

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

GERMAN PROGRAMME GERM 412 SPECIAL TOPIC 2

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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| Course Coordinator: | Dr Margaret Sutherland Email: margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz | Office: vZ 615 Phone: 463-5975 |
| Administrator: | Alison Dixie Email: alison.dixie@vuw.ac.nz | Office: vZ 610 Phone: 463-5318 |
| Disability Liaison Person: Maori & Pacific Islands Students liaison: | Dr Richard Millington Email: richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz | Office: vZ 613 Phone: 463-5976 |

Class times and locations

Three hours per week involving lectures and seminar discussions. Times for classes will be arranged with students enrolled in the course. Classes will be held in Dr Sutherland's office.

Course delivery

There will be introductory lectures on the works studied, but all other classes will take the form of seminar discussions in which students will be expected to give class papers. Students should regard such classes not as "teaching sessions" in which the teacher plays an active and the students a passive role, but as collaborative meetings to which all contribute.

Communication of additional information

Dr Sutherland is happy to provide additional information about the course at any time, or to discuss students' problems with them.

Course content

GERM 412 will introduce students to examples of German literature and film set in Berlin. The works are chosen to reflect aspects of Berlin life and society from the 1920s to the present day and help to demonstrate how significant historical events that have shaped Berlin from the time of the Weimar Republic of Germany to 2009 have found representation in literary and visual form.

Learning objectives

The course aims to develop students' ability to read and analyse lengthy German texts, to comprehend the medium of film, to use bibliographies and evaluate secondary literature, and to formulate their own ideas about the works in the form of class seminars, two essays, and examination answers.

Qualities especially valued at Honours level are those fundamental to all scholarly disciplines: accuracy of knowledge, independence of judgement, lucidity of thought and precision of statement.

Expected workload

Individual workloads are difficult to assess, since (a) students' reading speeds vary; (b) in order to arrive at a satisfactory understanding of a text or film or to prepare a class paper, one student may want to read more secondary literature than another; (c) the time spent reading the texts or watching a film, while considerable, is not time spent working in the sense that reading secondary literature or writing an essay constitutes work. However, the University considers that students doing a 4-paper BA(Hons) programme should expect to work for 12 hours weekly for each full-year paper. This includes the class contact hours.

Course materials

Set Texts

Irmgard Keun, *Das kunstseidene Mädchen* (dtv)

Emine Özdamar, *Seltsame Sterne starren zur Erde* (KiWi)

Peter Schneider, *Der Mauerspringer* (Rowohlt Taschenbuchverlag)



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 or can email an order or enquiry to 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.

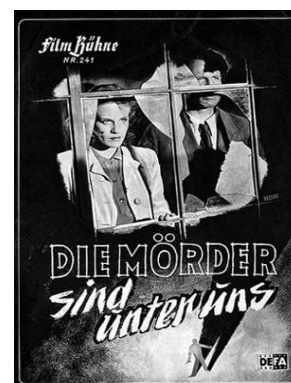
Films

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| <i>Berlin, 1927. Symphonie einer Großstadt</i> | Director: Walter Ruttmann |
| <i>Die Mörder sind unter uns</i> | Director: Wolfgang Staudte |
| <i>Der Tunnel</i> | Director: Roland Suso Richter |
| <i>Menschen am Sonntag</i> | Director: Curt Siodmak |

Course programme

The works will all be studied in chronological order of their subject matter, rather than date of publication or completion.

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| Weeks 1-6: | <i>Berlin. 1927. Symphonie einer Großstadt</i> |
| | <i>Menschen am Sonntag</i> |
| | Irmgard Keun, <i>Das kunstseidene Mädchen</i> |
| | <i>Die Mörder sind unter uns</i> |



Mid-Term break 24 August – 6 September

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| Weeks 7-12: | <i>Der Tunnel</i> |
| | Emine Özdamar, <i>Seltsame Sterne starren zur Erde</i> |
| | Peter Schneider, <i>Die Mauerspringer</i> |

Assessment requirements

The assessment programme is designed to evaluate the extent of the student's understanding of the texts and films studied, and the depth and sensitivity of the student's response to those texts and films as shown in essays and in examination answers. The essays also provide a means of assessing the student's ability to research and think on a topic, organise thoughts and insights, and express them in a lucid, well-documented way. While an essay at Honours level should above all demonstrate the student's own independent understanding of the subject being treated, it should also draw on relevant secondary literature, and if necessary take issue with it.

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| Two essays of about 2000 words in length (30% each) | 60% |
| Final three-hour examination** | 40% |

**No texts are permitted in the exam room.

Both the essays and the final examination are subject to External Assessment by the German Department of another New Zealand university. Note that at Honours level the arithmetical computation of marks is less important than the teachers' and examiners' overall assessment of the student's abilities and performance.

The Essays

The essays for GERM 412 are due on **Friday, 28 August** and **Friday, 16 October**.

Topics will be given out at least four weeks prior to the deadline, and the essays may be written in either English or German, as the student prefers. When preparing their essays, students should observe the guidelines given in the German Section's *Notes on the Presentation of Essays*.

All assignments must be submitted in two forms: first, by email to the German Programme Administrator german@vuw.ac.nz ; and second as a print-out to be handed in to the German assignment box located to the left of the SLC 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.

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.

Mandatory course requirements

The minimum course requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the course are: attendance at a minimum of 80% of classes and satisfactory completion of the essays and the examination. Unless notified to the contrary, students may assume that they have met the mandatory course requirements.

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>