

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURES**

**GERMAN 4320: Topics in German Cinema—Screening German History**  
**Fall Semester 2023**

**General Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Carol Anne Costabile-Heming  
Email: carolanne.costabile-heming@unt.edu  
Main office: (940) 565-2404

Class meets: W 4-6:50 pm (LANG 201)

Office hours (LANG 401K): Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 pm or by appointment

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL:** All materials will be available in Canvas. Students are expected to bring a WIFI enabled device (laptop, tablet, mobile phone) to each class.

**ACCESSING FILMS:** Films available via streaming services are noted on the syllabus and students are required to view them prior to class.

**Content Note:** Some of the material that we will cover in class may be upsetting or disturbing, as it can deal with issues of racism, sexism, violence, suicide, contain loud noises, nudity, sexual content, 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, you may always do so without academic penalty. (You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please plan to get notes from another student or see me individually.)

**ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:** These electronic resources provide information about films, directors, cast, crew, as well as historical information. These resources should be consulted to complete homework assignments and to conduct research.

<https://filmlexikon.uni-kiel.de/>  
<http://www.filmportal.de/>  
<http://defa-stiftung.de>  
<https://www.umass.edu/defa/>  
<https://germanhistorydocs.org/de/>

**COURSE PREREQUISITE:** The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of **3 hours of advanced German** or German 2050 or the equivalent and permission from the Department.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores German-language films, television series, and streaming media series, that present fictional and semi-fictional accounts of important moments in German history

including representations of the Weimar Republic, Nazi Germany, the challenges experienced by divided Germany.

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: 1**

- Acquire German-language film-related vocabulary
- Knowledge of German film and television productions
- Understand the distinguishing features of documentary and feature films
- Recognize differences between US and German approaches to German history
- Analyze critically secondary literature on film
- Analyze critically key moment of German history and their cultural representation

### **COURSE COMPONENTS:**

**I. Active class participation:** Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions in German, and to view the films (unless specified on the syllabus that there will be an in-class screening), prepare the readings, and written assignments prior to each class. This outside of class work is essential for our in-class work and discussions. Students are responsible for all material covered in class.

Active class participation will be graded 0, 1, 2, 3 (with 3 being the highest):

**3:** A score of 3 indicates that the student attended the entire class meeting, participated actively in classroom activities, which includes contributing to discussions thoughtfully, remaining on topic, preparing questions for discussion, actively engaging with collaborative learning tools used in class.

**2:** A score of 2 indicates that the student did not attend the entire class meeting or participated in some classroom activities, but did not fulfil one of the requirements for a score of 3.

**1:** A score of 1 indicates that students attended the class but did not participate in classroom activities.

**0:** A score of 0 indicates that the student did not attend class and did not contact the instructor prior to class. Excused absences will be marked as “excused” in Canvas.

**II. Homework:** Homework will consist of a variety of assignments such as worksheets, collaborative reading assignments, Jamboard tasks, etc. Submit assignments in the specified format in Canvas by the deadline, which will be **prior to the start of class**. Some assignments have staggered deadlines; all parts of the assignment must be completed by the specified deadlines in order for the assignment to be considered **complete**.

Assignments are assessed as **Complete/Incomplete** in Canvas.

- **There is no partial credit: either an assignment meets the goals or it does not.**
- Assignments will specify the requirements necessary to be considered **complete**.
- **Complete** is not a minimum expectation. It indicates that you have achieved the assignment’s learning goals and met the specifications.
- Students should utilize the recommended resources to assist them in completing assignments.

### **Spelling, grammar, punctuation:**

- Assignments in German: Use German capitalization, spelling and punctuation. Write complete sentences and use correct grammar to the greatest extent possible.

- Assignments in English: Use US English capitalization, spelling and punctuation. Write complete sentences and use correct grammar to the greatest extent possible.
- Proof read, use spellcheckers and grammar checkers (available in both languages) prior to submitting.
- Assignments containing excessive errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar will be considered **incomplete**.

### Extensions and Revisions

- Students can request up to **2 homework deadline extensions** and up to **2 requests to submit revisions**.
- Revisions requests will not be granted for assignments considered not complete because of excessive spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors.

**III. Research Project:** Students will write a 5-page paper in German on one of the films/series viewed in class or another available film of their choice (in consultation with the instructor), and they will also present their project to the class during the scheduled final exam period. The research project should attempt to offer an original contribution to the understanding of the portrayal of historical events in German-language film and television. The research project has **6** specific components. Each component will be graded on a scale of 1, 2, 3 (with 3 being the highest). The specific requirements for each component will be specified in the assignment details in Canvas.

### Project Components and Deadlines

- **Project Proposal:** write a 250-word proposal in German that describes the film and topic they wish to write about. Be careful to choose a topic that is narrow and can be discussed thoroughly in 5 pages. **Due: September 13.**
- **Project Outline:** Draft an outline, mind map, or sketch of the project in German that provides details about specific scenes to be analyzed, theoretical framework, film techniques to be discussed that can serve as a roadmap for drafting the paper. **Due: October 4.**
- **Annotated Bibliography:** Prepare an annotated bibliography offering full bibliographical information and summary/description of contents of at least two (2) articles, books, or book chapters directly relevant to the project defined in the proposal. The summary/description may be written in English. The bibliography should conform to MLA style. **Due: October 11.**
- **Complete First Draft:** Submit a complete first draft of the paper. The instructor will return the drafts with corrections and suggestions for revisions. **Due: November 15.**
- **Final Project:** Prepare a final draft by December 6, the final day of class. Address the corrections and suggestions made by the instructor. The final version of the paper must include the full text of the paper, including a list of all works cited (NOT an annotated bibliography), and all relevant endnotes. **Due: December 6.**
- **Research Presentation:** Prepare a presentation (6-7 minutes) about the research project for presentation during the regularly scheduled final exam meeting on **December 13 at 4 pm.**

**GRADING SYSTEM:** The course grade reflects the assignments and requirements that students have satisfactorily accomplished in the class. You should strive to complete the assignment bundle that corresponds to the letter grade you wish to earn in this class. This approach allows you to control what you will strive for based on your priorities, interests, time management abilities, and intellectual goals. In order to earn a specific grade, **all assignments in the bundle need to be achieved.** Failure to

complete **all** components of the research project by the specified deadlines lowers the course grade by one letter automatically.

### A-Bundle

| Active Class Participation   | Homework  | Research Project  |
|--|---|---|
| Average Participation Grade of 2.6 or higher<br><br>Completion of “Making the most of Perusall assignment” | Successful completion of MLA International Bibliography Tutorial by deadline.<br><br>85% of homework assignments completed. | All components of project completed thoroughly, following closely the instructions on each specific assignment, and submitted on time.<br><br>The cumulative score of all project components is 16.2 or higher. |

### B-Bundle

| Active Class Participation   | Homework   | Research Project  |
|--|--|---|
| Average Participation Grade between 2.4 and 2.59<br><br>Completion of “Making the most of Perusall assignment” | Successful completion of MLA International Bibliography Tutorial<br><br>80% of homework assignments completed. | All components of project completed and submitted on time.<br><br>The cumulative score of all project components is between 14.4 and 16.19. |

### C-Bundle

| Active Class Participation                  | Homework                               | Research Project  |
|---|--|---|
| Average Participation Grade of 2.2 and 2.39 | 75% of homework assignments completed. | All components of project completed and submitted on time.<br><br>The cumulative score of all project components is between 12.6 and 14.39. |

### General course and university guidelines

**Canvas:** All course assignments, links to streaming films, and secondary materials will be posted on the course Canvas site.

**Communication Expectations:** The instructor communicates with students through Canvas Announcements and through UNT e-mail. All e-mail is sent to students’ UNT e-mail accounts. It is the students’ responsibility to check UNT e-mail regularly or have UNT e-mail forwarded to another

account. In addition, the instructor only responds to student e-mail if it is sent from the official UNT account. Any messages sent to UNT e-mail Monday-Friday will be answered within 2 days.

**Cell phones and laptops:** The instructor utilizes technology and other media in the learning process. Students must bring a Wi-Fi-enabled device (cell phone, iPad, tablet, or laptop) to every class to facilitate collaborative work.

**Academic integrity:** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. **Course expectations:** It is expected that all work submitted is authored by the submitter. Failure to acknowledge the contributions of others **including the use of AI** may be considered academic dishonesty.

**Religious holidays:** UNT allows 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 should notify the instructor in advance in order to plan for missed work.

**Disability accommodation:** 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.

**Acceptable student behavior in the classroom:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>.

**Emergency Notification & 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](http://www.my.unt.edu). Some helpful emergency preparedness

actions include: 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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Student Perceptions 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 between November 20 and December 6, 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.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault:** 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: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students>. The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or calling 940-565-2648. If there is an emergency, please call the police at 911 or the Denton County Friends of the Family 24-hour crisis line at 940-382-7273.