

**GER 329: German Cinema after 1990**  
**Spring 2009**  
**Dr. Sebastian Heiduschke**

**Meeting time:** T 6:30-9:20

**Meeting place:** KIDD 237 (OWEN 101/103)

**Office:** KIDD 34

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**Office hours:** W 12-12:50 & by appointment

**Course description:** German unification in October 1990 also changed the landscape of German film. Now, the two national cinemas of East and West Germany had to be combined. One of the problems on the way to cinematic unification was the different structures in the two national cinemas; East Germany's centralized, censored, and government-regulated film industry was trying to adapt to West Germany's system of decentralized system in which directors relied on a variety of subsidies to finance their films. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have become acquainted with traditions of German film since 1990. They will be able to interpret films critically by looking at models of film interpretation in secondary literature and scholarly research from a variety of perspectives and theoretical approaches. Students will be able to identify a number of German films, film genres, and directors. They will also be able to put German films in their socio-cultural and historical environment of post-unification Germany and discuss the relationship of real-life events and their cinematic depiction.

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore standing.

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Weekly reaction papers (6)	20%
	Weekly précis (6)	20%
	Presentation of the readings in class and lead-in questions	10%
	Participation	10%
	Final exam	20%
	Film review of one film in the German Film Club	5%
	Research paper: film interpretation of a film assigned in class (2-3 pages)	15%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading breakdown**

100-93 = A	82-80 = B-	69-67 = D+
92-90 = A-	79-77 = C+	68-63 = D
89-87 = B+	78-73 = C	62-60 = D-
86-83 = B	72-70 = C-	Below 59 = F

**Text and tools**

1. Clarke, David (ed.). *German Cinema since Unification*. New York: Continuum, 2006
2. One blank, erasable **DVD+RW or DVD-RW**. No CDs, no other types of blank DVDs accepted
3. A Blackboard account and daily access to the WWW to download and print additional readings

**Course setup**

**Assignments**

All assignments are due on their due date. I will accept late work, but I you will lose 5% for each day the assignment is late.

**The following assignments will determine your grade in this class:**

### **Reaction papers**

You will turn in weekly reaction papers (six per term) about the **supplementary readings posted on Blackboard**. These articles need to be downloaded and brought to class either in paper format, on your Kindle, or your laptop. The only week you will not have to turn in a reaction paper is the week you present the readings in class.

### **Weekly précis**

A précis is a summary of a text that looks at the structure instead of the content of a text. We will learn how to write a précis in class. You will turn in weekly précis (six per term) about the **readings in our book**. The only week you will not have to turn in a précis is the week you present the readings in class.

### **Presentation of the readings in class and lead-in questions**

You will present one week's readings to class as a small group of 2-3 students. This means that you as a group are responsible for 1. summarizing the readings to present in class, 2. providing us with a fact sheet about director and film we are going to see by at least Monday noon before we discuss the film, 3. posting the fact sheet as word document or pdf file on Blackboard, 4. preparing some lead-in questions for our discussions according to the readings, 5. bringing treats/ snacks for class so we can survive the evening class. If you miss your presentation you will receive a grade of 0 for this assignment.

### **Participation**

You will receive credit for showing up to class. You can miss one meeting without penalty; each missed class thereafter will reduce your participation grade by 11%. The second component in this category is **active** participation. Each meeting, I will observe up to three students and determine a participation grade based on the amount and quality of participation.

### **Final exam**

There will be one comprehensive final exam posted on Blackboard to be completed by Tuesday 11:59 PM of finals week. No make-ups will be possible.

### **Film review of one film in the German Film Club**

The German Film Club will put on three films throughout the term. You are expected to attend ONE of them and write a one page review to be turned in as word document or pdf file during finals week, using the Digital Drop Box on Blackboard. The dates of these films are listed on the syllabus. Talk to me if you have a time conflict so we can work something out.

### **Research paper: film interpretation of a film assigned in class**

As part of this class you will be expected to write a 2-3 page paper based on another German film. You will sign up for and watch a German film from one of the genres we covered in class. You will interpret this film with the help of scholarly articles similar to the ones we used in class, which will require you to do comprehensive library research. You will need to have at least one article from a peer-reviewed journal, from which you will need to cite 3-5 times in your paper. The paper should follow MLA guidelines. Failure to include an article will drop your paper by 20%.

### **Use of cellphones/ blackberries/ I-Pods/ laptops in class**

Please do not use any of these devices in class as it is disrespectful to your peers and your instructor. Leave the room if you feel the urge to make or receive phone calls or to check and compose text messages. Let me know if you are expecting an important phone call (pregnant significant other, family emergency, etc.). Using any electronic device during an exam will be considered cheating. Laptops are allowed during non-exam times

to save trees, but surfing the internet, texting, listening to your music during class time or spending time on social websites will result in a participation grade of 0 for that day.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

You can earn extra credit by attending films in the German film series, being an active member of the German club, or participating in other extracurricular activities. Talk to me for details.

### **DISABILITY ACCESS SERVICES**

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098."

### **HONESTY IN ACADEMIC WORK**

At Oregon State University academic dishonesty is defined by the Oregon Administrative Rules 576-015-0020.1.a-c as: *An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work.* Academic dishonesty includes:

- **CHEATING** - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids or an act of deceit by which a student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment or using prohibited materials and texts.
- **FABRICATION** - falsification or invention of any information (including falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data and listing incorrect or fictitious references.
- **ASSISTING** - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, or taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else (or allowing someone to do these things for you). It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an education assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).
- **TAMPERING** - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents.
- **PLAGIARISM** - representing the word or ideas of another person as one's own OR presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own. This includes copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project, then submitting it as one's own.

### Course Calendar Spring 2009

DATE	DUE TODAY	CLASS MEETING
3/31		Syllabus, introduction to course, learn how to write a review, a precis, how to find a scholarly article in the library
4/7	Précis Palfreyman in Clarke 11-42 Reaction paper Mennel on Blackboard	Germany and terrorism: The legacy of 1968 <i>FILM: Gregor Schnitzler. WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE? (2001) – 101 minutes</i>
4/14	Précis Davidson in Clarke 43-78 Reaction paper Davidson on Blackboard	Germany and its Nazi legacy <i>FILM: Volker Schlöndorff. THE OGRE (1996) – 118 minutes</i>
4/21	Précis Berghahn in Clarke 79-104 Reaction paper Halle on Blackboard	East German Cinema after Unification <i>FILM: Andreas Dresen. GRILL POINT (2002) – 111 minutes</i>
<b>4/22</b>		<b><i>FILM 1: 7PM – SOPHIE SCHOLL (2005) *Owen Hall 103*</i></b>
4/28	Précis Allan in Clarke 105-26 Reaction paper Jozwiak on Blackboard	Nostalgia for East Germany? <i>FILM: Wolfgang Becker. GOOD BYE LENIN! (2003) – 121 minutes</i>
5/5	No homework due	Midterm discussion
5/12	Précis Burns in Clarke 127-51 Reaction paper Fachinger on Blackboard	Turkish-German Cinema <i>FILM: Fatih Akin. HEAD ON (2004) 121 minutes</i>
<b>5/13</b>		<b><i>FILM 2: 7PM – LEGEND OF RITA (2000) *Owen Hall 103*</i></b>
5/19	Précis Clarke in Clarke 151-80 Reaction paper Hamm on Blackboard	Berlin – The new German capital city <i>FILM: Tom Tykwer. RUN LOLA RUN (1998) – 81 minutes</i>
5/26	Précis Halle in Clarke 181-206 Reaction paper Phillips on Blackboard	German blockbuster <i>FILM: Doris Dörrie. MEN or ENLIGHTENMENT GUARANTEED</i>
6/2	No homework due	Final Discussion
<b>6/3</b>		<b><i>FILM 3: 7PM – THE EDUKATORS (2004) *Owen Hall 103*</i></b>
6/9	<b>FINAL EXAM, FILM REVIEW AND RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY 11:59 PM ON BLACKBOARD</b>	

*Portfolios due 6/9, noon, in the Blackboard Digital Drop Box*