

Die Gegenwart der Vergangenheit

GERM 470 (HSCW), Fall 2019
 TTh 4:00 – 5:15pm, ML 128
 Instructor: Prof. Hiram Maxim
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Description

This upper-level writing intensive course conducted in German will examine the presence, relevance, and influence of the past (“die Vergangenheit”) in contemporary German-speaking society (“die Gegenwart”). Specifically, the course will progress through three topical units, each focusing on a different historical period that continues to resonate today:

- The Habsburg monarchy of Austria and the Hohenzollern monarchy of Germany in the late 19th and early 20th century;
- National Socialism;
- The German Democratic Republic.

In addition to examining how Germany and Austria’s past continues to reverberate in today’s German-speaking society, students will also explore how the past lives on in American society and even in their own lives.

Approach

The course will begin with introductory sessions that will introduce students to the notion “culture of memory” (“Erinnerungskultur”), which has been a central theme in post-1945 German studies. Then, an exploration of each of the three historical periods will commence, beginning with a historical overview of the time period and then turning to current events as well as literary and filmic portrayals in which the time period is thematized. The course content will be delivered through a range of texts (e.g., newspaper reports, editorials, reviews, films, literary passages, monuments, memorials) that will also serve as sources for vocabulary and grammar development.

Because this course fulfills one of the Continuing Writing Requirements for the GERs, students will be asked to respond to the course material in a series of writing assignments, ranging from personal narratives about one’s own interactions with the past to analytical essays that draw on secondary sources. Despite the range of assignments, the overarching focus of the written assignments encompasses the type of response and expository genres targeted in upper-level instruction in the German Studies curriculum (e.g., comparison, review, analysis, exposition). Another feature of the curriculum’s support of advanced language development is the effort to provide appropriate models of the type of writing that is expected of students.

Although a writing-intensive course, the other three modalities of language use (listening, speaking, reading) will also receive extensive attention through different activities, such as in-class discussions, film viewings, *Referate*, and nightly readings. As with the writing assignments, guidance and models will be provided to help students complete the activities at an advanced level.

Goals:

By the end of the semester, students in this course will be able to

- locate the culturally significant issue or problem in a range of cultural practices, products, and narratives (literary texts; film; journalism; internet; popular culture) and contextualize these practices, products, and narratives in terms of their larger socio-historical dimensions;

- summarize the views of others expressed in discussions, primary sources, and secondary literature;
- formulate their own well-substantiated arguments about cultural practices, products, and narratives;
- move between their own position and the view(s) being responded to;
- anticipate and respond to counterarguments;
- glean and use lexico-grammatical items from source texts to conduct this process of summary-response;
- demonstrate a general understanding of significant events surrounding the German-speaking world's remembrance of the past;
- demonstrate an understanding of the media landscape in the German-speaking world;
- reflect about their own language use in different contexts and demonstrate familiarity with the next steps in their language learning.

Prerequisites:

- Two German courses numbered 300 or higher or the equivalent, or permission of instructor;

Course materials:

- Nora Krug. (2018). *Heimat. Ein deutsches Familienalbum*. Penguin Verlag. ISBN 978-3328600053
- Additional readings provided by the instructor via Google Drive and/or eReserves, including excerpts from
 - o Herta Müller (2009). *Atemschaukel*
 - o Ines Geipel (2019). *Umkämpfte Zone: Mein Bruder, der Osten und der Hass*
 - o Bettina Balaka (2018). *Kaiser, Krieger, Heldinnen. Exkursionen in die Gegenwart der Vergangenheit*.
- a good reference grammar book (e.g., Rankin & Wells or Dreyer & Schmitt).

Assessment

1. **Participation (10%).** As an upper-level seminar, this course expects active and engaged participation by all class members.

Grade	Criteria
A	always well-prepared always is attentive and eager to volunteer always tries to use German with classmates and instructor always makes the most of each exercise shows real resourcefulness and imagination when using the language always responds to and engages classmates in a respectful manner remains critical and open-minded toward target and native culture
B	usually well-prepared usually is attentive and volunteers occasionally usually tries to use German with classmates and instructor usually makes the most of each exercise completes exercises with some imagination and resourcefulness makes some effort to engage fellow students shows some development of cultural sensitivity
C	adequately prepared and attentive occasionally needs to be reminded to use German with instructor and classmates responds and completes exercises with minimal imagination does not engage classmates beyond the minimum requirements for an assignment

D	usually unprepared makes little effort to participate or complete exercises rarely tries to use German with instructor or classmates
F	makes no contribution to class whatsoever

You are allowed a maximum of 2 absences during the semester without penalty for any reason (e.g., doctor, wedding). Beginning with the 3rd absence, **a penalty of -1%** will be levied on the final semester grade for each class missed.

As part of your participation grade, you must attend three extra-curricular events (such as a film showing, a German House party, or departmental guest lecture). There is a great amount of flexibility as to what counts as an appropriate activity because we want you to seek out those aspects of the German-speaking culture that interest you. For each event, please enter the relevant information in your “Kulturpass” that you will receive from your instructor. **Not fulfilling this requirement results in a 3% deduction of your participation grade per event missed.** You can always find the latest information on events in the department at <http://german.emory.edu/home/events/index.html>.

2. **Homework (20%).** Completing homework thoroughly, regularly, and on time is extremely important. Homework will be graded according to the following criteria:
 - “√+” (100%): Homework handed in on time and indicating a very thorough effort, including a conscious attempt to use language features emphasized in class;
 - “√” (80%): Homework handed in on time and indicating a satisfactory effort;
 - “√-” (60%): Homework handed in on time but indicating an unsatisfactory effort.

Note: Homework that receives a check or check minus can be corrected, turned back in, and, assuming the issues have been addressed, receive a mark of 90%. **Late homework will not be accepted and will receive no credit.** Students are encouraged to use the homework exercises to experiment with the language and become resourceful users of German. At the same time, they are expected to use online resources to check their work for any unnecessary errors. Specifically, in 400-level courses in the German Studies Department it is expected that on take-home assignments students will use resources available to them (e.g., spellcheck in MS Word or Google Doc; websites with verb conjugations; online dictionaries with gender and plural forms) to avoid committing the following errors: gender (G), punctuation (I), case after prepositions (K), plural form of nouns (PI), spelling and capitalization (R), and subject-verb agreement (SV) = GIKPRS! Random errors in these categories are unavoidable but consistent inattention to these avoidable errors will negatively affect the final grade.

Regular homework assignments could consist any of the following activities: (re)reading an assigned text, creating a semantic field, attending a presentation, interviewing someone, gathering background information, completing a worksheet or grammar exercise, working with a classmate on an assignment, writing an essay, or preparing for an in-class speaking event.

3. **Writing assignments (50%).** Over the course of the semester you will complete a range of written assignments of varying length:
 - a. Short responses to topics raised in the course readings (1 page each)
 - b. Summary of interview with native speaker about German history (2-3 pages)
 - c. Comparison of two film reviews (2-3 pages)
 - d. Film review (2-3 pages)
 - e. Analysis of current example of the past’s presence in contemporary society (5-6 pages)
4. **2 oral presentations (10%).** Each student will give a brief presentation of a recent event from the German-speaking world in which the past was thematized and debated. In addition, students will work in small groups to present updates on current examples of the past’s continual resurfacing in the German-speaking world.

5. **Final exam (10%) on Friday, December 13th.** Students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge of the many events in recent years in the German-speaking world when the past was revisited, contested, and discussed.

Academic Honor:

The Honor Code of Emory College is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on quizzes and exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the instructor's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the instructor is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.

The central issue is that any work submitted to an instructor for evaluation should be one's own. Within the German Studies Department assistance is possible and even encouraged in two limited situations: online or in person. Online resources can be used for grammatical explanations (e.g., verb conjugations) or the translation of words, expressions, and phrases. **However, use of online resources to translate entire sentences or paragraphs is not permitted.** Seeking assistance in person should be limited to receiving suggestions, reviewing certain topics, and addressing revisions, but the ultimate production of the work to be turned in will rest with you.

- The Honor Code, a list of offenses and the Honor Council process may be found; <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

SEMESTERÜBERBLICK:

Tag	Inhalt	Aufgabe(n)
Do, 29.8.	Einführung	
Di, 3.9.	Was Erinnern heißt	
Do, 5.9.	Wie man erinnert	
Monarchien		
Di, 10.9.	Habsburg Nostalgie (Balaka 2018)	
Do, 12.9.	Habsburg Nostalgie (Balaka 2018)	
Di, 17.9.	Film: <i>Alles auf Zucker</i> (2004)	
Do, 19.9.	Texte vergleichen	
Di, 24.9.	deutscher Kolonialismus in Afrika	Sch 1: Vergleich von Filmrezensionen
NS-Zeit		
Do, 26.9.	<i>Atemschaukel</i>	Ref: Fernsehserie <i>Holocaust</i>
Di, 1.10.	<i>Atemschaukel</i>	Ref: Historikerstreit; Sch: Email an Prof
Do, 3.10.	<i>Atemschaukel</i>	Ref: Gruppenbericht 1
Di, 8.10.	<i>Heimat</i>	Ref: Waldheim-Affäre / <i>Heldenplatz</i>
Do, 10.10.	<i>Heimat</i>	Ref: Wehrmachtsausstellung / Daniel Goldhagen
Do, 17.10.	<i>Heimat</i>	Ref: NSU-Mordserie
Di, 22.10.	<i>Heimat</i> + Skype mit Nora Krug	Sch 4: Thema der Analyse
Do, 24.10.	<i>Heimat</i>	Ref: Holocaust Mahnmahl
Di, 29.10.	<i>Heimat</i>	Ref: Deserteursdenkmal / Trümmerfrauen-Denkmal Sch 2: Bericht über das Interview
Do, 31.10.	Rechtspopulismus (AfD)	Ref: Gedenkstätte Hohenschönhausen
Di, 5.11.	Gespräch mit Günther Heydemann	Sch 4: annotierte Bibliographie
Do, 7.11.	Rechtspopulismus (FPÖ)	Ref: Gruppenbericht 2

DDR		
Di, 12.11.	30 Jahre Mauerfall	Ref: Pegida / Emil Nolde Ausstellung
Do, 14.11.	30 Jahre Mauerfall	Ref: <i>mein Kampf</i> / Stolpersteine in Linz
Di, 19.11.	Film: <i>Barbara</i> (2012)	Ref: Literaturstreit; Sch 4: Abstract der Analyse
Do, 21.11.	Film: <i>Barbara</i> (2012)	Ref: Berliner Schloss
Di, 26.11.	<i>Umkämpfte Zone</i>	Sch 3: Rezension vom Film <i>Barbara</i>
Di, 3.12.	<i>Umkämpfte Zone</i>	Ref: Gruppenbericht 3
Do, 5.12.	<i>Umkämpfte Zone</i>	Sch 4: erste Version der Analyse
Di, 10.12.	Doping in der DDR	
Fr, 13.12.	Schlussexamen	