded Terms.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND STAFF CONDUCT

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean of your faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is 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. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk!

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Co-ordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available.

Disability Support Services are located on:

Level 1, Robert Stout Bldg Telephone: 463-6070 Email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is:

Andrew Barke (vZ 705) Telephone: 463-6467 Email: andrew.barke@vuw.ac.nz

STUDENT SUPPORT

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, the following staff members will either help you directly or quickly put you in contact with someone who can.

	Staff Member	Location
FHSS	Dr Allison Kirkman	Murphy Building, Room 407
Law	Kirstin Harvey	Old Govt Building, Room 103
Science, Architecture and Design	Liz Richardson	Cotton Building, Room 150
Commerce and Administration	Colin Jeffcoat	Railway West Wing, Room 119
Kaiwawao Maori	Liz Rawhiti	Old Kirk, Room 007
Manaaki Pihipihinga	Melissa Dunlop	14 Kelburn Pde, Room 109D
Victoria International	Matthias Nebel	Rutherford House, Room 206

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support services.

Find out more at: www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

Email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building:

Telephone: 463 6983 or 463 6984

Email: education@vuwsa.org.nz

Contact Person for Maori and Pacific Students

Dr Keren Smith (vZ 514)

Telephone: 463-5789

E-mail: keren.smith@vuw.ac.nz

TIMETABLE FOR GERM 114

Week 1	Tue	11 July	Introduction to Course (Sutherland)
	Wed, Thu	12 - 13 July	Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
Week 2	Tue	18 July	Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
	Wed, Thu	19 - 20 July	German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 3	Tue - Thu	25 - 27 July	German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 4	Tue	1 August	Fall of the Wall and beyond (Sutherland)
	Wed	2 August	Growing up in the GDR (Szczepanski)
	Thu	3 August	Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – lecture (Rogers)
Week 5	Tue	8 August	German Art (Paulet)
	Wed	9 August	German Music (Berkahn)
	Thu	10 August	Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – discussion (Rogers)
Week 6	Tue - Thu	15 – 17 August	Student Seminars (Millington)
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK			
Week 7 - 8	Tue - Thu	5 - 14 Sept	Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 9	Tue - Thu	19 - 21 Sept	Post-war Times – film (Tempian)
Week 10	Tue	26 Sept	Political Fabric – literature (Tempian)
	Wed, Thu	27 - 28 Sept	Facing Terrorism – film (Tempian)
Week 11	Tue	3 October	Facing Terrorism – film (Tempian)
	Wed, Thu	4 - 5 October	A Changing World – literature (Tempian)
Week 12	Tue - Thu	10–12 October	Reunification – film (Tempian)

OUTLINE OF TOPICS FOR FILM AND LITERATURE SECTION - DR TEMPIAN (WEEKS 9 – 12)

1. **Post-war Times.** The “Economic Miracle” of the 50ies: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (Film, 115min).
2. **The Political Fabric** in Literary Perspective: Wolf Biermann, *The Ballad of the Stasi* (1967, text and recordings); Günter Grass, *My Century* (1999, text excerpts).
3. **Facing Terrorism.** The Intellectual Debate on Political Terrorism in the Late 1970's: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Alexander Kluge, Volker Schlöndorff, Edgar Reitz, Wolf Biermann, Heinrich Böll *Germany in Autumn* (Film, 100min).

4. **A Changing World.** Minority Writing in Germany: Emine Özdamar, *Mother Tongue* (1990, text excerpts); Herta Müller, *Traveling on One Leg* (1992, text excerpts); Esther Dischereit, *Joëmi's Table: a Jewish Story* (1988, text excerpts).
5. **Reunification:** Wolfgang Becker, *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Film, 120min).

Students are expected to read the text excerpts prior to the class which will include seminar discussions based on active group work.

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).