



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

GERM317
Topics in German Culture – German War Writings
Winter 2018
TR 12:30 - 13:45
EDC 057

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Jan Süselbeck

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 513

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-2951

E-Mail : jan.suselbeck@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

How did German (and Swiss) writers describe the wars of the 20th century – or even future war visions? Where do lie the differences between problematic glorifications of combat and a pacifist approach representing atrocities? How dealt Hollywood with these questions? Were German authors even capable of depicting the bombardment of German cities during the Second World War? What about writers who published between the 1970s and the late 1990s? Was there an awareness of the proxy wars after 1945, just as the bloody civil war in Beirut (1975-1990)? How was it even possible to represent such asymmetrical warfare from a German perspective? Last but not least, the seminar includes classical dystopia literature by Arno Schmidt and Friedrich Dürrenmatt about a fictional survival of a third (and final) nuclear world war.

OBJECTIVES

This seminar offers readings and interpretations of war writings and films from 1920 to 2001. The course focusses on narrations, novels and essays by famous war and post-war writers such as Ernst Jünger, Erich Maria Remarque, Arno Schmidt, Alexander Kluge, Friedrich Dürrenmatt and W. G. Sebald. As an example of a classical war novel of the late 1970s which unfortunately still has not been translated into English, we will watch and analyze the 1981 film version of Nicolas Born's fictional book about a German war reporter in the Civil War in Lebanon, *Die Fälschung* (1979), realised by the renowned German director Volker Schlöndorff, starring Bruno Ganz and Hannah Schygulla (*Circle of Deceit*, 1981).

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will oversee a broad panorama of representations of war in German literature and in cinema history. They will have learned to find, use and discuss secondary literature and write great academical papers, being aware of the differences between representations of war in different media and changing historical contexts.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

presentation (25 %)
attendance / participation / text responses (“tickets to class”) (25 %)
8-pages paper (25 %)
Take home exam (25 %)

GRADING SCALE

A+ (97-100 %), A (91-96%), A- (86-91)
B+ (81-85%), B (76-80%), B- (71-75)
C+ (67-70%), C (62-66%), C- (58-61%)
D+ (54-57%), D (50-53%), F (0-49 %)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Books required (additional texts will be provided via hyperlink or on D2L):

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*

https://www.amazon.ca/Penguin-Classics-Storm-Steel-Junger/dp/0142437905/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479938666&sr=1-2&keywords=storm+of+steel

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

https://www.amazon.ca/Quiet-Western-Front-Erich-Remarque/dp/0449213943/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479939569&sr=1-1&keywords=All+Quiet+On+the+Western+Front

Arno Schmidt, *Nobodaddy’s Children: Scenes from the Life of a Faun, Brand’s Heath, Dark Mirrors.*

https://www.amazon.ca/Nobodaddys-Children-Scenes-Brands-Mirrors/dp/1564780902/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1492728127&sr=8-3-fkmr0&keywords=Arno+schmidt+black

Alexander Kluge, *Air Raid*

https://www.amazon.ca/Air-Raid-Alexander-Kluge/dp/0857420798/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479939095&sr=1-1&keywords=air+raid

W. G. Sebald, *On the Natural History of Destruction*

https://www.amazon.ca/Natural-History-Destruction-W-G-Sebald/dp/0676975305/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1479939769&sr=1-1&keywords=on+the+natural+history+of+destruction



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Further articles will be provided via D2L or via hyperlinks in the syllabus.

COURSE NOTES

Assignments

You will have to give **one presentation** (15 minutes) to be done in one of the class meetings, as a discussion opener about the current topic. How to do these presentations will be explained in class, and additional information will be uploaded on D2L.

The Ticket to Class tests the students' understanding of the assigned readings.

You may be asked to:

- come up with a good written question based on the reading
- respond to a question or issue raised by the reading
- provide the class with information about the authors and their texts to be read

Take away exam: You will be required to write one *take away exam* at home. It will ask questions about the texts and the films discussed in class. **These take away exams will be given to you during the last meeting of the semester and are due on April 20, 2018.**

8-pages paper on some reading or film discussed in class. Topics can be creatively developed and must be planned in a personal meeting with the instructor before midterm. **Papers are due on April 12 (last class meeting of the semester).**

Suggestions for possible paper topics will be provided as well. If you are a major or graduate student in our German programs, you are encouraged to write in German; if you are not a native speaker, this will of course be taken into account. At the discretion of the instructor, a paper submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Avoid plagiarism: By turning in a paper, you certify that the work is your own; that you have given proper credit and citation to the work of others; and that you have not committed any other form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Any case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and possible consequences up to expulsion from U of C. For definitions of plagiarism, please see the course calendar.

Writing skills statement: All writings assignments will be marked according to content, form, analysis, and originality as well as clarity of writing including grammar, spelling, and organization. To improve your writing skills, contact the Effective Writing

Centre: https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support/overview.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services office at 403-210-6019 or access@ucalgary.ca; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)
For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.