

Spring 2-1-2016

# GRMN 317L.01: Multicultural Literature in Contemporary Germany

Hiltrud Arens

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# Multicultural Literature in Contemporary Germany

GRMN 317 L

MWF 3:10-4:00pm

Spring 2016

## Contact Professor:

Dr. Hiltrud Arens

Office: LA 436

Office hours: Mon/Wed/Fri: 11:10-12:00 pm; Wed 4:10-5:00 pm; or/and by appointment

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Language of instruction is English

## 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 crosscultural concerns regarding Germany, Europe, and the world in transnational terms.

## Required Texts:

- Antje Harnisch, ed.: *Fringe Voices. Texts by and about minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany*
- Katharina Oguntoye, May Opitz, eds.: *Showing our colors: Afro-German Women speak out*. [Farbe bekennen]
- May Ayim: *Blues in Black and White: A collection of Essays, Poetry, and Conversation*. [Grenzenlos und unverschämt/ nachtgesang/ blues in schwarz weiss]
- Barbara Honigmann: *A Love made out of Nothing/Zohara's Journey: 2 Novels*. [Eine Liebe aus Nichts]
- \*Abbas Khider *The Village Indian* [Der falsche Inder]
- Rafik Schami: *Damascus Nights*. [Erzähler der Nacht]
- Zafer Senocak: *Atlas of a Tropical Germany*. (Translated and ed. by Leslie A. Adelson) [Atlas des tropischen Deutschlands]
- Yoko Tawada: *Where Europe begins* [Wo Europa beginnt]
- Emine Sevgi Özdamar *The Bridge of the Golden Horn* [Die Brücke am Goldenen Horn]

**Formats:**

The class consists of short introductions and lectures about materials and contexts, and whole class and/or smaller group discussions of primary and secondary sources. Students are also asked to present certain themes/writers and give an individual presentation towards the end of class. The language of this course will be primarily in English, but some knowledge of German might be 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 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 (41x2)	82 points
Oral class participation	98 points
3 small essays (2.5 -3 pages typed) (3 x 100)	300 points
Midterm (120)	120 points
Final essay presentation	100 points
Final Essay (10 pages/ English)	300 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

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

If you bring a cell phone to class, please set it either on vibrate or mute. Unless specified for a class activity, personal computers, music players, and messaging devices are not to be used in class.

**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 [Disability Services for Students \(DSS\) website](http://life.umt.edu/dss) at <http://life.umt.edu/dss> . 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://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585>.

## 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 me or drop by the office, LA 138A-B, or visit the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies website <http://hs.umt.edu/wgss/>

## Tentative Schedule during the semester:

### 1.WEEK

Monday, 1/25	Introduction and Context
Wednesday, 1/27	Introduction / <i>Fringe Voices</i> Introduction p.3-22
Friday, 1/29	Introduction / <i>Fringe Voices</i> / <i>Germany in Transit</i> Introduction (scanned article)

### 2. WEEK

Monday, 2/1	Introduction / <i>Gender, Nation, Immigration to New Europe</i> (scanned article)
Wednesday, 2/3	<i>Gender, Nation, Immigration to New Europe</i>
Friday, 2/5	German Jews / <i>Fringe Voices</i> p. 25-30, Part II;

### 3. WEEK

Monday, 2/8	German Jews / <i>Reclaiming Space</i> (scanned article)
Wednesday, 2/10	Barbara Honigmann: <i>A Love made out of Nothing</i>
Friday, 2/12	<i>A Love made out of Nothing</i>

### 4. WEEK

Monday, 2/15	Presidents' Day/ UM Holiday
Wednesday, 2/17	<i>A Love made out of Nothing</i>
Friday, 2/19	<i>Fringe Voices</i> Part III, Afro Germans / <i>Showing Our Color: Afro-German Women speak out</i>

### 5. WEEK

Monday, 2/22	<i>Showing Our Color</i> / <b>1. Essay due</b>
Wednesday, 2/24	May Ayim: <i>Blues in Black and White</i>
Friday, 2/26	<i>Blues in Black and White</i>

### 6. WEEK

Monday, 2/29	<i>Blues in Black and White</i>
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Wednesday, 3/2	<i>Ein Wort, ein Ort or How Words create Places: Interview with Yoko Tawada</i> (scanned)
Friday, 3/4	Yoko Tawada: "Canned Foreign" in <i>Where Europe begins</i> Yoko Tawada: "The Talisman" in <i>Where Europe begins</i> / FLL DAY
7.WEEK	
Monday, 3/7	<i>Where Europe begins</i>
Wednesday, 3/9	<i>Where Europe begins</i>
Friday, 3/11	Film: Dorris Dörrie: <i>Enlightenment Guaranteed</i> [Erleuchtung garantiert]
8.WEEK	
Monday, 3/14	<i>Enlightenment Guaranteed</i>
Wednesday, 3/16	<i>Enlightenment Guaranteed</i>
Friday, 3/18	<b>Midterm</b>
9. WEEK	
Monday, 3/21	<i>Fringe Voices, Part V and VI intro: Migrant Workers / Turks in Germany / Zafer Senocak: Atlas of a Tropical Germany</i>
Wednesday, 3/23	<i>Zafer Senocak: Atlas of a Tropical Germany</i>
Friday, 3/25	<i>Atlas of a Tropical Germany &amp; current view on Islam and Germany</i>
10.WEEK	
Monday, 3/28	Emine Sevgi Özdamar: <i>The Bridge of the Golden Horn</i> / <b>2. Essay due</b>
Wednesday, 3/30	<i>The Bridge of the Golden Horn</i>
Friday, 4/1	<i>The Bridge of the Golden Horn</i>
11. WEEK	
4/4 – 4/8	Spring break
12. WEEK	
Monday, 4/11	<i>The Bridge of the Golden Horn</i>
Wednesday, 4/13	Arab-Germans / Intro Essay by Khalil in Dagmar Lorenz, ed. <i>Transforming the Center</i> (on Reserve and scanned article); Edward Said "Reflection on Exile" (Copy)
Friday, 4/15	Rafik Schami: <i>Damascus Nights</i>
13. WEEK	
Monday, 4/18	Rafik Schami: <i>Damascus Nights</i>
Wednesday, 4/20	Rafik Schami: <i>Damascus Nights</i>
Friday, 4/22	<i>Damascus Nights</i>
14. WEEK	
Monday, 4/25	Abbas Khider <i>The Village</i>
Wednesday, 4/27	Abbas Khider <i>The Village Indian</i>
Friday, 4/29	Abbas Khider <i>The Village Indian</i> / <b>3. Essay due</b>

15. WEEK

Monday, 5/2

Discussion on Themes of Migration, Exile, Displacement

Wednesday, 5/4

Presentation of Final essay

Friday, 5/6

Presentation of Final essay

Discussion and Conclusion

**Final Exam: Thursday, May 12: 3:20 am – 5:20 pm LA 336**