

Spring 2-1-2015

# MCLG 106.01: Introduction to German Culture and Civilization

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INTRO TO GERMAN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION  
GRMN 106 / MCLG 106

Spring 2015  
MWF (Time)  
(Room)

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### I. Objective & Goals:

This course provides an introductory overview of major developments, ideas, and influences involving German-speaking culture from its documented origins in the Roman era to today. Students will become familiar with the chronology of key historical events in Central Europe as well as with major figures in such areas as politics, literature, art and philosophy. Attention will also be given to significant contributions that German-speaking culture has made globally. The material and approach of the course will enable students to recognize the major factor and issues in the development of German culture through history as well as its reaching effects around the world and in the US.

### II. Expectations, Learning Outcomes, Assessment Activities

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to recognize the importance of keeping up with the course material as we go through it during the semester. There are two written midterm exams along with a written final exam. In addition to these tests, there will also be quizzes occasionally to help you gauge how well you are picking up and synthesizing the material we're covering. Quizzes will be announced at least one class session before they are given. They will be shorter and more "term" and "concept" based than the exams. Emphasis on the exams will be placed on the definition and identification of key terms, guiding ideas, movements, and trends which can be recognized as having connected and influenced time periods in German cultural history. Students will learn to recognize main characteristics, ideas, trends and movements in German cultural history and be able to identify texts, artifacts, and cultural material within those frameworks. To help you with this, in addition to the quizzes and exams, there will be discussion time for questions and comments so that you may learn in a more consistently participatory way, as well. You are reminded that your sharing and reception of ideas during class discussion and lecture in a respectful, productive fashion are also included in the course expectations.

### II. Student Conduct and Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. Lectures and discussions are essential parts of the course. If you are absent four sessions during the semester, this will automatically demote your grade by one letter-grade. If you are absent for more than three sessions, each following increment of three absences will result in a corresponding demotion of a letter grade. In class, your instructor asks you to refrain, if possible from eating, drinking or chewing gum. If on account of a given health issue or given conditions (i.e. a hot day and a warm classroom) you need to consume something in class, that can be OK. Otherwise, please refrain. Thanks. Unless you have been advised that you may use electronic devices for an activity in class, you are also asked to place electronic devices on a setting that will not disturb class and not distract you from what is going on in class.

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. The Code is available for review online at: [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php)

#### IV. Grading Breakdown:

Below is the grading breakdown for the course based on the activities outlined above.

Tests:	Midterm 1	20%
	Midterm 2	20%
	Final Exam	40 %
Quizzes:		10%
Classroom Participation:		10%

#### V. Course Texts:

Our main text for the semester is:

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

A number of readings will also be provided as handouts.

Text readings will be complemented by presentations in class on such topics as music, art history, and key biographic figures.

#### VI. Course Films

We will view a number of films during the semester. Group screenings outside of class will be arranged when possible. Otherwise, films are on 4-hour in-library reserve at the Mansfield Library. Please be sure that you have viewed the assigned films one way or another before the designated date of discussion. See syllabus.

#### VII. Students with Disabilities

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) website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss> . The DSS Office is located in Lommasson 154; the phone number is 243-2243.

## Tentative Session Schedule

Week One: Romans and Germans, Pre-Medieval and Medieval Central Europe (ca. 120 BC to 1400)

Mo 1/26 Course Introduction / Overview

We 1/28 Schulze, Chapter 1 pp. 1 – 16: Romans and Germans; from Hermann to Reign of Otto I

Fr 1/30 Schulze, Chapter 1, pp. 16 – 29, Medieval Period, Development of Courtly and Literary Culture (Added Reading: Walther von der Vogelweide, *Under the Lime Tree*) (Handout)

Week Two: Early Modern Era to the Aftermath of the Reformation (1400 – 1650)

Mo 2/2 Schulze, Chapter 2, pp. 31 – 46: Early Modern Era to Reformation

We 2/4 Focal Point: The Age of Luther (Reading: Martin Luther, *Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*) (Handout)

Fr 2/6 Schulze, Chapter 2, pp. 47 – 67: Luther and Wittenberg, Impact of Reformation, Thirty Years War

Week Three: Disintegration of the Holy Roman Empire (1650 – 1806)

Mo 2/9 Schulze, Chapter 3, pp. 69 – 85: Catholic and Protestant Central Europe; the Baroque (In-Class Listening: Johann Sebastian Bach: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, Brandenburg Concerto Nr. 1*)

We 2/11 Schulze, Chapter 3, pp. 85 – 99: Rise of Prussia, End of Holy Roman Empire

Fr 2/13 Focal Points: Cultural and Political Developments in Austrian and Prussia from mid-18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century (In-Class Viewings: Architecture and Power: Vienna and Schönbrunn Palace, Potsdam and Sanssouci Palace)

Week Four: Awakenings of German Nationalism in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

Mo 2/16 Presidents Day (No Class Meeting)

We 2/18 Focal Point: Enlightenment in Central Europe (Reading: Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”) (Handout)

Fr 2/10 Focal Point: Romanticism, Mysticism, Folk Culture (Readings: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: *Der Erlkönig*, Selections from Grimm's Fairy Tales) (Handout) (In-Class Listening: Franz Schubert, *Der Erlkönig*)

Week Five: Birth of the German Nation (1806 – 1848)

Mo 2/23 Schulze, Chapter 4, pp. 101 – 111: Napoleonic Wars, Congress of Vienna, the German Romantic Vision (In-Class Viewings: Paintings by Caspar David Friedrich)

We 2/27 Focal Points: Conservatism and Progressivism in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century (In-Class Viewing: Biedermeier Paintings and Design; Added Reading: Heinrich Heine, *Germany. A Winter's Tale* – excerpts) (Handout) (In-Class Listening: Ludwig van Beethoven, *Symphony #9*)

Fr 2/27 Schulze, Chapter 4, pp. 111 – 121: Toward German Revolution (Added Reading: Karl Marx, *Communist Manifesto*) (Handout)

Week Six: Road toward German Unification (1848 – 1871)

Mo 3/2 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm Exam

We 3/4 Schulze, Chapter 5, pp. 123 – 135: Industrialism and Demographic Changes

Fr 3/6 Schulze, Chapter 5, pp. 135 – 145: Bismarck and German Unification (In-Class Viewings: Paintings by Adolph Menzel)

Week Seven: From Unification to the Great War (1871 – 1914)

Mo 3/9 Schulze, Chapters 6 and 7, pp. 147 - 167: German Possibilities, A Nation State in the Middle of Europe

We 3/11 Focal Point: Naturalism (Reading: Gerhardt Hauptmann, *The Weavers*, excerpts) (Handout)

Fr 3/13 Schulze, Chapter 8, pp. 169 – 189: Internal Unification and the Dream of World Power

Week Eight: From the Great War to the First Decade of the Weimar Republic (1914 – 1929)

Mo 3/16 Focal Point: Artistic Movements in Social Context: Symbolism and Expressionism (In-Class Viewings: Expressionist Prints and Paintings; Readings: Selected Poems of Rainer Maria Rilke, Georg Heym, Else Lasker-Schüler) (Handout)

We 3/18 Schulze, Chapter 9, pp. 191 – 213: The Great War and Its Aftermath

Fr 3/20 Schulze, Chapter 10, pp. 215 – 230: Cultural Renewal and Crisis in the First Decade of the Weimar Republic (In-Class Viewings: High Modernism: The New Objectivity, Bauhaus Architecture and Design)

Week Nine: The Fall of Weimar, the Rise of National Socialism (1927 – 1937)

Mo 3/23 Schulze, Chapter 10, pp. 230 – 243: The End of German Democracy

We 3/25 Focal Point: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Metropolitanism and Class Conflict.  
Film Discussion: *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1927: View Film Before Class)

Fr 3/27 Schulze, Chapter 11, pp. 245 – 260: German Megalomania: National Socialism

Week Ten: Spring Break

Mo 3/30 – Fr 4/3          Spring Break (No Class Sessions)

Week Eleven: National Socialism, Propaganda, The Beginnings of World War II (1934 – 1942)

Mo 4/6                  Schulze, Chapter 11, pp. 260 – 275: German Megalomania: National Socialism

We 4/8                  Focal Point: Racism, Nazi Propaganda, Film, and Media: Film Discussion: *Olympia*  
(Leni Riefenstahl, 1938: View Film Before Class)

Fr 4/10                 2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm Exam

Week Twelve: From World War II to Postwar Reconstruction (1939 – 1953)

Mo 4/13                Schulze, Chapter 12, pp. 277 – 287: WWII and the End of the Third Reich, Exile Culture  
(Added Readings: Bertolt Brecht: “To Those Born Later”, “Hollywood Elegies”)  
(Handout)

We 4/17                Schulze, Chapter 12, pp. 287 – 297: WW II and Its Consequences  
Film Discussion: *The Murderers Are Among Us* (Wolfgang Staudte, 1946: View Film  
Before Class)

Fr 4/19                Schulze, Chapter 13, pp. 299 – 311: A Divided Germany, Postwar Introspections and  
Aversions  
(Added Readings: Paul Celan: “Death Fugue”, Ingeborg Bachmann: “Early Noon”)  
(Handout)

Week Thirteen: From “Economic Miracle” in the West and Socialist Experiment in the East to  
Reunification (1953 – 1990)

Mo 4/20                Schulze, Chapter 13, pp. 311 – 317: After the War, Before the Wall  
Film Discussion: *Berlin, Schoenhauser Corner* (Gerhard Klein, 1957: View Film Before  
Class)

We 4/22                Schulze, Chapter 13, pp. 317 – 331: From East/West Division to Reunification

Fr 4/24                Focal Point: Voices of Consciousness and Dissent East/West I:  
Reading: Christa Wolf (*Divided Heaven, Cassandra, Accident* – excerpts) (Handout)

Week Fourteen: Before and After Reunification: Environmentalism, Re-Assessing National Identity  
(1984 – 2000)

Mo 4/27                Focal Point: Voices of Consciousness and Dissent East/West II:  
Reading: Petra Kelly (*Fighting for Hope* – excerpts) (Handout)

We 4/29                Schulze, Chapter 14, pp. 333 – 340, Epilogue: What is the German’s Fatherland?  
Film Discussion: *Good-Bye Lenin* (Wolfgang Becker, 2003: View Film Before Class)

Fr 5/1                  Focal Point: Impact of Unification on Cultural Values  
Reading: Greg Nees (*Germany: Unraveling an Enigma*, Chapter 7: Wertewandel:  
Creation of a New German Identity?) (Handout)

Week Fifteen: Situating German Culture in the Global Century (1990 – present)

Mo 5/4      Readings: Yoko Tawada: *Canned Foreign, The Talisman*; Zafer Şenocak: “Dialogue about the Third Language: Germans, Turks and Their Future” (Handout)

We 5/6      Film Discussion: *In July* (Fatih Akin, 2000; View Film Before Class)

Fr 5/8      Course Review

Finals Week:    Final Exam