

## **German 150HS: German Culture and Civilization**

The University of Toronto

Winter Semester 2018

Peter Schweppe

Course Grader/TA: Rita Laszlo

When: Tuesdays 2-4pm

Where: Victoria College Room 115

Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2pm Ned's Cafe (Goldering Centre) and by appointment

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East Side Gallery. [CC0 Creative Commons](#).

### **Course background**

This course will introduce students to the culture and civilization of Germany through a variety of texts, images, films, and discourses. Throughout the course, we will interrogate certain notions of what constitutes culture and civilization in a German historical context while gaining an understanding of events that have influenced Germany from 1871 to the present.

### **Course objectives**

- interpret and critically assess notions of German culture and civilization
- identify cultural debates and historical or artistic events
- discuss topics surrounding weekly themes
- analyze a variety of texts
- evaluate other media such as paintings and films
- moderate classroom conversations in class and online
- improve critical writing and interpretation skills
- present as part of a group project at the end of the semester
- synthesize differences between primary and secondary sources
- explore key cultural venues elsewhere on campus and in Toronto

German 150HS partakes in the University of Toronto's  
[#greenerUofT](#)

**GREEN COURSES**  
2017-2018

**Required Texts:**

Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (1986)

Christa Wolf, *They Divided the Sky* (2013 version) (aka: *Divided Heaven*)

All other materials will be accessible on Blackboard.

**Extra Film screenings:**

4 extra screenings will be held in BA 1230 (Bahen Centre) this semester, approximately 7-10pm.

- January 24, 2018
- February 7, 2018
- March 7, 2018
- March 21, 2018

**Course policies and evaluation****Grading**

10% Class participation and course preparation

10% Weekly writing assignments (on Blackboard unless otherwise specified)

20% Two 1-page position papers

10% End-of-term group presentation

15% Reflection on group project

35% Final Exam

**Class participation and course preparation**

Full participation is crucial to student success in the course 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 two absences during the semester 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.

**Academic integrity**

The University of Toronto values academic integrity and honesty in all academic work. For tips on how to avoid dishonest work, please see: <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>. German 150 will follow the guidelines established in the UofT's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

**Course outline****Week 1: January 9, 2018      Introduction: Imagining Germany**

- Johann Gottlieb Fichte, "First Address" in: *Addresses to the German Nation* (1808)
- Heinrich Heine, "Section 1" in: *Germany: A Winter's Tale* (1844)

**Week 2: January 16, 2018     Folktale to Fin-de-siècle**

- Franz Xaver von Schönwerth, excerpts from *The Turnip Princess* (2013)
- Friedrich Nietzsche, excerpts from *The Gay Science* (1882)
- Kenneth Barkin, et al., excerpts from “Germany” (2017)

**Week 3: January 23, 2018     Folktale to Fin-de-siècle**

- Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903)
- Arthur Schnitzler, *La Ronde* (1900)

\*Film screening     Robert Wiene, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920)  
7pm Wednesday Jan 24     Bahen Centre Rm 1230

**Week 4: January 30, 2018     World War to Weimar and back**

- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (1929)
- Dada: selected periodicals, paintings, poetry

**Week 5: February 6, 2018     World War to Weimar and back**

- Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (1986)

\*Film screening     Wolfgang Staudte, *Murderers Among Us* (1946)  
7pm Wednesday Feb 7     Bahen Centre Rm 1230

**Week 6: February 13, 2018     World War to Weimar and back**

- Thomas Mann, “German Listeners!” (1942)
- Visit to Thomas Fisher Rare Book library
- Guest Lecture, Rita Laszlo + Introduction to Rare Book Research, Lauren Williams

\*Reading Week: February 20, 2018\*

**Week 7: February 27, 2018     GDR—Socialism to *Staatssicherheit***

- Christa Wolf, *They Divided the Sky* (1963)

**Week 8: March 6, 2018     FRG—Postwar to Protest**

- Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, “Culture Industry”
- Timothy Brown, excerpts from *West Germany and the Global Sixties* (2013)

\*Film screening     Heiner Carow, *Die Legende von Paul und Paula* (1973)  
7pm Wednesday Mar 7     Bahen Centre Rm 1230

**Week 9: March 13, 2018     Reunification to Reform**

- Sibylle Schoenemann, *Verriegelte Zeit* (1990)
- Richard T. Gray and Sabine Wilke, *Reunification and its Discontents* (1996)
- Brian Ladd, excerpts from *The Ghosts of Berlin* (1998)

**Week 10: March 20, 2018    Reunification to Reform II**

- Wladimir Kaminer, excerpts from *Russian Disco* (2000)
- Brian Ladd, excerpts from *The Ghosts of Berlin* (1998)

\*Film screening            Hannes Stöhr, *Berlin Calling* (2008)  
7pm Wednesday Mar 21    Bahen Centre Rm 1230

**Week 11: March 27, 2018    Re-Imagining Germany**

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar, excerpts from *Mother Tongue* (1994)
- Firas Alshater, clips from *Zukar* (2016)
- Visit to Goethe Institute Toronto (pending)

**Week 12: April 2, 2018        Group Presentations**

Final Exam: tba