

TERM:

SPRING 2024

COURSE TITLE:

German Culture through Film and Literature

CRN 71479

COURSE NUMBER:

FFYS 1000.08

SECTION TIMES/DAYS:

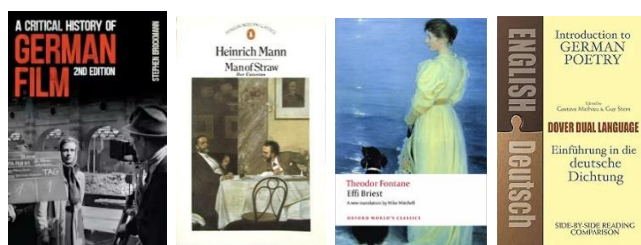
3:05-3:15 PM MWF

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Agnes J. Cser

COURSE DESCRIPTION / PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course introduces students to the varied perspectives and countless voices that shaped the complex history of the German culture. Through surveying the major milestones of German cinema and reading German lyric poetry, students generate an understanding of the key roles of literary voices, historical events, and political notions shaping Germany's difficult past and present development toward more heterogeneous, cosmopolitan, and multicultural ideals. Whenever a film is based on a literary work, it will be read alongside its film version for comparative purposes. The class meetings consist of lectures, film screenings, class discussions, and group work.



REQUIRED TEXTS

1. **Stephen Brockmann, *A Critical History of German Film*.** 2nd edition. Boydell and Brewer, 2020, pp. 692. Print ISBN 13:9781571133267; library will provide access to eBook ISBN 13:9781787448964 <https://boydellandbrewer.com/a-critical-history-of-german-film-second-edition.htm>
2. **Heinrich Mann, *Man of Straw*.** Pinguin Classics, 1984. ISBN 13: 9780140065848. www.abebooks.com
3. **Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest*.** English. Trans. Mike Mitchell. Oxford World's Classics, 2015, ISBN: 9780199675647
4. Mathieu, Gustave and Guy Stern, eds. *Introduction to German Poetry*. A Dual-language Book. Dover, 1991. ISBN-13: 978-0486267135
5. material on *Brightspace*

RECOMMENDED

Robert Liebmann, *The Blue Engel*. Screenplay eBook <https://archive.org/details/blueangel0000lieb/mode/2up>

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

Upon completion of this course, students will have

- developed an appreciation for German cinema and literature
- acquired an understanding of the historical, social and political moments that gave birth to the creation of the representative works of German cinema
- further developed their reading, listening, speaking and analytical writing skills in English

COURSE WORK EXPECTATIONS

Your homework will consist of reading the material assigned, answering questions in writing having to do with the analysis of the content and the aesthetic dimensions of the art medium, as well as viewing long films outside of class. Participation in the discussions of the films is of utmost importance. There will be a short quiz each week on Friday, a group oral presentation, two short response papers, a midterm paper, and a final essay.

COMMENTS

This course has three functions:

- introduction to German film with English subtitles and German lyric poetry in dual language
- introduction to how film was a forum for both working through Germany's difficult past, as well as reflecting on the complexities of its history
- introduction to basic film and literary terms necessary to the understanding of how German cinema transitioned from silent to sound film, and the aesthetic dimensions of the artistic medium in question