

GER 2215F: EXPLORING GERMAN CULTURES
Fall 2020 Preliminary Course Description

Instructor:

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UC 3309

Class:

T 11:30-12:30 am
Th 11:30-1:30 am



In this course you will study cultures from the heart of Europe.

COURSE CONTENT AND AIMS:



The German speaking countries are at the heart of Europe; and German is a leading language of literature, film, music, science, philosophy, theology, history and art.

As a first exploration of German cultures, this course has a double objective: first to improve the German language conversation, reading and writing skills of all students and second, to develop and improve research skills through research projects on the cultural products of the German speaking world. This course will particularly open up perspectives about German literature, visual art and film by investigating key persons, places, times and issues.



This year we will use a focus on Berlin, WWII, Goethe, and Turkish-German relations to explore a range of questions. Some examples are: What impact did the Berlin wall (1961-89) have on life and art? How does the absurd provide a lens on fascism? Does an epistolary novel have the same function in the 18th Century as today's social media? How can you read transcultural German-Turkish issues reflected in recent popular movies in front of the history of Arab-European relations from the Middle Ages to today?

METHODOLOGY:

This course is student-centered. Guided and supported by the instructor, students will develop a portfolio consisting of a variety of short assignments designed to improve writing and analytical skills. Students will participate in discussions and will carry out two research projects on subjects proposed and presented in class, with the final project submitted in a written or multi-media format. During the course, students will have the opportunity to interact with all the specialists in the German program.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

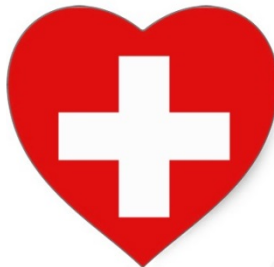
Discussion and Participation 30%

Portfolio, including improvement 40%

Two Research Projects 30%

COURSE MATERIALS:

On OWL, some like the Dover Duallanguage Edition of *Die Leiden des Jungen Werthers* could be purchased. More details to come.



Pre-or Corequisite(s): German 2200 or permission of the Department.

For the academic policies for undergraduate courses in the Department of Languages and Cultures, please consult the following link: <https://www.uwo.ca/languages/undergraduate/policies.html>.