

# Contemporary German Cinema

Film 2242G/German 2271B  
(UWO Winter Term 2017)



## **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the history of Contemporary German Cinema after the fall of the wall in 1989 and unification. Topics include “Ostalgie,” the “Berlin School,” European identity and transnational film production, migration, and historical memory. The relationship to the auteurism of post-war New German Cinema will also be examined. By the end of this course, you will be able to identify major trends and tendencies in contemporary German Cinema and situate them in their historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts.

**Screenings: Mondays 10:30-1:30 (3B04)**

**Class: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 (3B04)**

**Instructor: Dr. Tobias Nagl**

**Office: International and Graduate Affairs Building, ON 56**

**Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30**

**Contact: [tnagl@uwo.ca](mailto:tnagl@uwo.ca)**

**Essay Drop Box: English & Writing Studies AHB 2G02**

**Readings:**

**Required readings:** All course readings will be available on OWL

**Recommended readings:** Timothy Corrigan, *A Short Guide to Writing About Film*

**Evaluation**

**Attendance and Classroom Participation:** 25%

**Quiz (in class):** 10%

**Sequence Analysis (2 essays):** 30 % (5-6 pages each)

**Final Exam** 35%

**Information for Students:****I. General Course Objectives:**

Understanding, capacity for argument, judgment and analysis will be fostered by essays, presentations and other assignments, and by in-class small-group and whole-class discussion. Communication skills will be imparted through in-class discussion and credit will be given for frequency and quality of contributions. Essays and other written assignments are marked in accordance with the grading criteria listed below and include benchmarks for the expectations associated with each grade. Awareness of the limits of knowledge will be enhanced by exploring the legitimate differences of opinion and methodology within the field, and by requiring students to negotiate the formulation of their own opinions in-class with the terms and knowledge brought to discussions by other students and the instructor. The ability to argue and decide on complex issues will be fostered by essays and in-class discussion. Time management skills will be fostered by the need to prepare properly for class and to deliver assignments in a timely manner. Academic responsibility will be developed by the need to source assignments accurately.

**II. Specific Course Objectives**

Develop an understanding of the history of Contemporary German Cinema, refine critical thinking skills and visual literacy, identify aesthetic strategies and influences, film styles, major directors, and apply concepts such as “Ostalgie,” the “Berlin School,” European identity and transnational film production, migration, and historical memory to the corpus of films discussed in class. By the end of this course, you will be able to identify major trends and tendencies in contemporary German Cinema and situate them in their historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts.

**III. Other Relevant regulations:**

For English Department regulations governing Term Work, Exams, Faculty Office Hours, Academic Relief (appeals, petitions), and other matters, please consult “Student Information” on our website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Prerequisite: At least 60% in Film Studies 1020E or Film Studies 1022 or special permission

Antirequisite: none

Please Note: The film screenings for the course are mandatory. If you miss a class or a screening you are responsible for arranging a viewing of the assigned film at the Film Resource Centre in AHB 1G19. The normal hours of operation for the Film Resource Centre are 9:00am – 2:00pm, Monday through Friday. Students with special permission to watch films on their own time and needing to do so during the 2.00-4.30 period should contact Joana Smith in the Film Library (jsmit459@uwo.ca) to make special arrangements to do so, as normally the Film Library will be closed during the afternoon. Please note that not all films are available at the Film Resource Centre. More than one unexcused absence will be reflected in your attendance mark. Assignments handed in late without prior approval will be penalized 3% per day. You must request an extension before the due date, and extensions will be given at my discretion.

1. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Students must write their essays in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage, from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

2. Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com).

3. Prerequisites: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

4. UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and or assignments must apply to their Academic Counseling Office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Please go to the following site for information on the university Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: [www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

For information on the examination services provided by the Student Development Centre, please visit: [www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd)

5. Mental Health: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

6. Complaints: If students have a complaint concerning a course in which they are enrolled, they must discuss the matter with the instructor of the course. If students are still not satisfied, they should then take the complaint to the English and Writing Studies Office (AHB 2G02). These regulations are in place because a failure to follow these procedures creates the potential for injustices of various kinds affecting either the instructor or the students themselves, or both parties. Concerns should not be allowed to fester but should be raised with the instructor in a timely manner, so that they can be addressed in time to make a difference to the course.

\*This course schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please contact your instructor if you have any questions regarding the readings or assignments.

## Grading Criteria for Written Assignments

### A (80 and up)

Clear development of a specific and challenging thesis, with proper paragraphs  
Sentence structure correct, with full range of sentence types (compound, complex, and compound-complex), with full range of punctuation (including semicolons, colons, dashes, parentheses)  
Graceful style, neither pompous nor breezy, and few errors  
Detailed reference to appropriate texts, with evidence of individual response  
Quotations well integrated into text, with proper documentation  
Ability not only to expound subject but to see it around—subtleties and ambiguities, qualifications and concessions, relations to other subjects, etc.

### B (70 to 79)

Clear development of a specific thesis, with proper paragraphs  
Sentence structure correct, with reasonable range of sentence types and full range of punctuation  
Style not too wordy, with errors relatively few and minor  
Adequately detailed reference to texts  
Quotations well integrated into text, with proper documentation  
Ability to expound reasonably sophisticated ideas with clarity

### C (60 to 69)

Reasonably clear development of a thesis, with proper paragraphs  
Sentence structure correct, but perhaps overly simple, with tendency to avoid punctuation besides period and comma  
Errors relatively few, but occasionally serious, with evident misunderstanding of some point of elementary grammar (comma splices, fragments, semicolon errors, subject-verb disagreements, poorly integrated quotations)  
Effort to support points with references to the text, with reasonable effort at documentation  
Basic ability to expound ideas

### D (50 to 59)

Inadequacy at *one* of the following levels:  
Difficulty with paragraphing or consecutive thought  
Errors of grammar or diction frequent enough to interfere with understanding  
Ideas inchoate, but clouded by weak expression  
Overgeneralization with inadequate support, or with examples that run to lengthy irrelevant paraphrase

### F (49 and down)

Inadequacy on *several* levels at once  
Ideas too simple for level of course  
Content largely “borrowed” from sources with no individual distillation, but no apparent attempt to deceive

### 0 (Report to Department)

Plagiarism with intent to deceive