

Senior Seminar: Germany's Roaring Twenties

NC State University
FLG 492 – Spring 2012
TH 11:45 – 1:00
124 Harrelson Hall
Dr. Jonathan Wipplinger

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Course Description

The 1920s is one of the most exciting and turbulent periods of German history. Against a backdrop of social upheaval caused by defeat in World War I and the rise of the Nazis, German culture produced some of the most important and innovative artworks of the 20th century. In this course, we will look at how artists and everyday Germans experienced and worked through the uncertainties of the period in literature, film, music, and the visual arts.

Prerequisites

Two FLG 300-level courses and one from this list: FLG 300, 315, 316, 318, 323, 390.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- discuss major political, cultural, and aesthetic issues of the Weimar Republic (1918-1933)
- interpret and analyze cultural documents of the period in their historical context
- summarize and engage with scholarly interpretations of the period
- present their own ideas in the form of a research paper
- do all of the above in German

Texts

Required

Irmgard Keun. *Das kunstseidene Mädchen*. Stuttgart: Klett, 2004.

Recommended

Reinhard Sturm et al. *Weimarer Republik*. Informationen zur politischen Bildung. Heft 261. Bonn: bpb, 2003.

All other texts will be available on the course's moodle website and must be **printed out** and brought to class.

A good-size dictionary, such as the New College German Dictionary (Langenscheidt).

You may also use online dictionaries such as: <http://dict.leo.org>, <http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>, <http://www.dict.cc/>.

However, the use of electronic (internet or CD-ROM) translation programs is NOT allowed and will constitute an academic integrity violation (see below).

Working with Multimedia Materials

If you want to work on the NC State campus, the Foreign Language Technology Center (FLTC) in the Laundry Building, LAU 214, on the corner of Stinson Drive and Current Drive and the other CHASS computer lab in Withers Hall have many computer work stations for word processing or any other task requiring a computer. Check <http://chasslabs.chass.ncsu.edu/laundry/home> for opening hours and info.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Class Preparation and Participation: 10%

Presentations: 10%

Essays: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Research Paper: 35%

Here is more information on these tasks:

Attendance Impact on your grade is defined below in "Class Attendance Policy"

Class Preparation and Participation - 10%

Your preparation for and participation in class will be evaluated using the following criteria:

A = you are well prepared, often with written notes, and participate actively; you are attentive, respond when called upon and volunteer often with pertinent questions and comments.

B = you are usually prepared, sometimes with written notes, and always respond when called on; you volunteer on occasion.

C = you show evidence of being unprepared; you have some trouble when called on and do not volunteer often.

D = you are unprepared and/or inattentive; you never volunteer; you come to class late and/or leave early.

F= you exhibit a lack of concern for the class; you sleep in class; your behavior may have a negative effect on the class.

Presentations - 10%. You will do two presentations, each worth five percent of your final grade, during the semester. The first will be 5-10 minute presentation on a preassigned topic. Topics and dates for presentations are found on our moodle site. At the end of the semester you will also give a presentation of 10-15 minutes on your research topic.

Essays - 20%. Over the course of the semester you will write two papers on assigned topics. These will be graded in terms of content and coherence of argument. See the semester schedule for due dates.

Midterm - 20%. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course.

Research Paper - 35% The culmination of the this course will be the production of a research paper (*Seminararbeit*) on a topic to be developed by the student in consultation with the instructor. See syllabus for deadlines for each element of the research paper. The grade for your research paper will be distributed in the following manner:

- 1) 1-Page Prospectus 3% - 13. März
- 2) Outline and Bibliography 2% - 10. April
- 3) Final research paper (8-12 pages in length/1 Inch margins/Times new roman or Calibri/12pt font) 30% - 10. Mai

Please see semester schedule below for due dates of these assignments.

Grading scale (in %)

100 – 97 A +	89 – 87 B +	79 – 77 C +	69 – 67 D +	
96 – 93 A	86 – 83 B	76 – 73 C	66 – 63 D	
92 – 90 A -	82 – 80 B -	72 – 70 C -	62 – 60 D -	less than 60 F

Class Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is a university requirement. For every unexcused absence in excess of 2 (two) classes, your semester grade could be reduced by 1 point. If you accumulate 6 (six) or more unexcused absences your semester grade will be F. If you miss more than 10 minutes of a class period (unless pre-approved by me), it will count as an absence, but I encourage you to still attend the class so as not to miss the material. If you have to miss a class for a compelling reason, please inform me about it beforehand or as soon as possible after the absence. You will still be expected to be prepared for the next class; contact a class mate for information on the missed material and any assignments. For information about what qualifies as an excused absence, please consult: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>

"CR" (Credit) Policy

If you are taking this course for "CR", you need to do ALL the work for a grade and all other policies (except audit policy) also apply. In order for you to receive a "CR" (credit), you will need to make a semester grade of C- or better. Please be aware that a CR course will not count for your GER requirement (if you need it for that purpose) and that it will also not count for your German Studies Major or German Minor.

Audit Policy

In order to receive an "audit" for this course you need to attend at least 20 of the 29 class sessions and attend at least one session in the last two weeks of the semester. You should also prepare the material to be covered, so you can actively participate in the class discussions and group activities. You do not need to hand in any work, write the essays, prepare the portfolio, or do the presentations - however, you may do so, if you wish. Contact the instructor if you have questions.

The official NC State Policy on Grading (and CR, Audit, Incompletes, etc.) can be found here: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>

Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments may receive lower grades: one day late = one grade lower, two days late = two grades lower, etc. Exception: pre-approved or approved late submission or lateness in connection with an excused absence. I strongly encourage you to communicate with me about any problems you're having. I usually work with my students on helping them catch up and get on track again, if there are serious reasons beyond their control for having missed assignments. Being overworked, forgetting, etc. are NOT reasons that would qualify.

Incomplete Policy

Incompletes (IN) will be assigned at the instructor's discretion in line with university policies on grading: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653, for information see http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.1) at: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01>

Academic Integrity Policy

Human interaction and effective communication function on the basis of trust. An atmosphere of trust, honesty and respect for each other fosters educational progress and success. Please do not give me any reason to be suspicious of your honesty. You are to do your own work on all class assignments, presentations, projects, and exams, unless it is a designated pair or group assignment. That also means not incorporating others' ideas and selling them as your own—this is called plagiarism. Whether you take ideas (verbatim or just as an idea) from books, the internet, or other sources does not matter: you need to acknowledge their source if they are not your own.

The use of electronic (internet, CD-ROM, etc.) translation programs is forbidden and constitutes an academic integrity violation.

Please ask me about anything that remains unclear. Violations of academic integrity (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will be prosecuted according to NC State's policy on academic integrity, posted at: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>

FLG 492 - Semester Schedule

1 - 10. Januar Einführung ins Thema: Die goldenen Zwanziger

Weiterführende Literatur
Fullbrook, Mary. *The Divided Nation: A History of Germany, 1918-1990*. New York: Oxford UP, 1992. 17-43.
Reinhard Sturm et al. *Weimarer Republik*. Informationen zur politischen Bildung. Heft 261. Bonn: bpb, 2003.
Kolb, Eberhard. *Die Weimarer Republik*. Munich: Oldenbourg, 2009. 1-17.

Krieg und Revolution

2 - 12. Januar Weitz, Eric D. *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2007. 1-39.

3 - 17. Januar Philipp Scheidemann, "Ausrufung der Republik" (1918)
Karl Liebknecht, "Ausrufung der sozialistischen Republik" (1918)

4 - 19. Januar Hannah Höch, *Dada-Rundschau* (1919)
Mülhaupt, Freya. "Dada Rundschau." *Hannah Höch Aller Anfang ist DADA!* ed. Ralf Burmeister (Berlin: Berlinersche Galerie, 2008), 24.

5 - 24. Januar Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari (Robert Wiene, 1919) (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

Vortrag: Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari im Kontext der Zeit

Weiterführende Literatur

Robinson, David. *Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari*. London: BFI, 1997. 7-24, 41-52 (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

6 - 26. Januar Kaes, Anton. *Shell Shock Cinema: Weimar Culture and the Wounds of War*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2009. 45-86.

Inflation

7 - 31. Januar **AUFSATZ 1**
Friedrich Kroner, "Überreizte Nerven" (1923)

8 - 2. Februar Thomas Mann, Unordnung und frühes Leid (1925), 375-386.

Vortrag: Thomas Mann und das deutsche Bildungsbürgertum

Weiterführende Literatur

Bernd Widdig, *Culture and Inflation in Weimar Germany*. Berkeley & Los Angeles: U of California P, 2001. 169-195.

9 - 7. Februar Thomas Mann, Unordnung und frühes Leid (1925), 386-398.

10 - 9. Februar Thomas Mann, Unordnung und frühes Leid (1925), 398-407.

Die "goldenen" Zwanziger

11 - 14. Februar Rudolf Kayser, „Amerikanismus“ (1925)
Hans Siemsen, "Die Literatur der Nichtleser" (1926)

Vortrag: Die Kultur der Neuen Sachlichkeit

Weiterführende Literatur

Michalski, Sergiusz. *New Objectivity: Painting, Graphic Art and Photography in Weimar Germany 1919-1933*. Los Angeles: Taschen, 2003. 6-21.

12 -16. Februar Otto Dix, *Metropolis* (1927)
Funkenstein, Susan L. "Fashionable Dancing: Gender, the Charleston, and German Identity in Otto Dix's "Metropolis." *German Studies Review*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (February 2005): 20-44.

Vortrag: Jazz und Afro-Amerikaner in der Weimarer Republik

Weiterführende Literatur
Sell Tower, Beeke. *Envisioning America: Prints, Drawings, and Photographs by George Grosz and his Contemporaries, 1915-1933*. Harvard: Busch-Reisinger Museum, 1990. 86-105.

13 - 21. Februar *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang 1927) (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

Vortrag: *Metropolis* und Technologie

Weiterführende Literatur
Elsaesser, Thomas. *Metropolis*. London: BFI, 2000. 7-30; 42-56. (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

14 - 23. Februar *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang 1927) (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

15 - 28. Februar **Wiederholung für das Midterm**

16 - 1. März **Midterm**

5.-9. März Spring Break

Die neue Frau und moderne Unterhaltungskultur

17 - 13. März **Prospectus einreichen**
„Alltag einer Arbeiterin“ (1928)

Vortrag: Die neue Frau

Weiterführende Literatur
Grossmann, Atina. "Girlkultur or Thoroughly Rationalized Female: A New Woman in Weimar Germany?" *Women in Culture and Politics*. Eds. J. Friedlander et al. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1986. 62-80.

18 - 15. März ***Der Blaue Engel* (Josef von Sternberg 1930)** (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

Vortrag: *Der Blaue Engel* und Massenkultur

Weiterführende Literatur
Kosta, Barbara. *Willing Seduction. The Blue Angel, Marlene Dietrich, and Mass Culture*. New York: Berghahn Books 2009. 23-49.
Prawer, S.S. *The Blue Angel (Der Blaue Engel)*. London: BFI, 2002. (on reserve at D.H. Hill)

19 - 20. März Irmgard Keun: Das kunstseidene Mädchen (1932) (3-38)

Vortrag: Irmgard Keun und die neue Frau

Weiterführende Literatur

McCormick, Richard W. *Gender and Sexuality in Weimar Modernity: Film, Literature, and "New Objectivity."* New York: Palgrave, 2001. 129-146.

20 - 22. März Irmgard Keun: Das kunstseidene Mädchen (39-72)

Vortrag: Die neue Frau und die Stadt

Weiterführende Literatur

Ankum, Katharina von. "Gendered Urban Spaces in Irmgard Keun's *Das kunstseidene Mädchen*." *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture*, ed. Katharina von Ankum (Berkeley and Los Angeles: U of California P, 1997), 162-184.

21 - 27. März Irmgard Keun: Das kunstseidene Mädchen (72-107)

22 - 29. März Irmgard Keun: Das kunstseidene Mädchen (107-130)

Nationalsozialismus & die Krise

23 - 3. April **Aufsatz 2**

Weitz, Eric D. *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2007. 331-360.

5. April Spring Holiday

24 - 10. April **Umriss & Bibliographie Ihrer Seminararbeit einreichen**

25 - 12. April Fritzsche, Peter. *Germans into Nazis*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998. 139-214.

26 - 17. April Hitlerjunge Quex (Hans Steinhoff, 1933)

Vortrag: Hitlerjunge Quex als Propagandafilm

Weiterführende Literatur

Rentschler, Eric. "Emotional Engineering: Hitler Youth Quex." *Modernism/Modernity* 2.3 (1995): 23-44

27 - 19. April Abschlussdiskussion

28 - 24. April **Vorträge**

29 - 26. April **Vorträge**

Ihre Seminararbeit ist am Donnerstag, dem 10. Mai um 17.00 Uhr in Withers 305 fällig.