GER 105: German Film Today (DL Version)

****6-week: Summer II June 20 - August 1

This is an online course. To access the course visit [http://elearning.uky.edu](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Felearning.uky.edu&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFVjO04zvbSn3IkkVfjhhdCpK38xg) and login to Blackboard with your LINK BLUE username and password.

**Instructor: Ben Vogelpohl**

**Office Location:**

**Phone: 257-4540**

**Email**: All communication for this course will be conducted through the Messages feature in Blackboard. It is an internal email system separate from your uky email accounts. You can find the Messages feature under the tools tab Do not send e-mail for course related items unless instructed to do so by the TA, only use this Messages feature.

**Virtual Office Hours:** The fastest way to contact me is through messages. I will respond within 1 business day. For face-to-face, telephone, or Adobe Connect appointments: please contact me through the message function to set up a meeting time.

**Course Developer**: Professor N. Jeff Rogers, MCL

**Phone**: 7-4540

**Office**: 1071 POT

Course Description

This course explores German filmmaking in the 21st century. It is an introduction to the understanding and interpretation of films produced in a specific national context outside of what is commonly referred to as Hollywood. Our examination will have two parts. An introduction to interpretative strategies used to understand feature length films as one of the dominant modes of storytelling and mythmaking in the contemporary world. And, an on-going discussion of the many ways in which issues related to nationality, language and global economics have influenced filmmaking in Germany. We will view, analyze, compare, discuss and interpret a representative sampling of contemporary German films while questioning the very designation German in the context of globalized media markets.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing German 105 students will be able to: *identify* the basic components of a good question as related to practices of inquiry in film studies and the humanities; *demonstrate* basic information literacy in the areas of film criticism and cultural studies; *explain* what is meant by national, international, transnational and global film production as they relate to Germany and Hollywood; *evaluate* theses, arguments and conclusions employed in discussions and evaluations of German film; *compare* German and Hollywood films in light of the ethical implications of subsidies, regulated markets and the rhetoric of free trade and cultural imperialism; *analyze* representative films produced in Germany; and *apply* the knowledge, theory and analytic tools developed in the course to a variety of film produced in national, international, transnational and/or global contexts. These objectives overlap with the objectives of the Inquiry component of the UK General Education Requirement. These Read as follows.

Students will be able to *identify* multiple dimensions of a good question; *determine* when additional information is needed, *find* credible information efficiently using a variety of reference sources, and *judge* the quality of information as informed by rigorously developed evidence; *explore* multiple and complex answers to questions/issues problems within and across the four broad knowledge areas: arts and creativity, humanities, social and behavioral sciences, and natural/ physical/mathematical sciences; *evaluate* theses and conclusions in light of credible evidence; *explore* the ethical implications of differing approaches, methodologies or conclusions; and *develop* potential solutions to problems based on sound evidence and reasoning.

Course Mechanics

This course will be taught during the 6 week summer session II. You will be required to view 12 films during that period (2 films per week). In addition to watching the assigned films, you will be required to complete a number of short readings that will introduce you to different issues related to contemporary German film production and film analysis in general. Three written sequence analyses will give you an opportunity to put the interpretative strategies and information introduced in the course to work.

Required Texts and Films - NO REQUIRED TEXTS FOR THIS COURSE



 Texts

THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT FOR THIS COURSE. YOU WILL NEED TO PAY FOR STREAMING VIDEO TO VIEW THE FILMS. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO PURCHASE THE FILMS. \*See "FILMS" handout in the "Course Information" folder.

All readings are posted electronically on Blackboard.

Films

*Run Lola, Run* (1998) / *Anatomy* (2000) / *Good-Bye Lenin!* (2004) / *Perfume* (2006) / *Downfall* (2005) / *The Live of Others* (2007) / *Head-On* (2004) / *Soul Kitchen* (2010) / *The Edukators* (2004) / *The White Ribbon* (2010) / *The Reader* (2008) */* *Ingluorious Basterds* (2009)

Netflix : *All films*  are available streaming through Netflix - [http://www.netflix.com](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.netflix.com&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFyhQ-vls4PpgtANHAomWLHrVEpJA) or Amazon.com - http://www.amazon.com. Two films *Run Lola Run* and *Good-Bye Lenin* will be made available streaming through Blackboard. They can also be obtained at video stores or at the UK media library. Sequences will be posted on Blackboard. See additional handout about films in the "Course Information" folder. It is entitled "Films."

Grading - Course Assignments

Your grade for GER 105 will be based on the following:

**Grades**

90-100 - A

80-89 - B

70-79 - C

60-69 - D

0-59 - E

Film Analyses (2 x 10% = 20%)

Film Essay (1 x 20% = 20%)

Exams (2 x 15% = 30%)

Final (1 x 20% = 20%)

Response Forms (10 x 1% = 10%)

\*Students will receive a midterm evaluation of course performance.

Film Analyses and Essay

You will write three short pieces during the course of the semester. In each case a film clip will be assigned to you and you will be given a worksheet to guide your review/analysis. The first will take the form of a structured formal analysis, the second a more loosely structured formal analysis and the final version a critical analysis. The reviews will range in length from 3-5 pages and are not intended to be formal research papers. Rather they are intended to be opportunities for you to develop your skills of formal analysis and critically reflect upon issues raised in the course as they relate to a particular film.

Exams

There will be three exams during the course of the semester, one of which will be the final. The exams will cover films and materials presented in the course during the preceding two-week unit. The final will be cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and an essay question. All students will receive a midterm grade so they can measure their progress in the course.

Response Forms

Response forms will be completed for 10 of the 12 films, 2 per week. The lowest 2 will drop out or you can choose to skip 2. These will be submitted electronically on blackboard at the end of each week. These are short, focused writings which give you the opportunity to demonstrate you watched the movies and related them to the lectures.

Final Exam Information: TBD

Course Policies

Students can review their scores by going to MY GRADES in Blackboard.

All assignments must be submitted online. Assignments sent via e-mail will not be accepted/graded. If you have problems submitting an assignment, it is your responsibility to let your instructor know. Written assignments MUST be submitted as Microsoft Word files unless otherwise noted. All filenames should use only alpha-numeric characters (a-z, 0-9) before the file extension (example .doc or .docx). Example: SamAdamsEssay2.doc . Blackboard does not accept file names with characters like !@#$%.

Exam Information: TBD

The online examinations and quizzes will be submitted electronically through Blackboard and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Each examination or quiz will consist of 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions and, on exams, an essay question. The examination will be available beginning 24 hours before the due date/time. It is your responsibility to make sure that you access the material during that time period. You can access the examination any time during the 24-hour window but you can only access it once. Once you access an examination you have 30 minutes in which to complete and submit it. If you go over the time you will receive an automatic score of zero. It is your responsibility to watch the time and submit the examination in time. The window for the essay portion of exams will stay open for an additional 30 minutes.

Online examinations are OPEN BOOK examinations. You can use your textbook or any other notes when taking an examination. Although you can use your book and notes, you MUST prepare ahead of time because you will not have enough time to look up the answer to each question. Multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions will be automatically graded and your score will be available immediately. Essays and short answer responses will need to be manually graded.

If you experience technical difficulties contact the Customer Service Center at 859-218-HELP (4357) or by e-mail at helpdesk@uky.edu. Please also inform the course instructor when you are having technical difficulties.

Attendance

You are required to submit all weekly assignments by 4pm on Friday of each week. In addition, you must complete exams during the exam window.

All course materials are online and it is YOUR responsibility to access material in a timely manner. To help keep you on track I have provided a Course Schedule that you should follow. The schedule is at the end of this syllabus and also in the UNITS tab on Blackboard.

6-week courses: You are expected to spend a MINIMUM of 4 hours per day (5 days a week) working with the course material (including reading, writing, interacting with other students in the course, etc).

Excused Absence/ Make-up opportunities

Students need to notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible. S.R. 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) serious illness, (b) illness or death of family member, (c) University-related trips, (d) major religious holidays, and (e) other circumstances found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the professor.

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day in the semester to add a class. Information regarding dates of major religious holidays may be obtained through the religious liaison, Mr. Jake Karnes (859-257-2754).

Students are expected to withdraw from the class if more than 20% of the classes scheduled for the semester are missed (excused or unexcused) per university policy.

Problems associated with your computer, procrastination, or forgetfulness are not acceptable excuses for late submission of assignments. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you access and submit assignments on time.

Note: Once the deadline for submission has passed, these assignments will no longer be accessible on Blackboard.

Make-up quizzes will only be given for DOCUMENTED excused absences (or inabilities) as defined by the University (Senate Rule V.2.4.2) and are scheduled as needed. A missed quiz will result in a score of zero for that exam/quiz, unless an acceptable written excuse is presented within 36 hours of the missed quiz.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.4.2 states that faculty have the right to request “appropriate verification” when students claim an excused absence because of illness or death in the family. Appropriate notification of absences due to university-related trips is required prior to the absence.

## Academic Integrity

Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. If you submit any work that is not wholly yours without citing your sources, you are guilty of plagiarism. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the university may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud.> A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities (available online <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the question of plagiarism involving their own work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgement of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else’s work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or something similar to this. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

 Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone. When a student’s assignment involves research in outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain (Section 6.3.1).

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Accommodations due to a disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address: jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

Online Behavior Policies

Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, to regularly log in to the course, and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity.  All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities.

Virtual communication and discussion "in cyberspace" occur in a social environment where normal rules of social interaction apply. The remoteness of the recipients is no excuse to behave in an anti-social manner and post unacceptable messages.

Unacceptable messages include those that harass, intimidate, threaten, belittle, ridicule, expressed hatred for, or aggression toward others. Let us be mindful to avoid words that imply that some groups of people are less worthy than others (e.g., avoid racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, age-ist, and homophobic language).

Discussion board and other electronic communication for this course should relate only to the course subject matter, generally respond to the instructor threads, and always seek to further the aims of that particular discussion forum or chat session (e.g., stay on topic).

Contributions to discussion boards and synchronous chat are the intellectual property of the authors. Students who quote another person in class projects, publications or even in remarks made on the discussion board should always acknowledge the source of that quote (e.g., do not plagiarize your classmates).

Personal comments about other users and their views should not be placed in any of our Blackboard course areas that are viewable by other users.

Do not copy private messages to another person without the author's explicit permission.

Consult the UK Student Rights and Responsibilities regarding the steps for addressing unresolved academic issues at [http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uky.edu%2FStudentAffairs%2FCode%2Fpart2.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNF91-bQVO87qdKm260SbxxoQhFS_g)

Minimum Technology Requirements

Complete the following steps to make sure your computer is correctly configured and the necessary software is installed. Note: You will not be able to access course material if you fail to complete these steps.

1. Go to this site to check the minimum hardware, software and browser requirements:[http://wiki.uky.edu/blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Bb9%20Hardware%20and%20Software%20Requirements.aspx](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwiki.uky.edu%2Fblackboard%2FWiki%2520Pages%2FBb9%2520Hardware%2520and%2520Software%2520Requirements.aspx&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEwaPjGMKYPZIg9ui-8kCrU-gwapg)

2. Internet Explorer is NOT recommended for Blackboard. Firefox is the recommended Internet browser for the course. Go to [https://download.uky.edu/](http://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fdownload.uky.edu%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEEdUeI5nger1p01MsI3i2xJ-m_8A) to download a free version of Firefox. Log in with your LINK BLUE id and password and search for Firefox.

3. Go to [http://java.com](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fjava.com&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNH9CXBhkX8N0Rhp_lGI6kJG0jQ11A)/en/ and click on the Free Java Download button. Run the installer to get the latest version.

4. You will also need Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player and QuickTime and Adobe Shockwave. Go to [http://wiki.uky.edu/blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Browser%20Check.aspx](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwiki.uky.edu%2Fblackboard%2FWiki%2520Pages%2FBrowser%2520Check.aspx&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEU2A3fVzU4l_KrrZhqc9G2FBEZXg) then click BbGO! If you do not have these installed, you can download them from this site.

5. Students and faculty can download Microsoft Office Suite (including Word and PowerPoint) from this site: [https://download.uky.edu/](http://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fdownload.uky.edu%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEEdUeI5nger1p01MsI3i2xJ-m_8A).

If you experience technical difficulties contact the Customer Service Center at 859-218-HELP (4357) or by e-mail at helpdesk@uky.edu. Please also inform the course instructor when you are having technical difficulties.

Distance Learning Library Services

([http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uky.edu%2FLibraries%2FDLLS&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEOwjG6rxZ0JwRqlVbUdonMM-ldQw))

* Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian, Email: dlservice@email.uky.edu
* Local phone number: 859. 257.0500, ext. 2171;
* Long-distance phone number: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)

Bb 101 for First-Time Online Students
This is a brief introduction for students using Blackboard for the first time.

* Go to [http://elearning.uky.edu](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Felearning.uky.edu&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFVjO04zvbSn3IkkVfjhhdCpK38xg) and log in with your [Link Blue ID](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.uky.edu%2Fwebuk%2Fsubpages%2Flinkblue.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFmG71ZBADg4Jw1x8VBv00ktehpQg).
* Click on the Courses link near the top left of the page (to the right of My Bb and under the Library tab).
* In the Course Search line, type Bb9-101 (exactly as you see it there, including the hyphen).
* Find the Course ID (first column) Bb9-101-OnLine-Stu, and click the down arrow next to the Course ID. Click Enroll then Submit

Warning

Some of the films that are required viewing may contain material that is intended for mature audiences and which some students may find offensive. You do not have to enjoy the content you find offensive, but you must be willing to engage with it critically. If you cannot do this, you should drop this course and find a different one.