

# GERM 114 : GERMAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE 1

**2/3 - 2007**

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

## COURSE AIMS

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 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

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday	3.10pm – 4 pm	Murphy LT101
--------------------------------	---------------	--------------

## FIRST MEETING

The first meeting for ALL GERM 114 students is on:

Monday, 9 July 2007	3.10 pm	Murphy LT101
---------------------	---------	--------------

## SET TEXTS

Students are asked to buy two texts:

- Bernhard Schlink's novel, *The Reader* (\$27.99), available at Vic Books. It will be used in Weeks 4 and 5.
- The GERM 114 Handbook available from the University Notes Shop.

## 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:

1. One essay which counts 30% towards the final result. **See the list of essay topics below.**
2. 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.
3. A final two-hour examination to be held in the examination period from 19 October – 10 November 2007. 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 and is due by 5pm on **Monday, 13 August** (beginning of Week 6).

All assignments **must be submitted in two forms:**

1. **By email** to the German Programme Administrator at [lisa.kenny@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lisa.kenny@vuw.ac.nz);

2. **AND** as a **print-out** to be handed in to the German assignment box located to the left of the SAELC Reception area on Level 6 of von Zedlitz. The print-out must include a cover sheet available from SAELC Reception or Blackboard.

**Assignments will not be considered complete until submitted in both forms.**

## 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.

## ESSAY TOPICS

A choice of topics is given below.

**Note:** You **MAY NOT** choose the same topic for your essay and your seminar.

1. Discuss the main events that occurred in Germany between 1945 and 1949, the year when two separate Germanies were established.
2. Who were the “guest workers” in West Germany and what effects did their presence have on the country economically and socially?
3. What was the Berlin Wall? Examine reactions from the Communist and the non-Communist world to the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.
4. Examine the West German anti-nuclear movement in the 1980s and its effects.
5. What was the attitude of East Germany to sport and sporting events? Examine the lives of some of their prominent sporting men and/or women to illustrate your answer.



**Berlin Wall**

6. What methods did the authorities of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) use to keep tabs on their citizens?
7. Investigate the situation of Robert Havemann and other dissidents in East Germany and their treatment by the state.
8. Discuss the characterisation of Hanna Schmitz and Michael Berg in Bernhard Schlink's novel, *The Reader*.

### POSSIBLE 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.

**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
- *Ostalgie* - 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



Holocaust Memorial



Jewish Museum, Berlin

- 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)



European Union

### MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: regular attendance at **at least 80%** of **all three sections** of the course, satisfactory completion of the essay, 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

**A COPY OF THE GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES CAN BE FOUND ON BLACKBOARD FOR THIS COURSE.**

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

Andrew Barke (vZ 705)

Phone: 463-6467

E-mail: [andrew.barke@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:andrew.barke@vuw.ac.nz)

The School's contact Person for Maori and Pacific Students is:

Dr Keren Smith (vZ 514)

Phone: 463-5789

E-mail: [keren.smith@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:keren.smith@vuw.ac.nz)

**TIMETABLE**

<b>Week 1</b>	Mon W, Th	9 July 11, 12 July	Introduction to Course (Sutherland) Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
<b>Week 2</b>	Mon W, Th	16 July 18, 19 July	Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland) German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
<b>Week 3</b>	M, W, Th	23, 25, 26 July	German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
<b>Week 4</b>	Mon Wed Thu	30 July 1 Aug 2 Aug	Fall of the Wall and beyond (Sutherland) Growing up in the GDR (Szczepanski) Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – lecture (Rogers)
<b>Week 5</b>	Mon Wed Thu	6 Aug 8 Aug 9 Aug	German Art (Paulet) Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – discussion (Rogers) Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – discussion (Sutherland)
<b>Week 6</b>	M, W, Th	13, 15, 16 Aug	Student Seminars (Millington)
<b>M I D - T R I M E S T E R B R E A K</b>			
<b>Week 7</b>	M, W, Th	3, 5, 6 Sept	Student Seminars (Millington)
<b>Week 8</b>	M, W, Th	10, 12, 13 Sept	Student Seminars (Millington)
<b>Week 9</b>	M, W, Th	17, 19, 20 Sept	Post-war Times – film (Tempian)
<b>Week 10</b>	Mon Wed Thu	24 Sept 26 Sept 27 Sept	Post-war Times – film (Tempian) Political Fabric – literature (Tempian) Political Fabric – film (Tempian)
<b>Week 11</b>	M, W Thu	1, 3 Oct 4 Oct	Political Fabric – film and literature (Tempian) Reunification – film (Tempian)
<b>Week 12</b>	M, W, Th	8, 10, 11 Oct	Reunification – film (Tempian)

**DETAILED OUTLINE OF TOPICS FOR THE FILM AND LITERATURE SECTION****Dr Monica Tempian (Weeks 9 – 12)**

1. **Post-war Times.** The “Economic Miracle” of the 50ies as reflected by the New German Cinema: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *The Marriage of Maria Braun* (Film, 115min).
2. **The Political Fabric** in Artistic Perspective: Wolf Biermann, *The Ballad of the Stasi* (1967, text and recordings); Günter Grass, *My Century* (1999, text excerpts); Heinrich Böll, *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum* (Film, 100min); extension activity: Heinrich Böll, *Murke’s Collected Silences* (1958, text).
3. **Reunification:** Wolfgang Becker, *Good Bye, Lenin!* (Film, 120min); extension activity: Judith Hermann, *The Summerhouse, Later: Stories* (1998, text).

**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).