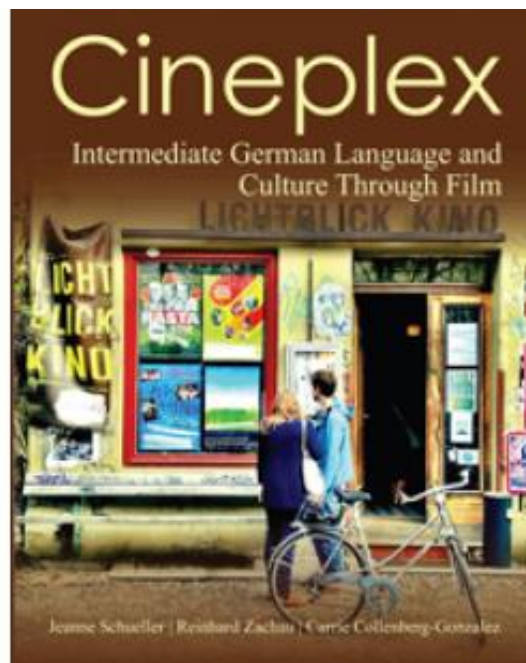


GERM 3XX – INTERMEDIATE GERMAN

Monday and Wednesday, 6:30-8:30



COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

German cinema has had a long and highly interesting history. From German Expressionism to New German Cinema, Germany has historically had a strong influence on the way that the film world has been shaped. In GERM 3xx, you will be exposed to Germany and German culture through contemporary film, all the while you will be improve your German. The course is designed to be communicative and draw from German culture to teach you German language. While the class is primarily based around these films and their stories, we will be looking at specific grammatical concepts and working on our language throughout the class. The course will begin with a general look into the history of German film, stereotypes in German film, and German film classics. By the middle of the semester, the course will turn its attention to the portrayal of German culture, societal issues, and history (specifically Third Reich and GDR) in German cinema.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Roundtable	10%
2 Tests	20%
Oral Exam	10%
2 Essays	30%
4 Film Reviews	10%
Participation, Attendance & Preparation	20%

MATERIAL

Zachau, R., Schueller, J., & Collenberg-Gonzalez, C. (2014). *Cineplex: Intermediate German Language and Culture Through Film*. Cambridge, MA: Focus.
ISBN 978-1-58510-409-3

<https://www.hackettpublishing.com/cineplex>

CLASS FORMAT

This class will be entirely conducted **in German**. Although this course is a lecture, we will try to incorporate as much discussion into the lecture as possible with group and partner activities that relate to the interpretation of the films as well as the specific language used in the films.

All writing assignments are to be cited in MLA style.

ROUNDTABLE

During the course of the semester, there will be 5 roundtable presentations that will explore a certain area of German film. The topics for the roundtables are marked in the course Calendar. This is a group assignment, and each group will consist of five members. A roundtable is a form of debate, where four people each present a film or filmmaker and with the help of a moderator, the rest of the class listens to the four “expert” opinions on these films or filmmakers and asks questions. This assignment seeks to help you hone your presentation skills in German.

FILM REVIEWS

During the course of the semester, you will watch four other German (German language films) films outside of class. The library system has film databases such Criterion-On-Demand, Kanopy, and other film databases that one can stream movies from. The film reviews should be 250-300 words in German that discuss a certain element of the film, such as a scene, the camera work, or a character in the film. You may include screenshots from the film to bolster the writing in the film review. The film reviews will be marked differently from the essays in that the film reviews are low-stakes writing assignments that prove to me that a) you have watched the film you are speaking of, b) can look at how the film works at a surface level, and c) that you can express these thoughts in German.

TESTS

At two points in the semester, there will be a test that will focus predominantly on grammatical and vocabulary knowledge. Although the films watched for class may appear as prompts for the questions, the material covered on the tests is primarily grammatical.

ORAL EXAM

At the end of the term, you will have an oral exam with a partner and the instructor. You will prepare a conversation of approximately 20 minutes. You are expected to continue the conversation. The conversation is to happen between you, your partner, and the instructor about the last film we are watching for the semester, namely *Good-Bye Lenin*. You will be asked to give a brief summary of the plot and discuss some questions about the film that will be circulated two weeks before the start of the oral exams.

ESSAYS

Based on films watched in class, you will write two critical essays during the semester. These essays seek to expound your interpretation of the film and hone your writing organizational skills in German. The first essay will be based on *Lola Rennt* due during the 6th week of class. The second essay can be on any other film that watched for class. The essays, due to their weight in the course, will be marked more strictly in that all spelling and grammar must be precise in addition to a strong argument and analysis of the film in question. It is strongly recommended that you build off of one your film reviews in your second essay. Each essay should be approximately 3-5 pages, double-spaced, and cited according to MLA.

PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION

It is recommended that all students attend every class and participate in every lecture. Participation in this context means full engagement with the course content, preparation for the lecture, and interacting within the class setting. I respect that not all people will want to speak up in a lecture setting, thus there will be partner and group work, which will count towards participation just as much as speaking in the lecture. You may miss up to three classes without penalty.

As there are few readings for the class, you are expected to watch all the films outside of class for the first week that we are discussing them. All the films are available online, in the library, or loaned from me. If there is ever an issue with watching the films, please let me know so we can arrange accommodations.

COURSE CALENDAR

Fall 20xx

Week 1: Einführung, History of German Film and Famous Directors

M: Review of Nominativ and Akkusativ, icebreakers, discussion of what film is

W: Film Wortschatz, basic concepts in film, shot types

Week 2: *Im Juli*,

M: Word-Order in German, review of perfect, Handlung

W: Dative Case, Character Stereotypes of German Film

Week 3: *Im Juli*

M: Dative Case Review, Dative Verbs, Characterisation in *Im Juli*

W: Präterium (Roundtable on the director Fatih Akin)

Week 4: *Lola Rennt*

M: Präterium, what happens in the film? (Roundtable on Berliner Schule)

W: Reflexive Verbs with Pronouns, Camera Work in German Cinema

Week 5: *Lola Rennt*

M: Reflexive Verbs with prepositions, Wechselpräpositionen, Camera Work in German Cinema continued

W: Camera Work and Lola. How does the camera depict Lola? (Test 1)

Week 6: *Das Wunder von Bern*, German Culture in Film

M: Das Passiv, Handlung

W: Das Passiv, Modal Verbs, (Essay 1 Due)

Week 7: *Das Wunder von Bern*

M: Das Futur, Sport und die Kamera

W: Review Das Futur (Roundtable on portrayal of German culture in film)

Week 8: *Almanya - Willkommen in Deutschland*, Immigration and Film

M: Genitiv, Handlung

W: Genitiv pronouns, (Roundtable on Immigration and Racism)

Week 9: *Almanya*

M: Review of Genitiv, Genitiv prepositions, Family Structures in *Almanya*

W: Adjectival Nouns, Adjective endings, Nominativ, Akkusativ, How is relationality established in film?

Week 10: *Sophie Scholl – Die letzten Tage*, Legacy of Third Reich in Film

M: Adjective endings, Dativ, Genitiv, Handlung

W: Wer waren die Scholl Geschwister? (Test 2)

Week 11: *Sophie Scholl*

M: Subjunctive: würden, könnten (Roundtable on filmic depictions of the Third Reich)

W: Subjunctive: hätten, wären, other verbs in subjunctive. Would be's of a Third Reich world. (Film Reviews Due)

Week 12: *Good Bye, Lenin!*

M: Past tense of subjunctive, subjunctive review, Handlung

W: Review of grammar topics and discussion about the legacy of German film (Essay 2 Due)