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GRMN 106H.50: Introduction to German Culture and Civilization

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INTRO TO GERMAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

GRMN 106H

Spring 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor: Marton Marko

Email: marton.marko@mso.umt.edu

Course Description:

This online course offers an introductory overview of major developments, ideas, and influences involving German culture from the Roman era to the present day. You will learn about historical events in Central Europe as well as important figures in German-speaking culture in such fields as politics, literature, music, the arts, science, religion, and philosophy, among others. You will also become familiar with significant contributions that German-speaking culture has made globally over the years up to the present, including in the US. As an online course, the class is designed to guide you through readings and other textual, visual, and audio material that will help you understand important characteristics and significant issues pertinent to German culture historically and today.

Learning Outcomes, Assessment Activities

Learning Outcomes

As you will be presented different texts, historical discussions, and examples of artistic and literary works, you will have the opportunity to synthesize the course material in a number of ways to illustrate your ability to identify key phenomena, figures, ideas, and cultural institutions in the German-speaking world. You will also have the chance to interpret the significance of each in the context of both German cultural history and in global light. These opportunities will be given via an online discussion forum, quizzes, response papers, midterm exams and a final exam. Each of these will help you gauge your specific knowledge of material as well as provide the chance to synthesize and interpret facts, ideas, and works in broader terms.

Assessment Activities

Discussion Forum:

The course provides a discussion forum which will feature weekly prompts to get you thinking and sharing ideas with the class group. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to respond to questions and comments which appear in the forum. Your participation will be assessed 3 times during the semester, at the time of the two midterm exams and after the final week of instruction.

Quizzes:

From the second week on, there will be a short quiz offered each week, primarily covering terms and figures to identify and contextualize amid themes in the course. The quizzes give you the chance to gauge how well you are following fundamentals of the course material as well as important ideas covered in class.

Response Papers:

You will write three response papers (3 pages in length each) based on prompts related to material treated at different points in the course. The response papers give you the chance to address a particular topic in some depth and with compositional structure. Topics and specific tips for each paper will be provided as they are assigned. You will have a week to complete each paper.

Exams:

There are two written midterm exams and a written final exam. Emphasis on the exams will be placed on the definition and identification of key terms, guiding ideas, and trends connecting and influencing time periods, movements, and issues in German culture throughout history and today. You will have a week to complete each exam. The exams are open-book. The final exam will be cumulative and given at the end of the last week of instruction in class and due at the end of finals week.

Required Text and Other Materials and Resources

Schulze, Hagen. *Germany: A New History*. Trans. Deborah Lucas Schneider. Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 1998.

Other materials and resources, such as videos, slides, and weblinks, are included in the class website and offered by weekly topic and theme.

Course Calendar

Week of 1/22 – 1/26: Class Introduction, Website Orientation, Personal Introductions, Thoughts on German Culture

Week of 1/29 – 2/2: Roman Empire to the Middle Ages

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 1: The Roman Empire and German Lands (to 1400)

pp 1-16: Romans and Germans; from Hermann to Reign of Otto I

pp 16 - 29: Medieval Period; Holy Roman Empire; Courtly and Literary Culture

Week of 2/5 – 2/9: Early Modern Era to the Reformation

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 2: Transitions (1400 - 1648)

pp 31 - 46: Threshold of the Modern Era

pp 47 - 67: Luther and Wittenberg; Reformation; 30 Years' War

Response Paper 1 Assigned: 2/9

Week of 2/12 – 2/16: Catholic and Protestant Central Europe

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 3: Twilight of the Empire (1648 - 1806)

pp. 69 - 85: Divisions of Catholicism and Protestantism; Baroque Age

pp. 85 - 99: Rise of Prussia; End of the Holy Roman Empire

Response Paper 1 Due: Friday 2/16

Week of 2/19 – 2/23: Birth of the German Nation

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 4: The Birth of the German Nation (1806 - 1848)

pp 101 - 111: Napoleonic Wars; Congress of Vienna; German Romantic

Vision, pp. 111 - 121: Toward German Revolution

Midterm 1 Assigned: Friday 2/23

Week of 2/26 – 3/2: Road to German Unification

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 5: Blood and Iron (1848 - 1871)

pp 123 - 145: Industrialism and Demographic Changes; Bismarck and Unification

Midterm 1 Due: Friday 3/2

Week of 3/5 – 3/9: Modern German Empire

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 6: German Possibilities: A Digression

pp. 147 - 163: The German Question

Schulze, Chapter 7: A Nation State in the Center of Europe (1871 - 1890)

pp 155 - 167: Challenges of a Modern German Empire

Response Paper 2 Assigned: 3/9

Week of 3/12 – 3/16 Grand Dreams to the Great War

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 8: Internal Unification and the Dream of World Power (1890 - 1914)

pp 169 - 189: German Ambitions from the 19th into the 20th Century

Early 20th Century Poems: Selections

Response Paper 2 Due: 3/16

Week of 3/19 – 3/23 Turning to the Hopes of Democracy

Schulze, Chapter 9: The Great War and its Aftermath (1914 - 1923)

pp 191 - 213: War Years and the Founding of the Weimar Republic

Week of 3/26 – 3/30 Spring Break

Week of 4/2 – 4/6 Weimar and the Rise of National Socialism

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 10: Weimar: Brief Glory and Decline (1924 – 1933)

pp. 215 – 230: Cultural Renewal and Crisis in the First Decade of the Weimar Republic

pp. 230 – 243: The End of German Democracy

Viewing:

Film: *Metropolis* (Director: Fritz Lang, 1927)

Midterm 2 Assigned: Friday 4/6

Week of 4/9 – 4/13 Nazism and the Second World War

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 11: German Megalomania (1933 - 1942)

pp 245 - 260: Establishment of National Socialist Government

pp 260 - 275: Outbreak of the Second World War; Beginnings of the Holocaust

Midterm 2 Due: Friday 4/13

Week of 4/16 – 4/20 Second World War to Postwar Years

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 12: The End of the Third Reich and a New Beginning (1942 - 1949)

pp 277 - 297: From the Second World War to Postwar Years and Challenges

Response Paper 3 Assigned: Friday 4/20

Week of 4/23 – 4/27 East-West Division to Reunification

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 13: A Divided Nation (1949 - 1990)

pp 299 - 311: Establishment of Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)

pp 311 - 331: Establishment of German Democratic Republic (East Germany); Cold War Tensions; Reunification

Response Paper Due: Friday 4/27

Week of 4/30 – 4/4 Central Europe: Today and into the Future

Readings:

Schulze, Chapter 14: Epilogue: What is the German's Fatherland?

pp 333 - 340: New Perspectives on German Nationhood

Readings from Contemporary Media

Final Exam Assigned: Friday 5/4

Week of 5/7 – 5/11 Final Exam Due: Friday 5/11

Course Guidelines, Policies, Grading

Participation and Due Dates

Take advantage of the opportunity to offer thoughts, ideas, and questions in the class online forum. Your participation in the forum will comprise 12% of your total class grade. Quizzes, tests, and response papers are due on the time and date given for each assignment. If you have a documentable excuse for not handing work in on time, you need to inform your instructor. Otherwise, late work will receive a demotion in points or be subject to not being accepted.

Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Course withdrawal

February 9, 2018 is the last day to withdraw from this course on CyberBear with refund + no "W" on transcript. For a detailed listing of important University dates and deadlines, please visit <http://www.umd.edu/registrar/calendar.php>

Disability Modifications

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and documented learning disabilities. Please note that your instructor can only provide for such accommodations if notified and that such accommodations and considerations can only be made after an instructor has been provided information by the student. 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). The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is (406) 243-2243.

Grading Breakdown

Below is the grading breakdown for the course:

Forum Participation	3 x 20 points	60 points	(12%)
Quizzes:	12 x 5 points	60 points	(12%)
Response Papers:	3 x 40 points	120 points	(24%)
Tests:	Midterm 1	80 points	(16%)
	Midterm 2	80 points	(16%)
	Final Exam	100 points	(20 %)
Class Point Total		500 points	

Letter Grade	% of Total Course Points
A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92
B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66
D-	60 - 62
F	0 - 59

If you have any questions about class, feel free to contact your instructor at any time.

Looking forward to having you in the course and wishing you a great learning experience in GRMN 106H Introduction to German Culture and Civilization this semester!