

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

GERMAN 3310G
GERMAN TV DETECTIVES: FROM ROSENHEIM TO HAMBURG
WINTER 2023

Professor Melitta Adamson
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Tue 1:30-4:30pm

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Course Content:

In this course students will discover the various regions of Germany through the eyes of the country's TV detectives. They will be introduced to the popular genre of the German TV crime drama or Fernsehkrimi which is one of Germany's most successful cultural exports. The shows which range from the early evening short SOKO Krimis to the film-length Tatort series, give the viewer a sense of life in contemporary Germany and often address current issues, such as race, gender, migration, the wealth gap, and the environment. The course will expand students' vocabulary, especially in the area of law enforcement, improve their command of grammar and their comprehension of spoken German with its regional variations. Familiarity with the characteristics of the genre will also help sharpen students' crime-solving skills.

Course Objectives:

- to give students a tour of Germany through the medium of the TV crime drama
- to familiarize students with the peculiarities of the different regions and accents
- to introduce students to a highly successful genre of German popular culture and its characteristic features
- to bring students' oral, aural, written and reading skills in German to the next level

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course successful students will

- be more proficient in the target language with its regional variations
- have a broader active and passive vocabulary, and improved command of grammar
- have gained an understanding of life in Germany as represented in a wide range of TV crime dramas
- have acquired the tools to conduct basic research in a popular genre of German TV entertainment, and present it in oral and written form

Assessments: (tentative)

Plot and research essays will first be presented in class orally and later handed in.

Participation	15%
TV Crime Drama Plot (1000 words, in German)	25%
Research Essay I (1500 words, in German)	30%
Research Essay II (1500 words, in German)	30%

Course material:

A representative selection from the wide range of German TV crime dramas available on the ARD and ZDF mediathek websites www.ardmediathek.de and www.zdf.de plus material on the genre provided by the instructor.

The Department of Languages and Cultures Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Languages and Cultures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Languages and Cultures website at <https://www.uwo.ca/languages/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Languages and Cultures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.