



# Western Arts & Humanities

Department of Languages and Cultures  
Course outline for Fall 2020

## GERMAN 2215F: Exploring German Cultures



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

### 1. Technical Requirements:



Laptop or computer



Stable internet connection



Working microphone



Working webcam  
(Suggested)

### 2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
asynchronous online preparations	September 10 – December 8, 2020	
synchronous online seminar	Tuesdays Thursdays	11:30 am – 12:20 pm 11:30 am – 1:20 pm

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Weeks	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 10	November 2 - 8	December 8 ePortfolio due	December 10	no exam

\* November 12, 2020: Last day to drop a first-term half course without penalty

### 3. Contact Information



Course Instructor	Contact Information
Angela Borchert	borchert@uwo.ca

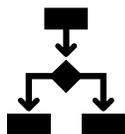
### 4. Course Description and Design

**Pre-or Corequisite(s):** [German 2200](#) or permission of the Department.

The German speaking countries are at the heart of Europe; and German is a leading language of literature, film, music, science, philosophy, theology, history and art. As a first exploration of German cultures, this course has a double objective: first to improve the German language conversation, reading and writing skills of all students and second, to develop and improve research skills through research projects on the cultural products of the German speaking world. This course will particularly open up perspectives about German literature, visual art and film by investigating key persons, places, times and issues.

This year we will use a focus on Berlin, WWII, Goethe, and Turkish-German relations to explore a range of questions. Some examples are: What impact did the Berlin wall (1961-89) have on life and art? How does the absurd provide a lens on fascism? Does an epistolary novel have the same function in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century as today's social media? How can you read transcultural German-Turkish issues reflected in recent popular movies in front of the history of Arab-European relations from the Middle Ages to today?

German 2215F is a blended\* (synchronous and asynchronous) course which uses a communicative and active learning approach, calling on you to participate actively in the process of discovering the German literature, film and cultures and improving your German language skills.



Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual synchronous	Tuesdays and Thursdays	3 hours	weekly
Virtual asynchronous	On your own time	4-5 hours	weekly

\* Section 650 is completely asynchronous

Virtual **synchronous** learning refers to the virtual classes that will take place on zoom during the scheduled class time. All the students will engage in learning at the same time. If we encounter issues with zoom, you will receive instructions to switch to Collaborate UE.

Virtual **asynchronous** learning refers to the time that students are supposed to work independently. Materials and assignments will be provided for students to study and complete in a given timeframe. Students will access and learn the content at the time and location of their choice.

- Asynchronous pre-work must be completed prior to synchronous sessions
- Participation and progress at synchronous sessions is required
- Missed online homework should be completed within 5 days, there will be a 20% penalty per day late

Class Management and course updates will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

Course material will be available on OWL.

## 5. Learning Outcomes



Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand shorter German texts and films
- Interact with others about a text or film in German
- Use vocabulary needed to interpret and discuss texts and films in German in writing and orally
- Develop and write short interpretative texts in German
- Recognize and describe key aspects of German-speaking culture and history in Germany
- Work with translations
- Engage in and present research about German culture, literature, film
- Demonstrate individual progress in learning German

## 6. Course Content and Schedule\*

Please come prepared to class, all the assignments and pre-activities that you need to be done before every synchronous class will be available on OWL. The deadline is always the time the class starts. A more detailed course content, including list of pre-activities before every class, can be found on OWL.



Week	Dates	Topic	Assessments
0	Sept 10	Einführung	Self-assessment and goal setting
1	Sept 14 – 20	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, <i>Leiden des jungen Werther</i>	W: Letter to Werther (10%)
2	Sept 21 – 27	Goethe, <i>Leiden des jungen Werther</i>	W: Summary of a letter (10%)
3	Sept 28 – Oct 4	Goethe, <i>Leiden des jungen Werther</i>	W: Commentary to news (10%)
4	Oct 5 – 11	Emil Nolde, <i>Deutschstunde</i> Günter Grass, <i>Die Blechtrommel</i>	W: Opinion (10%)
5	Oct 12 – 18	Böll, „Mein teures Bein“  Eure Projekte	W: Short story interpretation (10%) 3-4 minute Presentations (W: 7.5 % + O: 2.5%)
6	Oct 19 – 25	Eure Projekte Ernst Reuter, „An die Völker der Welt“ John F. Kennedy, „Ich bin ein Berliner“	3-4 minute Presentations (W: 7.5 % + O: 2.5%) W: Analysis of a speech (10%)
7	Oct 26 – Nov 1	Christa Wolf, <i>Geteilter Himmel</i>	W: Close Reading (10%)
8	Nov 2 – 8	Reading Week	
9	Nov 9 – 15	Thomas Brussig, <i>Sonnenallee</i>	W: Film scene interpretation (10%)
10	Nov 16 – 22	Albrecht von Johannstorff, „Mijn eerste liefde“ Pfafe Konrad, „Rolandslied“	W: Lyric text interpretation (10%)
11	Nov 23 – 29	Fatih Atkin, <i>Gegen die Wand</i>	W: Film interpretation (10%)
12	Nov 30 – Dec 6	Eure Projekte	6-8 minute Presentations (W: 12.5% + O: 2.5%)
13	Dec 7 – 9	Eure Projekte	6-8 minute Presentations (W: 12.5% + O: 2.5%) W: ePortfolio due (including progress)
		Holidays	

\*Subject to change W= written; O=oral

## 7. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students are expected to participate during synchronous sessions
- Students are encouraged to come to synchronous sessions with questions and doubts about the grammar and vocabulary assigned to do asynchronously

## 8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown. Any deviations will be communicated.



COURSE EVALUATION	
Asynchronous & Synchronous Participation	25%
Research Project Presentations & Discussion (10% +15%)	25%
<b>ePortfolio</b> (select 5/10 weekly assignments based on improvement)	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

(detailed explanation of each course component can be found on OWL)

- Students should check the OWL site quite regularly and complete the work assigned
- All assignments are due right before your synchronous class starts, unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted before the Tuesday class to be returned by Thursday
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions in OWL
- There will be **no make-up assessments in this course.**

If a student misses an assessment and academic consideration is granted, the percentage of the assessment missed will be added to the next assessment percentage of that type. If there are no more assessments of the same type, the percentage of the assessment will be averaged into to the relevant category based on previous work.

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

### Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Only late online homework will be allowed. 20% will be missed for every day late.
- No make-up assessments will be offered.

## 9. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Updates will be provided periodically on the OWL announcements. When the instructor adds an announcement on OWL all the students will receive an email
- Students should email their instructors at [borchert@uwo.ca](mailto:borchert@uwo.ca) using UWOemail account
- Emails will be monitored daily, Monday to Friday, and students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

## 10. Office Hours and German tutor:



- Office hours with your instructor will be held remotely using Zoom. Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using Sign Up on OWL. Office hours times will be posted on the main page of OWL
- The instructor will also be available for quick questions 10 minutes before class on zoom and 10 minutes after class on zoom.
- Students will hopefully be able to drop into a German tutor office hours. Availability will be posted on OWL and updated as necessary

## 11. Resources



- All resources will be posted in:  
**OWL** (Readings, Translations, Films, Class Management, Rubrics, Class PPTs, course updates)
- No required textbook

## 12. Professionalism & Privacy:



Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

### 13. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos. Handwriting when learning a language is essential.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, ask for help, contact your instructor and/ or the German tutor.
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

### 14. Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- please “arrive” to class on time
- please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- to minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable
- unless invited by your instructor, do **not** share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- if you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question
- remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- self-identify when speaking.
- remember to mute your mic after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

## 15. Western Academic Policies and Statements

### Absence from Course Commitments

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#) and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

### Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

### Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

## Academic Offenses

“Scholastic offenses are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense.

### Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

### Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

### Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking 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 Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

### Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

### Rounding of Marks Statement

We strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned.

## 16. Support Services

Students who are in emotional distress should refer to [MentalHealth@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Academic Counselling \(Arts and Humanities\)](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Services Provided by USC](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)