

# 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>



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 p0(b)20(o)20(s)19( )10((1 20(a)105BT1 0 0c)14105(u)10(0 1 w.o)20(s)19da)sp2B

## 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)