DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

GERMAN 3310G
GERMAN TV DETECTIVES: FROM ROSENHEIM TO HAMBURG
WINTER 2023

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Tue 1:30-4:30pm

Course Content:

In this course students will discover the various regions of Germany through the eyes of the
country’s TV detectives. They will be introduced to the popular genre of the German TV crime
drama or Fernsehkrimi which is one of Germany’s most successful cultural exports. The shows
which range from the early evening short SOKO Krimis to the film-length Tatort series, give the
viewer a sense of life in contemporary Germany and often address current issues, such as race,
gender, migration, the wealth gap, and the environment. The course will expand students’
vocabulary, especially in the area of law enforcement, improve their command of grammar and
their comprehension of spoken German with its regional variations. Familiarity with the
characteristics of the genre will also help sharpen students’ crime-solving skills.

Course Objectives:

x to give students a tour of Germany through the medium of the TV crime drama
x to familiarize students with the peculiarities of the different regions and accents
x to introduce students to a highly successful genre of German popular culture and its
characteristic features
x to bring students’ oral, aural, written and reading skills in German to the next level

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course successful students will

x be more proficient in the target language with its regional variations
x have a broader active and passive vocabulary, and improved command of grammar
x have gained an understanding of life in Germany as represented in a wide range of TV
crime dramas
x have acquired the tools to conduct basic research in a popular genre of German TV
entertainment, and present it in oral and written form