

German 379 LSIC
Germany: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Fall, 2009
Dr. Stern

“There are and will be 1000 princes; there is only 1 Beethoven”
(Ludwig von Beethoven)

Meeting Time: MW 2:45-4:00 in NH117

Office Hours: M 10-11; T 9-10:30; W 9-10 in NH225 . If these times don't work for you, just let me know and we can arrange to meet at another time.

Telephone: 232-2438 (office)
e-mail: lindenkranz2003@yahoo.de I read my e-mail several times a day so do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail.

Text: Schulze, Germany: A New History. The text is available in the bookstore.

As you have noted from the description of LSIC courses, this is both a *writing intensive* and *information literacy intensive* course.

A knowledge of German is not necessary to complete the course. Those who do know German may be asked to access sources of information unavailable to the others.

Please note that LSIC courses may not be used to fulfill major requirements.

Grades will be compiled from 5 in-class writing/information assignments (40%) and the 2-part final exam (each part 30%). About 7-8 in-class assignments will be given and the lowest 2-3 (or the ones missed) will be dropped. These assignments will be unannounced and may not under any circumstances be made up. Active participation in the class, which presupposes regular attendance, will be considered as well. “80% of success is showing up.” (Woody Allen) I will use the plus/minus option in assigning grades.

This course will attempt to integrate various disciplines in its approach to Germany. It is not a history course, although we will discuss German history; it is not a political science course, although we will focus considerable attention on current political developments in Germany. The same may be said for literary, cultural, and sociological issues. In all we do we will attempt to identify what is typically German and how that might differ from what is typically American or French or Spanish.

In contrast to past courses, which began in the Germanic past and worked chronologically, in the first 4-5 class hours we will concentrate on the present and recent past. By and large, we will probably spend more time on current issues than on the past. For this reason a close and careful reading of the text is necessary to develop a feel for the unfolding of German history and to develop a sense for what is typically German.

As the semester progresses, I will refer you to various websites and other sources of information on contemporary Germany in English. For now you might want to use www.spiegel.de/international/germany.

Course Calendar

- M 8/17: experience/stereotypes; exercise/ Brahms: Academic Festival Overture
- W 8-19: syllabus/ the Basics w/ slides, overheads, maps/Mozart: Clarinet Concerto
- M 8-24: German Today I: the issues, here and there/Factbook/Beethoven: Für Elise and Moonlight Sonata
- W 8/26: Germany Today II: politics, education, and society/German Art Songs: settings from Goethe poems
- M 8/31 Germany Today III: holidays, names and places, soccer/Mozart: Horn Concerto
- W 9/2: Germany Today IV: how we differ/the national anthem/Haydn: Emperor Quartet
- W 9/9: Survey of German History I: 'Germani' and Germans; an empire takes form
- M 9/14: Survey of German History II: a first 'Golden Age', the year 1200
- W 9/16: Survey III: Luther and the Reformation/Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony
- M 9/21: Survey IV: Reformation and 30 Years' War
- W 9/23 Survey V: 'Old Fritz' and the rise of Prussia; Bach and Brandenburg
- M 9/28: Survey VI: Goethe and Schiller/outstanding brothers/Beethoven's 7th
- W 9/30 Survey VII: Germany unites; Germany and Austria

M 10/5: From 1945 to the Present I

W 10/7: From 1945 to the Present II/ Berlin Wall film

W 10/14: no class

M 10/19: film 'Downfall', part 1

W 10/21: film, part 2

M 10/26: film 'Lives of Others', part 1

W 10/28: film, part 2

M 11/2: film 'Good-Bye Lenin', part 1

W 11/4: film, part 2

M 11/9: Topics I: fin de siècle Vienna

W 11/11: Topics II: Germans in America

M 11/16: Germans in America II

M 11/18: A Tale of several cities

M 11/23: no class

M 11/30: open

W12/2: Final Exam I (normal class time)

Final Exam II will be at the announced time for finals. Exam topic/s will be given 2-3 weeks before the end of the semester.

Some outside reading/watching, all dealing with modern German history:

Bella Fromm, Blood and Banquets. An interesting dairy of a Jewish German socialite living in Berlin during Hitler's rise to power. (DD253.F69).

Victor Klemperer, I Will Bear Witness. A diary account of a Jewish German man living in Dresden during WWII.

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The Stories of Heinrich Böll. Short stories by the Nobel Prize winner, many of which deal with the war years. Very interesting and engaging reading. (PT 2603.0394 A28 1986)

Two films: 'Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace' (BX4827.B56 1999). This is the story of the Lutheran minister who resisted the Nazis and was executed just before the war ended. And: 'The Ninth Day'. This deals with a priest from Luxemburg who was imprisoned in Dachau in the so-called 'priest block' where some 3000 clergy were held and ca. 1000 died.

Also worth checking in the library are the books and films about the 'White Rose' group. These were students who joined with Hans and Sophie Scholl in resisting the Nazis by distributing pamphlets. The Scholls were captured and executed.