

## **GRMN 322L Survey of German Cinema**

Fall 2019

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 – 5:50 pm LA 334

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Marton Marko

Office: LA 435

Email: [marton.marko@mso.umt.edu](mailto:marton.marko@mso.umt.edu)

Phone: 243-5418

Office Hours: Tu, Th 10:00 – 11:50 am

And by appointment

### **Course Description:**

This course provides an overview of German film history from its beginnings in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Topics include: Silent films, Expressionism, New Objectivity, National Socialist film, German and Austrian contributions to American cinema, East German film, the New German Cinema, and developments since German reunification. Films which we will see and discuss will be presented in light of Central European and international historical developments, aesthetic movements, as well as general film history and cinema studies. Films are in German with English subtitles. Course readings, discussions and written assignments are in English.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Ability to identify key aspects regarding themes, styles, and structures in films we analyze and to situate the significance of these aspects within the framework of aesthetic and social movements in Central European as well as in global context.
2. Ability to persuasively use terms from areas of literary and film studies as well as in cultural and historical studies to pose arguments and connections between the films viewed in class and broader disciplinary contexts.
3. Ability to verbally share observations and arguments in a classroom setting based on both individual critical thinking and group discussion related to the significance of films featured in the course as well as the history of German cinema as a whole.
4. Ability to collect research materials and present findings, observations, and arguments clearly and persuasively on a topic related to German cinema in the form of a short research paper.

## Required Textbook:

Reimer, Robert and Reinhard Zachau. *German Culture through Film. An Introduction to German Cinema*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Newburyport: Focus, 2017.

## Course Calendar:

- Tues 8/27 Course Introduction
- Thurs 8/29 Discussion: Beginnings of German Film  
  
Reading (Handout): Sabine Hake, “Wilhelmine Cinema: 1895 – 1919,”  
*German National Cinema* (London, New York: Routledge, 2008), pp. 8 – 26
- Sunday 9/1 Sun 9/1 \*Special Event\* (Not a Class Event):  
Missoula Germanfest, 2 – 6 pm, Caras Park, Downtown
- Tues 9/3 Discussion of Hake, “Wilhelmine Cinema: 1895 – 1919” continued  
Screening and Discussion: *The Student of Prague*  
Stellan Rye (1913, 41 minutes)
- Thurs 9/5 Readings: Reimer, pp. 1 – 7, I. Weimar Film 1919 – 1933; pp. 9 – 16, *Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari* (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*)  
Screening and Discussion: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*  
Robert Wiene (1920, 77 minutes)
- Tues 9/10 Reading: Reimer, pp. 17 – 26, *Nosferatu, eine Sinfonie des Grauens* (*Nosferatu, a Symphony of Terror*)  
Screening and Discussion: *Nosferatu, a Symphony of Terror*  
F. W. Murnau (1922, 94 minutes)
- Thurs 9/12 NO CLASS MEETING
- Tues 9/17 Reading: Reimer, pp. 37 – 44, *Berlin: die Sinfonie der Großstadt* (*Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*)  
Screening and Discussion: *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*  
Walter Ruttmann (1927, 62 minutes)
- Thurs 9/19 De-Briefing: Early German Film  
Discussion: From Silent Film to Sound  
  
Essay 1 Assigned

- Tues 9/24 Readings: Reimer, pp. 45 - 50, II. Weimar Sound Film 1929 – 1933; pp. 51 – 60,  
*Der blaue Engel (The Blue Angel)*  
Screening and Discussion: *The Blue Angel*  
Josef von Sternberg (1930, 102 minutes)
- Thurs 9/26 Reading: Reimer, pp. 61 - 68, *M*  
Screening and Discussion: *M*, Fritz Lang (1931, 110 minutes)
- Essay 1 Due
- Tues 10/1 Discussion: Overview from Beginnings of German Film to Weimar Period
- Thurs 10/3 Midterm Exam #1
- Tues 10/8 Readings: Reimer, pp. 69 - 78, III. Nazi Film 1933 – 1945; pp. 79 – 88,  
*Triumph des Willens (Triumph of the Will)*  
Screening and Discussion: *Triumph of the Will*  
Leni Riefenstahl (1934, 120 minutes)
- Thurs 10/10 Readings: Reimer, pp. 75 – 105, IV. Postwar Film 1945 – 1949; pp. 115 - 125  
*Die Mörder sind unter uns (The Murderers Are Among Us)*  
Screening and Discussion: *The Murderers Are Among Us*  
Wolfgang Staudte (1946, 81 minutes)
- Tues 10/15 Reading: Reimer, pp. 127 – 135, V. East German Film 1949 – 1989; pp. 137 –  
145, *Berlin: Ecke Schönhauser (Berlin: Schönhausen Corner)*  
Screening and Discussion: *Berlin: Schönhausen Corner*  
Gerhard Klein (1957, 80 minutes)
- Thurs 10/17 De-Briefing: Functions of Film from Nazi Germany to Communist East Germany  
Discussion: Toward the New German Cinema Movement in West Germany
- Essay 2 Assigned
- Tues 10/22 Readings: Reimer, pp. 155 - 164, West German Film 1950 – 1989; pp. 165 – 170,  
*Die Brücke (The Bridge)*  
Screening and Discussion: *The Bridge*  
Bernhard Wicki (1959, 103 minutes)
- Thurs 10/24 Reading: Reimer, pp. 171 – 178, *Aguirre, Der Zorn Gottes (Aguirre, the Wrath of God)*  
Screening and Discussion: *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*  
Werner Herzog (1972, 100 minutes)
- Essay 2 Due

- Tues 10/29     Reading: Reimer, pp. 141 – 148, Chapter 17: *Die Ehe der Maria Braun*  
*(The Marriage of Maria Braun)*  
 Screening and Brief Discussion: *The Marriage of Maria Braun*,  
 Rainer Werner Fassbinder (1979, 115 minutes)
- Thurs 10/31     Readings: Reimer, pp. 233 – 239, *Der Himmel über Berlin*  
 Screening and Brief Discussion: *Wings of Desire*  
 Wim Wenders (1987, 128 minutes)
- Tues 11/5        De-Briefing: From Nazi Film to East German Film and the New German Cinema  
 Discussion: From Postwar Film to Post-Wall Film
- Thurs 11/7       Midterm Exam #2
- Tues 11/12      Readings: Reimer, pp. 241 - 248, VII. German Film after 1989; pp. 259 – 268,  
*Lola rennt (Run Lola Run)*  
 Screening and Discussion: *Run Lola Run*  
 Tom Tykwer (1998, 81 minutes)
- Thurs 11/14     Reading: Reimer, pp. 269 – 278, *Nirgendwo in Afrika (Nowhere in Africa)*  
 Screening: *Nowhere in Africa*  
 Caroline Link (2001, 142 minutes)
- Tues 11/19      Reading: Reimer, pp. 305 – 313, *Das Leben der Anderen (The Lives of Others)*  
 Screening: *The Lives of Others*  
 Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006, 137 minutes)
- Thurs 11/21     Discussion: German Spaces Revisited and Redefined in the New Millennium  
  
 Essay 3 Assigned
- Tues 11/26      Reading: Reimer, pp. 315 – 321, *Auf der anderen Seite (The Edge of Heaven)*  
 Reading and Discussion: *The Edge of Heaven*  
 Fatih Akin (2007, 122 minutes)
- Thurs 11/28     Thanksgiving Break: NO CLASS
- Tues 12/3        Reading: Reimer, pp. 339 – 348, *Barbara*  
 Reading and Discussion: *Barbara*  
  
 Essay 3 Due
- Thurs 12/5      Discussion: Trends, Themes and Connections in the History of German Cinema  
 and Today
- Mon 12/9 (3:20 – 5:20)     Research Papers Due; Final Exam

## Required Assignments, Activities, and Tests:

1. **Class Participation:** 10 % of your grade is based on your contributions to discussion in class, including group de-briefings. Please go through readings assigned and take advantage of discussion time which will follow film screenings and lectures in class. Be ready to offer comments and questions that reflect critical thought regarding the material. Keeping up with the reading, making critical observations as you watch the films, and participating in class discussion will help make the most of your experience in the course.
2. **Short Essays:** You will have the chance to explore particular themes as they are covered in 3 2-page essays which will be assigned as we cover topics during the semester.
3. **Research Paper:** The topic of the short research paper (8 pp.) is open to an area of interest to you that relates to the history of German cinema, but it needs to include more than a treatment of the specific films featured in class. Which is to say, you may choose a topic that includes one such film, but you need to connect it to a theme that includes material from outside the class itself. Topic ideas and an assignment sheet for the project will be handed out separately from this syllabus.
4. **Midterm Exams:** There will be two midterm exams (October 3rd and November 7th) which will consist of informational questions as well as interpretive questions covering material from the semester up to the point of the exam. While the second midterm will devote a good deal of focus on material from the National Socialist period to the New German Cinema movement, it will also include material from the earlier part of the semester.
5. **Final Exam:** Like the midterm exams, the final exam will consist of informational questions as well as interpretative questions. Material covered from throughout the semester will be included. More emphasis will be given on broader topical themes in the final than on the midterms. The meeting time for the final exam is: Monday 12/9, 3:20 – 5:20 pm.

## Course Guidelines and Policies:

### Student Conduct:

To make the most of our class meetings and to be sure you catch the entirety of film screenings, please be sure to be on time. For class discussions, your instructor asks you to refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum, if possible. Please place your electronic devices on a setting that will not disturb class and please wait to use them for activities for which your instructor will specifically allow or encourage you to. Be respectful of others in class and offer impressions and opinions maturely and productively. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code of the University as it pertains to your responsibility to hand in work and/or perform activities assigned to be your own as indeed representing your own efforts and research. The Code is available for review online at: <http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php>

### **Attendance:**

Some class meetings consist only of lecture and discussion. Most consist of film screenings and discussion. If, in addition to our screenings in class, you would like to view films from the course outside of class, films are on reserve at Mansfield Library for 4-hour in-library reserve. If you do wish to view them before class, please do so before the day they are screened in class, due to the fact that for administrative reasons they must be taken off reserve by the day of screening to be available for class. Whether you take advantage of additional viewing opportunities at the library or not, you are expected to attend class meetings, including screenings that are followed by discussion – with *some* exceptions. There will also be two screening sessions, which, due to the length of the films, will not include discussion: Thursday, November 14th (*Nowhere in Africa*) and Tuesday, November 19th (*The Lives of Others*.) While it is recommended that you take advantage of the in-class screening of these films, these screening sessions are optional. If you chose not to attend these screenings, you still need to view these films during the semester (preferably near the assigned time). Aside from these two sessions (11/14 and 11/19), three unexcused absences from the other sessions during the semester will amount to a half-grade penalty for the course. Following three absences, each two unexcused absences will result in a further half-grade demotion. Excused absences include illness, family or personal emergencies, religious observation, and University-sponsored events, among other possibilities. If you wish to have an absence excused, please consult your instructor within one session following your excused absence.

### **Course Withdrawal:**

Your instructor follows general University guidelines and deadlines concerning course withdrawal. Those policies can be found online at:  
<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/students/dropadd.php>

### **Disability Modifications:**

This course offers equal opportunity in education for all participants, including those with documented physical and/or documented learning disabilities. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services for Students, please contact Disability Services for Students (DSS) in Lommasson Center, Room 154, or call 406-243-2243. The DSS website is:  
<http://www.umt.edu/dss/>

Your instructor will work with you and DSS to provide appropriate modifications. Please note that your instructor can only provide modifications if notified and that such modifications are made after an instructor has been given appropriate information and formal indication by the student and DSS.

### Assignment Expectations:

Please follow and adhere to directions given for course assignments. If directions are not clear, be sure to consult your instructor as soon as possible. Tests are expected to be taken on dates on which they are scheduled for class and the research paper is expected to be submitted by the due date, Monday, 12/9 (by 3:20 pm.) Unless subject to special circumstances (documented illness, family emergency, university-related absence or travel, religious observation, or other possible reasons you may discuss with your instructor), missed tests will result in no credit for those tests.

### Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be determined by the following breakdown:

3 Essays	90 points (18%)
2 Midterm Exams (Oct. 3 and Nov. 7)	120 points (24 %)
Final Exam (Dec. 9, 3:20 – 5:20 pm)	120 points (24 %)
Short Research Paper (8 pp.)	120 points (24 %)
Class Participation and Preparation for Discussion	50 points (10 %)
	500 points total

Final Course Grade based on Percentage of Points:

93.3 % - 100 %	=	A
90% - 93.3 %	=	A-
86.7 % - 89.9%	=	B+
83.3 % - 86.6%	=	B
80 % - 83.3%	=	B-
76.7 % - 79.9 %	=	C+
73.3 % - 76.6 %	=	C
70 % - 73.3%	=	C-
66.7% - 69.9%	=	D+
63.3 % - 66.6%	=	D
60% - 63.3%	=	D-
59.9 % or lower	=	F

### Comments:

Please don't hesitate to contact me or stop by my office during my office hours or when I'm available otherwise if you have questions or are interested in discussing any aspect of the course, German film, or whatever else you may want to touch base about.

I hope you enjoy exploring the world of German cinema this semester! MM