

## CLC 3391G / GER 3322G TWENTIETH-CENTURY GERMAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Lectures: Mo 1:30-3:30, UC 202  
CLC Tutorial: We 10:30-11:30, UC 202  
GER Tutorial: We 11:30-12:30, UC 207

Instructor: Carmen Barbu  
Office hours: Tu&Th 4:30-5:30, UC260  
Email: [cbarbu2@uwo.ca](mailto:cbarbu2@uwo.ca)

This survey of twentieth-century German literature introduces students to one of the richest and most influential European literatures, during one of the most turbulent centuries in German history. The texts that we will read will offer a glimpse of the unsettled mood at the beginning of the century, the two World Wars, the painful division of Germany into two states, the 1989 Reunification and the increasing prominence of Germany today. Excursions into this fascinating history will be accompanied by the study of literary and theoretical texts, works of visual arts, music and cinematography, and other cultural documents that mirror their times – and sometimes challenge them.

### COURSE MATERIALS

Brecht, Bertolt. *The Three-Penny Opera*. Ed. John Willett and Ralph Manheim. Penguin Books. 2008. ISBN: 0143105167.

Kafka, Franz. "In the Penal Colony." *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories*. Dover Publications, 1996. ISBN: 0486290301.

Mann, Thomas. "Mario and the Magician." *Death in Venice: And Seven Other Stories*. Vintage, 1989. ISBN: 0679722068.

Rilke, Rainer Maria. *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge*. Trans. Burton Pike. Dalkey Archive Press, 2008. ISBN: 1564784975.

Schlink, Bernhard. *The Reader*. Vintage, 1999. ISBN: 0375707972.

**Note: Additional materials will be posted on WebCT.**

### GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Midterm (February 22): 30%

Presentations (10 minutes, followed by discussion; March 17): 30%

Research essay (5 pages, double-spaced; four secondary sources required; due on April 7): 30%

Attendance and participation: 10%.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized at the rate of 5% per calendar day. A make-up exam or any other special arrangements will be scheduled in cases of real emergency; the student must obtain permission for a special exam in these cases.

### **Prerequisites**

For CLC3391: CLC1020, or permission of the Department

For German 3322: German 2250e or permission of the Department.

**Antirequisites** (for both CLC 3391 and GER 3322): None

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

**Absenteeism:** Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)  
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

## **SCHEDULE (Preliminary)**

Jan. 4-6 – Introduction

Part I: *"Like an ax for the frozen sea within us"*

Jan. 11-13 – Introduction to modernism

Jan. 18-20 – Kafka, "In the Penal Colony"

Jan. 25 -27 – Rilke, "The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge":

Feb. 3-5 – World War I

Part II: "There is hope, but not for us"

Feb. 10 -12 – Mann, "Mario and the Magician"

Feb. 15-19 Reading Week.

Feb. 22 **Midterm**

Feb. 24 – Nazi propaganda

March 1-3 – World War II

March 8-10 – Brecht, *Three-Penny Opera*

Part III: "There used to be a country I had lived in"

March 15 – East-German Propaganda. East-German Rock.

March 17 - **Presentations**

March 22-24 – Bernhard Schlink, *The Reader*

March 29-31 - Schlink

April 5 – Sun Alley

April 7 Make-up class. **Final paper due.**