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GRMN 317L.01: Introduction to Multicultural Literature in Contemporary Germany

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Multicultural Literature in Contemporary Germany
GRMN 317 L MWF 2:00-2:50 am Spring 2022/LA 102

Contact Professor:

- Dr. Hiltrud Arens
- Office: LA 441
- Office Hours in the office or via Zoom: Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm; Monday and Wednesday 3:00-4:00 pm; and/or by appointment! Office Hour Zoom information, if that is preferred:
- <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/94767208179?pwd=OVU1SndkdVN3di9vSmdKTUpFcUlmZz09>
- Meeting ID: 947 6720 8179
- Passcode: 804637
- Language of instruction is English

Class Meetings are f2f in LA 102, if the classroom technology allows and someone needs to zoom in due to isolation or quarantine, here is the Zoom information for that; but you need to communicate with the instructor beforehand:

- <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/94767208179?pwd=OVU1SndkdVN3di9vSmdKTUpFcUlmZz09>
- Meeting ID: 947 6720 8179
- Passcode: 804637

Important general information due to Covid-19 for Spring 2022 semester remains the same as for fall:

- Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support through the instructor to ensure continued academic progress. This will be discussed when or if necessary. The Moodle shell will always give the most accurate daily info and will help to facilitate academic work/progress if quarantine or isolation are required.
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.
- (If applicable) Mask use is required in vehicles when traveling to field sites as part of class/fieldwork.

Goals:

- 1) To give an introduction and a survey of contemporary multicultural literature in Germany.
- 2) To learn about the historical, legal, social, and political context of postwar immigration (post 1945) to the Federal Republic and to understand the history of existing minorities (Roma & Sinti, Afro-Germans, Jews) in Germany.
- 3) To examine literature and films produced by multiethnic writers and artists to gain a nuanced insight into their literary production.
- 4) To obtain knowledge through the texts (primary and secondary texts) on issues of immigration, identity, nationality, multilingualism, gender, diversity, and transnational and cross-cultural concerns regarding Germany, Europe, and the world in transnational terms.

Course description:

This course offers an introduction to and a survey of multicultural literature created during recent decades in Germany. The Federal Republic of Germany has been emerging as a multicultural society, even though the country struggled with the idea legally, politically and socially. De facto, the Federal Republic has become a country of immigration. The socio-political reality of millions of immigrants, and of the minorities who have lived in Germany, such as Jews, Roma and Sinti, and Afro-Germans has come to the forefront in recent decades. This course offers critical insights into the contradictions between the official line of thought until the 1990s which has undergone a positive turn in 2000, and contemporary reality through examining the literature produced by minority writers. You will receive an overview of the political context of post-war immigration to Germany. As an introduction, we will read critical academic essays on the (im)migrant and minority experience, and then analyze primary works by authors from various ethnic, religious, linguistic, and national backgrounds. Gender dimensions will be examined in these sources as well as in the primary works. The main focus of the course will be on selected works of fiction by male and female writers in English translation. The students in the class will obtain a new and nuanced perspective on Germany, its recent history, and its growing multicultural identity. The analysis of the diverse cultural life in Germany will also resonate with corresponding transcultural challenges in the U.S.

Required Texts (UM Bookstore):

- * Katharina Oguntoye, May Opitz, eds.: *Showing our colors: Afro-German Women speak out*. [Farbe bekennen]
- * Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*. [Erzähler der Nacht]
- * Abbas Khider *The Village Indian* [Der falsche Inder]

We also read the following texts/authors **scanned and posted on Moodle** (they are available, but not via the UM bookstore, you would have to order them on your own online via another bookseller if you want a real copy):

- * Barbara Honigmann: Excerpt: *A chapter of My Life*
- * Wladimir Kaminer: *Russian Disco* [Russendisko]
- * May Ayim: essay and poetry
- * Yoko Tawada: short prose texts from *Where Europe begins* [Wo Europa beginnt]
- * Emine Sevgi Özdamar: smaller prose text(s)
- * Zafer Senocak: two essays, poetry

Formats:

The class consists of short introductions and lectures about materials and contexts, and whole class and/or smaller group discussions of *primary material* and *secondary sources*. Students are also asked to present certain themes/writers and give an individual presentation towards the end of class on the chosen topic for their final essay. The language of this course will be primarily in English. (Some knowledge of German/y is helpful.)

Expectations:

It is expected that all students will be in attendance daily. Regular class participation is the essence of this course. Therefore, in addition to any subsidiary detrimental effect of absences, absences in excess of 3 during the semester will lower your course grade half a level, unexcused absences in excess of 6 will lower your grade one full grade: A- to B-, B to C, etc. It is also expected that all students will complete assigned work (both oral and written) as requested and be prepared for each class session.

Grading:

<u>Final Grade Breakdown</u>	<u>Points of Grade</u>
Attendance (43 x 1)	43 points / 4.3%

<u>Final Grade Breakdown</u>	<u>Points of Grade</u>
Oral class participation (43 x4)	172 points / 17.2%
3 essays (2-2.5 pages typed) (3 x 100)	300 points / 30%
Midterm (100)	100 points / 10%
Final essay presentation	85 points / 8.5%
Final Essay (10 pages/ English)	300 points /30 %
Total:	1000 points

Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Laptops, Music Players, etc.)

If you bring a cell phone to class, please set it either on vibrate or mute. If you need your personal computers for an activity (reading, finding the article, etc.) – that’s the new reality.

Students with Disabilities

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. For information regarding documentation of disabilities, approaching your instructor with pertinent information, and establishing guidelines for potential accommodation, you may consult the Office of Disability Equity (formerly: Disability Services) website: <https://www.umt.edu/disability-services/>. The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is 243-2243.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

Please refer to the Student Conduct Code of the University as it pertains to your responsibility to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned to be your own as indeed representing your own efforts and research. The Student Conduct Code is available for review online at: <http://staging.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/>.

WGSS Studies Information

This course is one of the elective classes that count towards the Major and the Minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. If you enjoy this course and would like to know more about the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, please contact Beth Hubble or drop by the office, LA 138A-B, or visit the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies website <http://hs.umt.edu/wgss/>

Migration Studies Certificate

This course is one of the elective courses that count towards the Migration Studies Certificate in the category for *Regional Contexts*. Please check out the website to find more information: <https://catalog.umt.edu/colleges-schools-programs/interdisciplinary/migration-studies>

Tentative Schedule for the semester:

1.WEEK

Wednesday, 1/19 Introduction and Context
Friday, 1/21 Introductory Chapter from *Germany in Transit*: p. 3-17 (scanned article - Moodle)

2. WEEK

Monday, 1/24 *Gender, Nation, Immigration in Contemporary Europe*, p. 1-17 (scanned article - Moodle)
Wednesday, 1/26 *Fringe Voices*: Part I Introduction, Ch. 3: p. 16-22: *Minority Literature and its Role in a Multicultural Society* (scanned article- Moodle)
Fringe Voices: Part II German Jews - Introduction, p. 25-30 (scanned article - Moodle)

Friday, 1/28	<i>Fringe Voices: Part II German Jews: Henryk Broder Essay</i> "Heimat? No, Thanks!" p. 57-74 (scanned article - Moodle)
3. WEEK	
Monday, 1/31	Barbara Honigmann: <i>A Chapter from My Life</i> ; excerpt (scanned copy - Moodle) <i>Reclaiming Space</i> by Karen Remmler (scanned article)
Wednesday, 2/2	Barbara Honigmann: <i>A Chapter from my Life; excerpt</i>
Friday, 2/4	Wladimir Kaminer: <i>Russian Disco</i> (scanned copy - Moodle)
4. WEEK	
Monday, 2/7	Wladimir Kaminer: <i>Russian Disco</i>
Wednesday, 2/9	Wladimir Kaminer: <i>Russian Disco</i>
Friday, 2/11	<i>Fringe Voices: Part III</i> p. 75-79, Afro Germans: Black and German – a Paradox? Film: <i>Audre Lorde the Berlin Years</i>
5. WEEK	
Monday, 2/14	1. Essay due <i>Audre Lorde the Berlin Years</i> discussion & <i>Showing Our Color: Afro-German Women speak out</i>
Wednesday, 2/16	<i>Showing Our Color: Afro-German Women speak out</i> (2-3 presentations by students on the historical/sociological chapters presented in <i>Showing Our Color</i>)
Friday, 2/18	<i>Showing Our Color</i> (presentations, other readings, and discussion continued)
6. WEEK	
Monday, 2/21	Presidents' Day/ UM Holiday
Wednesday, 2/23	May Ayim: <i>Blues in Black and White</i> (selected poems) & essay (scanned copy - Moodle)
Friday, 2/25	Black Germans nowadays (various media interviews & documentary)
7. WEEK	
Monday, 2/28	<i>Ein Wort, ein Ort or How Words create Places</i> : Interview with Yoko Tawada Yoko Tawada: "Canned Foreign", p. 85-90; (scanned copy - Moodle)
Wednesday, 3/2	"The Talisman" p. 91-96; short prose pieces in <i>Where Europe begins</i> (scanned copy)
Friday, 3/4	<i>Where Europe begins</i> , p.121-146 (title story) (scanned copy - Moodle)
8. WEEK	
Monday, 3/7	<i>Where Europe begins</i>
Wednesday, 3/9	Film: Dorris Dörrie: <i>Enlightenment Guaranteed [Erleuchtung garantiert]</i>
Friday, 3/11	<i>Enlightenment Guaranteed</i>
9. WEEK	
Monday, 3/14	<i>Enlightenment Guaranteed</i> // 2. Essay due UMCUR submission deadline: https://www.umt.edu/uqresearch/umcur/
Wednesday, 3/16	<i>Fringe Voices</i> , Part V p. 173-174 and Part VI p. 219-223 Zafer Senocak and Bülent Tulay: "Germany – A Heimat for Turks?" (essay) <i>Fringe Voices</i> , p. 256-263 (scanned copy – Moodle)
Friday, 3/18	Midterm (Take home test)

10.WEEK

**Spring break
3/21 – 3/25**

11. WEEK

Monday, 3/28

Emine Sevgi Özdamar: *Mother Tongue/Mutterzunge*, *Fringe Voices* p. 252-255

Wednesday, 3/30

Emine Sevgi Özdamar: *My Berlin* (scanned copies - Moodle)

Friday, 4/1

Zafer Senocak: *The Capital of the Fragment* (scanned copy – Moodle)

12. WEEK

Monday, 4/4

Arab-Germans / Intro Essay by Khalil “From the Margins to the Center” in Dagmar Lorenz, Ed., *Transforming the Center* (scanned copy - Moodle); Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*

Wednesday, 4/6

Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*

Friday, 4/8

Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*

13. WEEK

Monday, 4/11

Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*

Wednesday, 4/13

Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*

Friday, 4/15

Edward Said “Reflections on Exile” (scanned copy)

14. WEEK

Monday, 4/18

Abbas Khider *The Village Indian* // **3. Essay due**

Wednesday, 4/20

Abbas Khider *The Village Indian*

Friday, 4/22

Abbas Khider *The Village Indian*

UMCUR Conference at the UC

15. WEEK

Monday, 4/25

Abbas Khider *The Village Indian*

Wednesday, 4/27

Abbas Khider *The Village Indian* // Discussion on Themes of Migration, Exile, Displacement

Friday, 4/29

Presentation of Final essay

16. WEEK

Monday, 5/2

Presentation of Final essay

Wednesday, 5/4

Presentation of Final essay

Friday, 5/6

Presentation of Final essay // Discussion and Conclusion

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 11: 3:20 pm – 5:20 pm

date by which your final essay should be written and submitted