



**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**GERMAN PROGRAMME  
GERM 114 GERMAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE 1**

**TRIMESTER 2 2009**

13 July to 15 November 2009

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October

Study week: 19 to 23 October

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 14 November. All students enrolled in the course are expected to be available during this period.

**Names and contact details**

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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. 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 and locations

Three hours of lectures and/or seminars per week:

Tues, Wed, Thurs

3.10 – 4.00 pm

Easterfield (EA) 206

## Course delivery

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.

## Communication of additional information

Further course information can be found on the German Programme notice board, VZ Level 6 opposite the German library, and on Blackboard.

## Course content

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.

## Learning objectives

Students passing the course 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.

## Expected workload

In addition to the three class hours, students can expect to spend eight to eleven additional hours per week on this course. This will naturally vary according to the knowledge of German and the knowledge of Germany with which the student comes to the course.

## Course materials

### Set Texts

Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader* (Phoenix)

*GERM 114 Student Notes*

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

## Course programme

### Section One:

Weeks 1 – 4

The two Germanies

Dr Sutherland

Weeks 4 – 5

*The Reader*

### Section Two:

Weeks 5 – 8

Student Seminars

Dr Millington

### Section Three:

Weeks 9 – 12

Post-War Germany  
In Literature and film

Dr Sutherland and  
Dr Millington

Please refer to the end of this Course Outline for more detailed timetable information.

## Assessment requirements

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. This is not an open book exam. It counts 50% towards the final result. All students enrolled in the course are expected to be available during the examination period 27 October - 14 November.

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.** Students will be able to sign up for their seminar topics and dates on Blackboard.

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

## 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.

## Essay Information and Deadline

The essay is worth 30% of the final mark and is due by 5pm on **Monday, 17 August** (beginning of Week 6).

All assignments **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 box located to the left of the School of Languages and Cultures Reception area on Level 6 of von Zedlitz. The print-out must include a cover sheet available from SLC Reception or Blackboard.

**Assignments 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.

A choice of topics is given below. **Note: You MAY NOT choose the same topic for your essay and your seminar.**

## Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Submit the written work specified on or by the due dates
- b) Present the seminar required for this course
- c) Attend the examination at the end of the course
- d) Attend at least 80% of all three sections of the course.

Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume they have met the mandatory course requirements.

## Statement on legibility

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.

## Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

## Essay topics

1. Outline the main events that occurred in Germany between 1945 and 1949, the year when two separate Germanies were established.
2. Examine the history of the Green Party in the Federal Republic of Germany and its contribution to raising awareness of environmental issues in society.
3. Outline the activities and beliefs of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group in the Federal Republic of Germany.
4. What was the Berlin Wall? Examine reactions from the Communist and the non-Communist world to the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.
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.
6. Germany has had two "Grand Coalitions" (1966-69 and 2005-2009). What is a Grand Coalition and what path has each of these coalitions taken?
7. Discuss the measures that the government of the Federal Republic of Germany introduced in 1990 in order to ensure a smooth unification process with East Germany.
8. **EITHER**

Discuss the characterisation of Hanna Schmitz and Michael Berg in Bernhard Schlink's novel *The Reader*.

**OR**

Discuss the relationship between the three parts of Bernhard Schlink's novel, *The Reader*.

## 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.

**Please Note: You may not choose the same topic for your seminar as for your essay.**

- The German military contribution in Kosovo and Afghanistan
- Growth and stagnation in East Germany since reunification
- Immigration and citizenship since reunification
- Turkish Germans in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- The return of the Russia-Germans
- Moving the capital from Bonn to Berlin
- The Holocaust memorial in Berlin
- Neo-Nazis and xenophobia
- Currency reform: Ost-Marks, D-Marks, Euros
- Ostalgia - Remembering the DDR
- Education and youth organisations in the DDR

Turkish Berlin



- The status of women in the DDR and FRG
- Cuisine in Germany - old and new
- Higher Education in Germany today
- German Refuse Management
- The cultural significance of the 2006 World Cup
- History of the Berlin Wall
- The Stasi – its purpose and methods
- The legacy of the Stasi files
- Osis and Wessis – the “wall in German heads”
- Major events in 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
- An important museum (of student’s choice)
- Religion in the FRG since 1949
- The German transport network
- The FRG and the European Union
- The DDR and the Warsaw Pact
- Germans on holiday
- The Love Parade
- *Neue deutsche Welle* – the flowering of German pop
- *Deutsche Qualität* - successful German exports
- A German *Land* (of student’s choice) - geography, economy, character
- A prominent German politician / sportsperson / writer / artist / musician / director / actor / etc (of student’s choice)



The Berlin Wall



Love Parade, Berlin



## Timetable

Week 1 13 – 17 July	Tues W, Th	Introduction to Course (Sutherland) Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland)
Week 2 20 – 24 July	Tues W, Th	Federal Republic of Germany (Sutherland) German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 3 27 – 31 July	T, W, Th	German Democratic Republic (Sutherland)
Week 4 3 – 7 August	Tues Wed Thu	Fall of the Wall and beyond (Sutherland) Growing up in the GDR (Szczepanski) Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – lecture (Sutherland)
Week 5 10 – 14 August	Tues Wed Thu	Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – discussion (Sutherland) Schlink, <i>The Reader</i> – discussion (Sutherland) Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 6 17 – 21 August	T, W, Th	Student Seminars (Millington)
<b>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK</b>		
Week 7 7 – 11 September	T, W, Th	Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 8 14 – 18 September	T, W, Th	Student Seminars (Millington)
Week 9 21 – 25 September	T, W, Th	Post-war Times – film (Millington)
Week 10 28 September – 2 October	Tues Wed Thu	Post-war Times – film (Millington) Political Fabric – literature (Millington) Political Fabric – film (Millington)
Week 11 5 – 9 October	Tues Wed Thu	Political Fabric– film and literature (Millington) Political Fabric– film and literature (Millington) Reunification – film (Sutherland)
Week 12 12 – 16 October	T, W, Th	Reunification – film (Sutherland)

## Detailed Outline of Topics for the Film and Literature Section Dr Millington and Dr Sutherland (Weeks 9 – 12)

1. **Post-war Times.** The “Economic Miracle” of the 50s 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).