

German 409

"Protest: West Germany, 1968"

M/W 3:30-4:45, Gailor 103

Dr. Peter Schweppe

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Office hours: Gailor 102B Mon. 10AM-12PM, Tues. 11AM-12PM and by appointment



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### Course background

Following two decades of the post-war "Economic Miracle" (*Wirtschaftswunder*), the late 1960s ushered into West Germany a culture of protest, which affected a wide array of social and political issues. In doing so, the notion of “protest” converged on the domains of theory, literature, and visual culture in a way that pitted old traditions against new ones. By analyzing texts, images, music, and films that impacted the turbulent year and metaphor of “1968,” this course will take stock of how protest shaped key trajectories of writing, reading, thought, and action in West German society in 1968 and beyond.

### Course objectives

In this course, students will:

- improve writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills in German
- identify contemporary debates about theory, poetry, prose, visual culture, music
- discuss topics surrounding weekly themes
- analyze a variety of literary texts
- evaluate other media such as photographs and films
- moderate classroom conversations in class and online
- compose and peer-review written arguments
- assemble and reconstruct course content in group newspaper project
- present on the topic of the final paper in a conference format
- write and submit final term paper

This course is designed for German majors; most readings and all verbal and written communication will be conducted in German.

### Required materials

All materials will be accessible on Blackboard or in class.

## **Course policies and evaluation**

### **Grading**

- 15% Class participation and course preparation
- 15% Weekly writing assignments
- 20% 2 Mini research reports (2-3 pages each)
- 10% Cut-up class newspaper project
- 15% End-of-term conference presentation
- 25% Research Paper (10-12 pages)

### **Class participation and course preparation**

Full participation of all the members of the seminar is crucial to the success and to meeting our course objectives. Each student's performance will be monitored and evaluated on a weekly basis. You will be asked to come to class with one discussion question about the material that week. Other daily preparation includes but is not limited to: reading assigned texts, answering reading questions, completing assignments, and contributing to discussions. Poor participation will affect a student's final grade significantly.

Due to the emphasis placed on participation, students will be allowed no more than three absences during the semester, excused or not, and are responsible for any work due on the days missed. Each subsequent absence will result in an automatic reduction of the participation grade by 3 points.

\*Please give 24-hour advanced notice if you do have to miss class.

### **Weekly writing assignments**

Short writing assignments (100-250 words) will serve to develop the student's ability to summarize key arguments, analyze, and critique the reading assignments. I will provide questions in advance, though you are encouraged to suggest your own topics too. You will have the option of rewriting one written assignment of your choice for an improved grade.

### **Mini research reports**

In addition to writing assignments, students will submit two mini research projects (2-3 pages each). The first project will demonstrate your ability to conduct a close textual analysis of a poem or short story; the second will demonstrate your ability to conduct a visual analysis of an image or film. Both reports must contain a clear thesis statement and set up an argument.

### **Newspaper design project**

Students will practice designing and reconstructing historical elements into an alternative newspaper format using cut-up techniques. The topic of the newspaper should combine fictional and factual protest content from the late 1960s in West Germany. You will produce and distribute the newspaper in the German Department and beyond.

**End-of-term conference presentation**

You will have the opportunity to try out your argument for your final paper in a conference-like format with a 10-minute presentation. The mock conference allows you to practice presenting and handling questions authentically in front of a public audience. This event will be held at the German House and advertised around Sewanee.

**Research paper**

Your final paper topic should be discussed with me no later than **October 11<sup>th</sup>** and submit an 8-page **1<sup>st</sup> draft on November 15<sup>th</sup>**. I will provide extensive feedback on your draft, which you will implement in your final paper. The final paper will apply the strategies practiced in the mini reports, drafts, and blogs. The paper should be between 12-15 pages long and articulate a clear argument about one theme from the course. For those who plan to graduate in the spring, this paper will serve as a foundation for your senior project.

**Academic integrity**

Sewanee values academic integrity. By signing the Honor Code, students pledge to avoid cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.sewanee.edu/academics/about/the-honor-code/>.

**ADA statement**

The University of the South is committed to fostering respect for the diversity of the University community and the individual rights of each member of that community. In this spirit, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the University seeks to provide students with disabilities with the reasonable accommodations needed to ensure equal access to the programs and activities of the University. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with Student Accessibility Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. If you have already requested accommodations, it is your responsibility to present your instructor with a copy of your academic accommodations letter from Student Accessibility Services which is located in the University Wellness Center ([931-598-1270](tel:931-598-1270)). *Accommodations will not be provided without this documentation, and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.* Additional information about disability accommodations can be found at: <http://sewanee.edu/student-life/university-wellness-center/>.

If you have questions about physical accessibility, please inform me so that we can ensure an accessible, safe, and effective environment.

**Research Help Center**

The Research Help Center in duPont Library is available for all of your research paper, project, and presentation needs. Our librarians can help with each stage of the research process, including topic selection and narrowing, outlining, finding resources, interpreting academic resources, avoiding plagiarism, and integrating research into your paper or presentation. Dann Wigner will be working closely with our class. You may contact him with specific research questions regarding your final paper for GRMN 409 and any questions about comps topics: [dewigner@sewanee.edu](mailto:dewigner@sewanee.edu).

**Kursplan:**

**Mittwoch, 30. August 2017      Kritische Theorie**

Text: Interview mit Theodor W. Adorno "Kritische Theorie und Protestbewegung"

**Montag, 4. September 2017      Frankfurter Schule**

Text: Theodor W. Adorno, "Résumé über Kulturindustrie"; Auszug aus Herbert Marcuse, "Repressive Toleranz"

**Mittwoch, 6. September 2017      Öffentlichkeit und Gegenöffentlichkeit**

Text: Auszug aus Jürgen Habermas, *Protestbewegung und Hochschulreform*

Film: Jürgen Habermas, "Rede über die politische Rolle der Studentenschaft in der Bundesrepublik"

**Montag, 11. September 2017      Poesie und Politik I**

Gedichte: Auszüge aus *Kursbuch 15*

Kritik: Hans Magnus Enzensberger, "Gemeinplätze, der Neueste Literatur betreffend"

**Mittwoch, 13. September 2017      Poesie und Politik II**

Gedichte: Peter Handke, Erich Fried, Rolf Dieter Brinkmann

Kritik: Peter Chotjewitz, "Was heißt 'experimentelle Literatur'"

**Montag, 18. September 2017      Prosa und Politik**

Kurzprosa: Alfred Andersch, "Jesuskingdutschke"

\*Mini-Forschungsprojekt 1: Textuelle Interpretation      (fällig am 2. Oktober)

**Mittwoch, 20. September 2017      Prosa und Politik II**

Kurzprosa: Alfred Andersch, "Jesuskingdutschke"

**Montag, 25. September 2017      Dokumentarliteratur**

Auszüge aus Erika Runge, *Bottroper Protokolle*

**Mittwoch, 27. September 2017      Dokumentarliteratur II**

Kolumne: Ulrike Meinhof, "Kolumnismus"

Rede: Peter Schneider, "Wir haben Fehler gemacht"

**Montag, 2. Oktober 2017      Visuelle Kultur**

Fotographie: Von Bernard Larsson, Michael Ruetz, und mehr.

Text: Timothy Brown, "Vision"

\*Mini-Forschungsprojekt 2: Visuelle Kultur      (fällig am 16. Oktober)

**Mittwoch, 4. Oktober 2017      Visuelle Kultur II**

Film: Günter Hörmann und Hans Dieter Müller, *Ruhestörung* (1967)

**Montag, 9. Oktober 2017      Visuelle Kultur III**

Harun Farocki, *Die Worte des Vorsitzenden* (1967)

Text: Auszüge aus Thomas Elsaesser, *Harun Farocki*

**Mittwoch, 11. Oktober 2017      Visuelle Kultur IV**

Harun Farocki, *Nicht löschares Feuer* (1969)

Text: Quinn Slobodian, "The Cultural Revolution in West Germany"

**Montag, 16. Oktober 2017      Kunst & Performanz**

Kunst: Valie Export, Joseph Beuys

Text: Martin Klimke, "Sit-in, Teach-in, Go-in"

**Mittwoch, 18. Oktober 2017      Forschungsgespräch**

duPont Library visit: research strategies with Dr. Dann Wigner

• **\*Montag, 23. Oktober 2017      Fall Break\***

**Mittwoch, 25. Oktober 2017      Kunst & Performanz II**

Kunst: Wolf Vostell, Kommune I

Text: Susan Sontag, "Happenings"; Kathrin Fahlenbrach, "Protestinszenierungen"

**Montag, 30. Oktober 2017      Musik: "Ralston Listening Room"**

\*Class will be held in the [Ralston Listening Room](#)\*

Musik: Franz Josef Degenhardt, Amon Düül, Tangerine Dream, Guru Guru

Text: Thomas Rothschild, "Das hat sehr gut geklungen"; Timothy Brown, "Sound"

**Mittwoch, 1. November 2017      Erinnerung - Gastbesuch**

\*Gastvortrag: Prof. Reinhard Zachau\*

Text: Nick Thomas, "The Shooting of Benno Ohnesorg"

**Montag, 6. November 2017      Erinnerung II**

Text: Auszüge aus Uwe Timm, *Der Freund und der Fremde*

**Mittwoch, 8. November 2017      Gender**

Kritik: Helke Sander, "Rede des Aktionsrates zur Befreiung der Frauen"; Petra von Morstein: "Der Begriff 'Frau'"

Text: Ingo Cornils, "Women of the Revolution"

**Montag, 13. November 2017      Film**

Film: Andres Veiel, *Wer wenn nicht wir?* (2011)

**Mittwoch, 15. November 2017      Film II**

Film: Andres Veiel, *Wer wenn nicht wir?* (2011)

\*1. Entwurf der Hausarbeit: 7-8 Seiten

**Montag, 20. November 2017      Film III**

Film: Hans Weingartner, *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei* (2004)

Text: Alex Vazansky and Marco Abel, "What Was Politics in '1968'? in West Germany?"

- **\*Mittwoch, 22. & Montag, 27. November 2017 Erntedankfest (Thanksgiving)**

**Mittwoch, 29. November 2017 Cut-up**

Text: Thomas Daum, "Cut-up-Literatur"

**Montag, 4. Dezember 2017 Tagesblatt**

Projekt: Gemeinsame Schreibaktivität, Zeitungsvorbereitung

**Mittwoch, 6. Dezember 2017 Tagesblatt II**

\*Künstlerbesuch: Christopher O'Flaherty, "Lunch Money Print"\*

Projekt: Zeitung-Herstellung

**Montag, 11. Dezember 2017 Protest, Westdeutschland, "1968"**

Interview: Herbert Marcuse

**Mittwoch, 13. Dezember 2017 Präsentation**

Konferenz

**\*\*Hausarbeit, fällig am Montag 18. Dezember 2017\*\***

**Other Recommended Readings**

Briegleb, Klaus. *1968* (1993)

Brown, Timothy. *West Germany and the Global Sixties* (2013)

Daum, Thomas. *Die 2. Kultur* (1981)

Hahn, Ulla. *Literatur in der Aktion* (1978)

Meinhof, Ulrike and Karin Bauer. *Everybody Talks About the Weather* (2008)

Rinner, Susanne. *The German Student Movement and the Literary Imagination* (2013)

Smith-Prei, Carrie. *Revolting Families* (2013)

**\*Mini-Forschungsprojekt 1: Textuelle Interpretation (1.5-2 Seiten)**

1-2 Texte vom Kurs (z.B. Gedicht, Kurztex, Rede)

**\*Mini-Forschungsprojekt 2: Visuelle Kultur (1.5-2 Seiten)**

Kommune I Pamphlete und Flugblätter

LOG Flugblatt Sammlung

Michael Ruetz Fotografie

Bernard Larsson Fotografie

Bentz, Ralf, et al. *Protest!: Literatur um 1968* (1998)