**University of North Texas**

**Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures**

**GERM 3046**

**German Culture & Film**

**Fall 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Cindy Renker

Email: cindy.renker@unt.edu

Office: Lang 401-D

Office hours: MWF 2-3 pm

T by appointment

Tutor: Name: Julian Kemp

Email: juliankemp@my.unt.edu

Office: Lang 108

Office hours: M 2-3pm

T 12-1pm

Th 11am-12pm

**Course Materials**

Required Text: German Culture Through Film (2nd ed.)

Films covered: Nosferatu (1922), Metropolis (1927), M (1931), Die Legende von Paul und Paula (1973), Die Brücke (1959), Lola rennt (1998), Nirgendwo in Afrika (2001), Young Goethe in Love (2010), Barbara (2012).

Content Note: Some of the films and material that we will cover in class may be upsetting or disturbing, as it can deal with issues of racism, sexism, and (war) violence, among others. Learning takes place when we grapple with challenging ideas, concepts and perspectives, and this process not infrequently involves exposure to distressing facts and events. I am mindful of the varied responses that this subject matter can evoke in students. Please feel free to talk to me privately if you believe you will have problems engaging with texts or films that represent any of these issues, and I can help you navigate them. If you ever feel the need to step outside during one of these discussions or screenings, you may always do so without academic penalty. (You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss.)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course examines major developments in German history and culture through landmark films from the silent era to the present. Students learn core tools of film analysis and explore themes including modernity, expressionism, fascism and memory, postwar reconstruction, division and the GDR, migration, identity, gender, and contemporary realities.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Apply film-analytical concepts (mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound) to German films.
* Contextualize films within German historical periods (Weimar, Nazi era, postwar, FRG/GDR, post-1990).
* Interpret key cultural themes (memory, Ost/West, migration, identity, gender, surveillance).
* Craft evidence-based arguments in oral and written formats using films and textbook materials.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE:**

**1. (READING) MATERIAL AND HOMEWORK** Homework will be assigned daily and will comprise readings, viewing excerpt of films, video clips, visuals, short writing assignments (director studies, log lines, short responses or reflections, answers to discussion questions, film reviews), etc. Homework will be posted on Canvas. No late work!

**2. QUIZZES** You will be quizzed on film and theme related vocabulary, lists of which will be provided to you on Canvas (under modules) and on film and reading-material related content. Quizzes will be administered in class and are listed in the tentative schedule below.

**3. STORYBOARD PRESENTATIONS** During the last week of class, students will choose a compelling scene or sequence from one of the films we watch this semester and demonstrate their ability to analyze an important excerpt of a foreign language film, understand the filmmaker's craft, and effectively communicate their interpretation of the scene.

**4. MIDTERM** At the midpoint of the semester, students will have an in-class exam over the films, topics, and themes we covered up to that point. See schedule below for date.

**5. FINAL EXAM** The final exam will cover the films/topics/themes of the second part of the semester. The final exam will be held during our university scheduled final exam time.

**6. ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION** Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions and to prepare the readings and written assignments prior to each class. Class participation, effort, attentiveness, preparation, responsibility, and, in general, active and constructive involvement in all aspects of the course will be assessed. Students are responsible for all material covered in class.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. If you do not attend, you cannot participate actively in the class discussions and conversations, which will affect your overall participation grade. It is important that you communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Repeated unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade significantly. Three tardies is the equivalent of one absence. Leaving class before the end of the period will be considered an absence. You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences without penalty. After two absences, your attendance grade will suffer. After the twelfth absence, you will receive a failing grade for the entire class. Excused absences are only: A.) illness with doctor's documentation, B.) official university sponsored activities, and C.) the observance of certain religious holidays.

**7. GRADING POLICY**:

Attendance/Participation 20%

Homework assignments 25%

Quizzes 10%

Midterm 15%

Storyboard Presentation 10%

Final Exam 20%

**Grade Distribution**

A = 100 – 90%B = 89.9 – 80%C = 79.9 – 70%D = 69.9 – 60%F = 59.9 – 0%

**UNT CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT:**

“Policy Statement. The University of North Texas is deeply committed to advancing educational excellence and preparing students to become thoughtful, engaged citizens of a diverse, global community. The University has established the Code of Student Conduct to promote the well- being, honor and dignity of all who live, learn, and work in our educational community.

Application of Policy. The Code of Student Conduct (“the Code”) applies to all students and to conduct that occurs on–campus, at University activities and off-campus when the conduct could adversely affect the University community, the pursuit of the University’s educational mission, or could create a hostile environment for a student on campus. The Dean of Students (DOS) will decide whether the Code will apply to student off-campus conduct on a case-by-case basis.

Students are responsible for their conduct from the time of application for admission to the University through the award of a degree. The Code continues to apply even if a student withdraws from the University during the conduct process or is not otherwise enrolled. Applicants also are responsible for their conduct prior to admission or re-enrollment. Sanctions for violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct include, but are not limited to a warning, suspension, and expulsion from the university.”

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DISCRIMINATION POLICIES:**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>

**POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGERISM:**

Cheating and plagiarism are serious matters. The usual penalties for these offenses include failure for the assignment, failure in the course, and a written report to the Dean of Students.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:**

In accordance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, UNT will allow a student who is absent from class for observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time. Students are required to file a written request with each professor within the first 15 days of the semester to qualify for an excused absence. A copy of the state rules and procedures regarding holy days and the form for notification of absence from each class under this provision are available from the Registrar’s Office.

**EMRGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES:**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at **www.my.unt.edu**. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITY ACT COMPLIANCE:**

“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.”

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:**

#### **Mental Health**

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

* [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
* [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
* [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

**STUDENT PERCEPTION OF TEACHING:**

The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**TENTATIVE OUTLINE GUIDEGERMAN 3046**

**Fall 2025**

*PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO RIGID ADHERENCE TO THIS SCHEDULE, SHOULD THE CLASS NEED MORE TIME FOR SOME LESSONS AND LESS TIME FOR OTHER LESSONS.*

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| **Wochen** | **Themen und Filme** | **Assessments** |
| Woche 1  18.8. bis 22.8. | Einführung  Weimar I: Horror & Expressionismus (Nosferatu) |  |
| Woche 2  25.8. bis 29.8. | Weimar I: Horror & Expressionismus (Nosferatu) | Quiz 1 |
| Woche 3  1.9. bis 5.9.  No Class Monday!  (Labor Day) | Weimar II: Stadt & Modernität (Metropolis) |  |
| Woche 4  8.9. bis 12.9. | Weimar II: Stadt & Modernität (Metropolis)  Weimar III: Früher Ton & Soziale Paranoia & Unruhe (M) | Quiz 2 |
| Woche 5  15.9. bis 19.9. | Weimar III: Früher Ton & Soziale Paranoia & Unruhe (M) | Quiz 3 |
| Woche 6  22.9. bis 26.9. | Nachkriegszeit (BRD): Jugend & Kriegserfahrung (Die Brücke) |  |
| Woche 7  29.9. bis 3.10. | Nachkriegszeit (BRD): Jugend & Kriegserfahrung (Die Brücke)  DDR-Kultur und das tägliche Leben: Privat vs. Ideologie (Die Legende von Paul und Paula) | Quiz 4 |
| Woche 8  6.10. bis 10.10. | DDR-Kultur und das tägliche Leben: Privat vs. Ideologie (Die Legende von Paul und Paula) | Midterm |
| Woche 9  13.10. bis 17.10. | Nach der Wende: Berlin als  Bühne (Lola rennt) |  |
| Woche 10  20.10. bis 24.10. | Nach der Wende: Berlin als  Bühne (Lola rennt)  Heimat, Exil/Migration/  Zugehörigkeit  und Erinnerung  (Nirgendwo in Afrika) | Quiz 5 |
| Woche 11  27.10. bis 31.10. | Heimat, Exil/Migration/  Zugehörigkeit  und Erinnerung  (Nirgendwo in Afrika) | Quiz 6 |
| Woche 12  3.11. bis 7.11. | Literatur wird Kino (Dichtung  und Wahrheit): Autorität,  Autorschaft, Genie und  Authenzität  (Young Goethe in Love) |  |
| Woche 13  10.11. bis 14.11. | Literatur wird Kino (Dichtung  und Wahrheit): Autorität,  Autorschaft, Genie und  Authenzität  (Young Goethe in Love)  Überwachungskultur & Moral  (Barbara) | Quiz 7 |
| Woche 14  17.11. bis 21.11. | Überwachungskultur & Moral  (Barbara) |  |
| Woche 15  24.11. bis 28.11.  No class all week! (Thanksgiving Break) |  |  |
| Woche 16  1.12. bis 5.12.  No class on Friday!  (Reading Day) | Storyboard Presentations |  |
| Finals Week  6.12. bis 112.12. |  | Final Exam  (See university finals schedule) |