

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**  
**FILM 301.23 L/B02**

**Topic in National Cinema: German Cinema**  
**Spring 2015**

**April 30 to May 31, 2015**

**Lectures: Daily at various times through May (see itinerary)**

**Instructor:** Kerry McArthur

**Office Location:** SS307

**E-mail:** [kjmcarth@ucalgary.ca](mailto:kjmcarth@ucalgary.ca)

**Office hours:** By appointment

**Course Description**

This course presents an historical overview of German film from the early 1900s to the present day; the content, context, social relevance and reception of these films will be discussed in lectures and class discussions, both in pre-session and residence classes in Germany. The course is taught in English.

**Additional Information**

Some course content contains material that is sexually explicit, violent or otherwise offensive. If you have concerns about this, please make them known to the instructor in advance.

**Objectives of the Course**

- To introduce students to German cinema and to its historic significance in international film studies
- To develop a critical/interpretive approach to German cinema via significant film theorists and movements
- To compare the development of German cinema against Hollywood and other cinema histories

**Textbook and Readings**

There is no assigned textbook for this course; students will download all specified readings, most of which can be saved as pdf files, from the University of Calgary library website. You are strongly advised to save these files to your laptop before leaving Canada, as reliable website accessibility in Berlin is not always guaranteed.

**Internet and electronic communication device/professionalism information**

Cellphones will be silenced for the duration of the class. Laptops and tablets may be used *only* for taking notes.

When contacting the instructor by e-mail, use the tag "COMS 363" in your subject line.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

You will be graded on four components:

1. *Pre-session quiz* (25%): held in class in Calgary April 30, 2015

2. *In-class presentations* (20%): in Berlin, throughout
3. *Journal* (25%): weekly, in Berlin
4. *Take-home exam* (30%): due late June 2015 (exact date TBA)

1. *Pre-session quiz* (25%): Students will be quizzed on their knowledge and insights into a variety of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century German films and applicable film theories/scholarly articles; see *Schedule A: Pre-Session Outline* below for relevant films and readings. *Nosferatu*, *The Blue Angel*, *M*, and *Olympia* are all accessible via Youtube; alternately, these films may be viewed on video or DVD at the University of Calgary library. All films and their accompanying assigned readings **must be viewed/read before** students gather for a pre-session classroom seminar in late April (exact date TBA). Students will write the pre-session quiz April 30<sup>th</sup> on the University of Calgary campus.

2. *In-class presentations* (20%): Working in groups of three, students will present summaries of an assigned film and the assigned related reading to the class. Groups will be responsible for screening the film with classmates, then leading them in a wrap-up discussion.

3. *Journal* (25%): Each student will keep a weekly journal (four complete entries) with observations and reflections upon the films shown in class as well as the papers assigned in conjunction with each film.

4. *Take-home exam* (30%): The take-home exam will challenge the student to compare and critique the films and theoretical models examined throughout the course. The exam will comprise a list of approximately 7 to 8 questions; students will choose two questions from this list and write short essay-length responses to each. This written response will total approximately 8 to 9 double-spaced pages.

**Registrar-scheduled final examination:** No

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

**Submission of Assignments:** Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's

responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

### Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

### Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

### Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### Grading System & Department of Communication, Media and Film

**Grade Scale** Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%

<b>2.00</b>	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	<b>C</b>	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
<b>1.70</b>		<b>C-</b>	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
<b>1.30</b>	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	<b>D+</b>	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
<b>1.00</b>		<b>D</b>	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
<b>0.00</b>	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	00 - 49.99%	0%

### **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people’s words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Research Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

## Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
<b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	<b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> <b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

### SCHEDULE A: PRE-SESSION OUTLINE

Students are responsible for viewing the following three films and accompanying four articles *before* pre-session seminar class on the UofC campus in late April (exact date TBA); you will be quizzed on your knowledge of these during that seminar.

1. *Nosferatu* (Murnau; 1922)

On Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcyzubFvBsA>

Reading: Perez, G. (1993). *Nosferatu*. *Raritan* 13(1); 12-40.

2. *The Blue Angel* (von Sternberg; 1930)

NOTE: We will view *The Blue Angel* in class on our pre-session day

Reading: Baxter, J. (2010). Berlin Year Zero: The Making of *The Blue Angel*.

Framework: *The Journal of Cinema and Media*, 51(1), 164-189.

3. *M* (Lang; 1931)

On Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nM0w1dTNAH0>

Reading: Lange, H. (2009). Nazis vs. the Rule of Law: Allegory and Narrative Structure in Fritz Lang's *M*. *Monatshefte*, 101(2), 170-185.

4. *Olympia* (Riefenstahl; 1938)

On Youtube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILnGgMoNXRI>

Reading: Mackenzie, M. (2003). From Athens to Berlin: The 1936 Olympics and Leni Riefenstahl's *Olympia*. *Critical Inquiry*, 29(2), 302-336.

### SCHEDULE B: GERMANY RESIDENCE OUTLINE

Students will view the following films during instructor-arranged screenings in Berlin; articles should be downloaded in Calgary

5. *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul* (Fassbinder; 1974)

Reading: Reimer, R. (1996). Comparison of Douglas Sirk's *All That Heaven Allows* and R.W. Fassbinder's *Ali: Fear Eats the Soul*. *Literature/Film Quarterly*, 24(3), 281-287.

6. *The American Friend* (Wenders; 1977)

Reading: Plater, E.M.V. (1988). The temptation of Jonathan Zimmermann: Wim Wenders's 'The American Friend'. *Literature/Film Quarterly*, 16(3), 191-200.

7. *The Singing, Ringing Tree* (Stefani; 1957)

Reading: Shen, Q. (2011). Barometers of GDR cultural politics: Contextualizing the DEFA Grimm adaptations. *Marvels & Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies*, 25(1), 70-95.

8. *The Legend of Paul and Paula* (Carow; 1973)  
*Reading:* Feinstein, J. (2002). Chapter 7: The Triumph of the Ordinary: East German *Alltag* Films of the 1970s. In *Triumph of the Ordinary: Depictions of Daily Life in the East German Cinema, 1949-1989*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 194-214. *Online book in UofC library*
9. *Nosferatu* (Herzog; 1979)  
*Reading:* Caspar, K & Linville, S. (1991). Romantic Inversions in Herzog's *Nosferatu*. *The German Quarterly*, 64(1), 17-24.
10. *The Tin Drum* (Schlöndorff; 1979)  
*Reading:* Hughes, J. (1981). *The Tin Drum*: Volker Schlöndorff's Dream of Childhood. *Film Quarterly*, 34(3), 2-10.
11. *Run, Lola, Run* (Twyker; 1998)  
*Reading:* Whalen, T. (2000). *Run, Lola, Run*. *Film Quarterly*, 53(3), 33-40.
12. *Goodbye, Lenin* (Becker; 2003)  
*Reading:* Hillman, R. (2003). *Goodbye Lenin* (2003): History in the subjunctive. *Rethinking History*, 10(2), 221-237.