



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

GERMAN PROGRAMME  
GERM 114 TOPICS IN GERMAN CULTURE 1

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 14 July to 16 November 2014

**Teaching dates:** 14 July to 17 October 2014

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 August to 7 September 2014

**Study week:** 20–24 October 2014

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 24 October to 15 November 2014

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### Names and contact details

**Course Coordinator  
and Lecturer:**

Dr Margaret Sutherland  
Office: vZ615  
Phone: 463 5975  
Email: [margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz)

**Lecturers:**

Dr Monica (Moni) Tempian  
Office: vZ614  
Phone: 463 5548  
Email: [monica.tempian@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:monica.tempian@vuw.ac.nz)

**School Administrators:**

Nina Cuccurullo  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5293  
Email: [nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz)

Sarah Walton  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5318  
Email: [sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz)

School office hours: 9.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Māori and Pasifika Students:**

Dr Vanessa Frangville  
Office: vZ703  
Phone: 463 6463  
Email: [vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz)

**Contact Person for Students with Disabilities:**

Dr Margaret Sutherland  
Office: vZ615  
Phone: 463 5975  
Email: [margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:margaret.sutherland@vuw.ac.nz)

**School Website:**

[www.victoria.ac.nz/slc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/slc)

**Class times and locations**

Three hours of lectures and/or seminars per week:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday      11.00am - 11.50am      KK (Kirk) 203

**Communication of additional information**

Additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on Blackboard. Teaching staff are happy to discuss your concerns with you, or to provide additional information about the course.

**Prescription**

This course introduces students to the study of German culture by examining themes of importance for understanding the German-speaking world and how these are represented, whether historically or in the present day, in a selection of novels and films.

**Course content**

This course is designed to introduce students to some key themes that have shaped German culture. The themes focused on are “Women” (in Part One of the course) and “Memory” (in Part Two of the course). 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 learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Critically analyse the narrative strategies and themes of German-language films and novels in English translation.
2. Characterise the cultural, social and/or historical contexts of these works.
3. Describe varying representations of particular themes across different films and novels.
4. Demonstrate a general understanding of critical terms and concepts relating to the two genres discussed.

**Teaching format**

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.

**Mandatory course requirements**

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50% in GERM 114, students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

1. Complete the essay by the due date.
2. Present the seminar required for this course.

3. Submit the 10 preparation worksheets.
4. Attend at least 80% of each of the two sections of the course.
5. Attend the examination at the end of the course.

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

## Workload

The University Assessment Handbook has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a 100-level one-trimester 20-point course should work approximately 200 hours over the trimester or on average 13 hours per week, including contact hours - i.e. in the case of GERM 114, 10 hours of private study outside class time. This private study time will involve reading and understanding the texts, preparing any worksheets required, researching and writing the essay and the seminar presentation and reading secondary literature.

## Assessment requirements

GERM 114 is assessed by:

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
<b>1</b> One essay (1000 words). See the list of essay topics below.	20%	1, 2, 3, 4	Monday, 8 September
<b>2</b> One seminar paper, either on a set topic (see the list of seminar topics below) or on a topic chosen by the student after consultation with the lecturer. These seminars will be researched and presented individually and are to be 10 to 12 minutes in length, plus time for discussion.	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	These will take place in the Wednesday classes from the second week of the course onwards.
<b>3</b> Ten weekly preparation worksheets (2000 words in total). The worksheets are submitted in written form. Their purpose is to give students an incentive to do the set readings, familiarise themselves with the primary texts and ensure that they can contribute to class discussions in an informed manner. The 10 worksheets will thus contribute to the development of both textual analysis and communication skills.	25%	1,2, 3, 4	Worksheets for the first half of the course, counting 12.5% towards the final grade, will be completed by Thursday, 21 August. Worksheets for the second half of the course, counting 12.5% towards the final grade, will be completed by Thursday, 16 October.
<b>4</b> Two-hour examination. This is not an open book examination.	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	Within the examination period from 24 October to 15 November 2014.

The essay and the seminar are on individual topics relating to the culture of 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.

### Marking system

The marking system by letter grade is as follows:

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	75-79%
B	70-74%
B-	65-69%
C+	60-64%
C	55-59%
C-	50-54%
D	40-49% (fail)
E	0-39% (fail)

### Submission and return of work

All written assessment tasks must include a cover sheet provided or available from the SLC main office. Assignments are to be handed in to the German assignment slot located to the left of the SLC main office area on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz. Marked work will either be returned in class or be made available for collection from the SLC main office. Please bring your student ID card with you when you come to collect your work.

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.

### Extensions and 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.

### Set texts

Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader* (Phoenix)

Heinrich Böll, *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum: or How Violence develops and where it can lead* (Minerva)

Texts can be purchased from Vic Books, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. They can also be ordered online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz). Orders and enquiries can be emailed to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

### Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will

attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz).

Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

### Student feedback

Response to feedback for this course will be discussed in class or delivered via Blackboard.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

### Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

### Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the University's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning.

At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning. You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages

- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website [www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/).

## Course programme

### Section One of the Course (Weeks 1-6)

Week 1 14 July	Mon: Introduction to Course (MS) Tues: Introduction to topic: "Women" Wed: Christian Petzold's film <i>Barbara</i>
Week 2 21 July	Mon: <i>Barbara</i> Tues: <i>Barbara</i> Wed: Student seminar presentations
Week 3 28 July	Mon: Introduction to Heinrich Böll and <i>The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum</i> Tues: <i>The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum</i> Wed: Student seminar presentations
Week 4 4 August	Mon: <i>The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum</i> Tues: <i>The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum</i> Wed: Student seminar presentations
Week 5 11 August	Mon: Introduction to Bernhard Schlink and <i>The Reader</i> Tues: <i>The Reader</i> Wed: Student seminar presentations
Week 6 18 August	Mon: <i>The Reader</i> Tues: <i>The Reader</i> Wed: Student seminar presentations
<b>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK</b> 25 August to 7 September 2014	

### Section Two of the Course (Weeks 7-12)

This will commence with a series of introductory lectures on the topic of German memory culture, followed by screenings and discussion of the following films: *Rosenstraße* (2003, a film directed by Margarethe von Trotta); *Jacob the Liar* (1975, a film directed by Frank Beyer); and *Good Bye Lenin!* (2003, a film directed by Wolfgang Becker).

Students are expected to have read the texts prior to the class in which they will be discussed and to have completed the relevant worksheets. Films will mainly be shown in class.

## Essay information and deadline

The essay is worth 20% of the final mark and is due by 4pm on **Monday, 8 September** (beginning of Week 7).

All essays **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 slot located to the left of the School of Languages and Cultures Office on Level 6 of von Zedlitz. The print-out must include a coversheet available from the SLC Office or Blackboard.

**Essays 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.**

## Essay topics

1. Analyse the role of the secondary characters such André, Stella and Klaus Schütz in Christian Petzold's film *Barbara* and comment on their importance to the film as a whole.
2. Discuss Christian Petzold's film *Barbara* as a film based on "political and human dilemmas" (Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*, 27 September 2012). What are these dilemmas and what effect do they have on the story line of the film?
3. Investigate the role of the police in Heinrich Böll's work *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum* and their treatment of Katharina.
4. Examine Heinrich Böll's *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum* as a story of victimization.
5. Discuss the portrayal of Hanna Schmitz in Bernhard Schlink's novel *The Reader*.
6. Examine the importance of communication or the lack of it in Bernhard Schlink's novel, *The Reader* (eg. between Hanna and Michael, Michael and his family and friends, generations).

## 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.**

**For Part One of the Course (Dr Sutherland):**

- The social and political background of Christian Petzold's film *Barbara*.
- The Stasi and their role in East Germany.
- Turkish Germans in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Germany

- Biography of the writer Emine Sevgi Özdamar
- Heinrich Böll as a political activist
- German writers in the role of the public conscience
- Reception of Heinrich Böll's *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*
- The *Bild*-Newspaper
- Freedom of speech and its interpretation in the Federal Republic of Germany
- The Federal Republic of Germany in the 1970s
- The biography of the writer Bernhard Schlink
- The women prison officers in the time of National Socialism
- The trials of Nazi perpetrators in Germany (immediately after the war, in the 1950s and in the 1960s)

### **For Part Two of the Course (Dr Tempian):**

Discuss the representation of memory (related to World War II and the Holocaust or the former GDR) in German cinema by touching on aspects such as: subject and theme, angle taken in memory representation, historical accuracy, and critical reception.

A list of films may include but is not restricted to:

- *Nowhere in Africa* (Caroline Link, 2001);
- *The Comedian Harmonists* (Joseph Vilsmaier, 1997);
- *Hannah Arendt* (Margarethe von Trotta, 2012);
- *Lore* (Cate Shortland, 2012);
- *Sophie Scholl – The Final Days* (Marc Rothemund, 2005);
- *Downfall* (Oliver Hirschbiegel, 2004);
- *Go Trabi Go* (Peter Timm, 1991);
- *The Lives of Others* (Florian Henckel, 2006).

### **Some 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).